

# Following Norma's footsteps, on our own path

**For referencing** Chabal LO and Hibbert D. Following Norma's footsteps, on our own path. WCET® Journal 2024;44(2):10-11.

*"If you take each challenge one step at a time, with faith in every footstep, your strength and understanding will increase."*

James E Faust

This issue is a WCET® landmark!

Having celebrated WCET® 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we are delighted to join the celebrations for the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Florence Nightingale Foundation, and the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the International Council of Nurses, reminding us of our strong commitment to the nursing fraternity and the worldwide nursing community.

As you may already know, June is the month that we celebrate our founder, Norma N Gill. As we are all making plans for 26 June, we must remember to honour our tri-specialty of wound, continence and stoma, while raising awareness within the community to support our mission. As always, we cannot wait to read about your activities planned for, and achievements from, this event; please remember to send your stories, with pictures including captions, to [bulletin@wcetn.org](mailto:bulletin@wcetn.org) in order to get them published in the upcoming WCET® Bulletin.

June is always the month the Wound Ostomy Continence Nurse Society® hold its annual conference. This year is very special as it will be held in the birthplace of Enterostomal Therapy, Cleveland, Ohio, USA. This is where it all began, giving us a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to walk in Norma's footsteps. Some of you will attend the conference to witness this very special event.

It will be also the time to celebrate WOCN® new fellows. These outstanding WOC nursing professionals will be inducted at the WOCN® Fellows Gala, which will be held on Tuesday 11 June during the WOCNext® 2024 Conference.

Let us congratulate

- Linda Droste, MSN, RN, CWOCN, CBIS
- Kevin Emmons, DrNP, RN, APN, AGPCNP-BC, CWCN, CFCN
- Ferne Elsass, MSN, RN, CPN, CWON

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## Laurent O Chabal

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WCET® President 2022–2026

## Denise Hibbert

MSc-WHTR RGN BSc DipHE ONC STN FSSCRS  
WCET® President-Elect 2022–2026

- Kelly Jaszarowski, WCET® USA International Delegate (ID), MSN, RN, CNS, ANP, CWOCN
- Kate Lawrence, MSN, RN, CWOCN
- Catherine T Milne, WCET® member, MSN, APRN, ANP/ACNS-BC, CWOCN-AP
- Ann Marie Nie, PhD, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC, CWOCN
- Joyce Pittman, PhD, RN, ANP-BC, FNP-BC, CWOCN, FAAN
- Bonnie S Rolstad, MS, RN, CWOCN

WCET® will be there to join the celebrations and we are looking forward to seeing you there at our booth. We deeply thank Dr Diana L Krasner and Paula Erwin-Toth for again agreeing to sign NNG Festschrift Books there.

June 2024 also marks our mid-term as President and President-Elect - time has rushed by so quickly. When we embarked on this journey we recognised the tremendous amount of work needed to keep pushing this wonderful organisation. Mid-term is the time to take stock and measure the work accomplished so far and to prepare the remaining plans for the future of the WCET®.

These last two years have been very busy, with many waves and curves in the river.

We ask you to pray for the recovery of our EB members who have been very sick over the past two years. We have also had to follow legal paths, including with the US Federal Bureau of Investigation, regarding our previous management company. We are now at the stage where documents and historical belongings, missing in the transition to our new management company, may come to light. We have already heard that some files and belongings were found.

We have mourned our WCET® friend, Dr Gregory Schultz, who passed away on 12 April. He will be deeply missed and we send again our deepest condolences to his family, friends and colleagues. Thanks to Elizabeth Ayello and Gary Sibald for the Vale that follows on page 16.

We also mourn the loss of Pam Morey, who passed away in Perth, Australia on 25 April. WCET extends its deepest condolences to Pam's family, friends and colleagues and we thank Keryln Carville for the Vale that follows on page 14.

We have also had good news along our journey. We recently heard that Denise Hibbert has been awarded 2024 Honorary

Fellow of the American Society of Colorectal Surgeons (ASCRS). Please join me (Laurent) in congratulating Denise for this outstanding recognition. We are thrilled, it is especially significant for an esteemed Surgeons' Society to recognise a Nurse.

Be prepared to read our biennial reports in preparation for our upcoming General Business Meeting during Congress. They will be posted in the Members Library page of the website (<https://wcetn.org/page/MemberLibrary>) by 23 June 2024.

We are looking forward to being able to measure the work accomplished in this two-year period, also to get the opportunity to read ID Reports, which will be received from across the world, in this post COVID-19 period. We cannot thank you all enough for your dedication, work and support. We could not have done all this without you.

Also on the WCET® website you can find resources coming from the National Council of Aging (NCA), USA, reminding us how challenging it is to take care of patients with wandering risks, especially when they have stoma, wound or continence care needs. More can be found at <https://wcetn.org/page/SharedHealthInformationResources>.

As Congress is now very close, we are all excited and amazed to have received so many abstracts. Unfortunately, we will not have enough time for all abstracts to be presented orally. The Joint WCET® ASCN UK Scientific Committee has ensured that abstracts were scored anonymously, based on consistent criteria, in order to ensure a fair selection. We cannot wait to learn from your research, innovations and projects. Congresses are a major way for us to keep up-to-date, to share knowledge, to network, to be more aware of new products and to raise awareness of new technologies that will benefit patient care. As a University Conference Model (UCM) coordinator, I (Laurent) have witnessed how our Congresses can become an amazing post graduate educational opportunity, enabling expertise and advancement or expansion in practice. It is important for attendees to challenge and provide feedback to improve the quality and content of the Congresses.

We are also blown away by the number of completed scholarship applications that we have already received. We are very grateful to our ASCN UK partner who has agreed to use a portion of the general fund to allocate more money for Congress Travel Scholarships. With that support, we are thrilled to announce that all applicants will receive something. All will be notified of the decision and we will be more than happy to welcome them in Glasgow.

For a long time now, WCET® has been raising awareness of our involvement in our tri-specialty of stoma, wound and continence. As part of this strategy, we are very pleased to introduce four new logos which will complement our official general logo and will be used for special events using one to highlight the field of our tri-specialty being celebrated. One logo will highlight Stoma Care, one for Wound Care and one for Continence Care. Plus a general logo for Professional/Personal

Development. We believe this is aligned with our mission and vision and our educational endeavors.

Please keep on your toes and thank you for walking in Norma's footsteps with us.

Sincerely  
Laurent and Denise