

Welcome to the Association of Nephrology Nurses UK

Renal nurses account for a significant proportion of the UK's kidney care workforce and would therefore benefit greatly from the formation of a dedicated professional association. With this in mind, British Renal Society vice presidents Karen Jenkins, Helen Hurst and Paula Ormandy joined forces to create and launch the Association of Nephrology Nurses UK.

■ nurses ■ leadership ■ staff development ■ quality improvement

The Association of Nephrology Nurses UK (ANN UK) was launched during UK Kidney Week on 20 June 2018, cofounded by three vice presidents of the British Renal Society (BRS)—Karen Jenkins, Paula Ormandy and Helen Hurst.

ANN UK's purpose is to provide support for registered and non-registered nurses via education, research, evidence-based practice and setting national standards. This vision will be realised through:

- Providing a forum to develop and share best clinical practice and research, and foster quality improvement to inform and enhance care of patients with kidney disease
- Promoting and developing strong nursing leadership within kidney care, and increasing the nursing voice influencing national policy and workforce development

- Creating and leading innovative nurse training and professional development, generating and/or endorsing a national curriculum for nurses in kidney care
- Developing, updating and promoting standards for best nursing practice. ANN UK will operate initially under the wing of the BRS until it is fully established, and it will then become a full affiliate of the BRS.

During the foundation year of ANN UK, there will be an interim president, secretary, treasurer and executive board. Details on these individuals are below.

Interim officers

- President—Karen Jenkins: renal consultant nurse, Kent Kidney Care Centre; vice president, clinical practice, BRS; cofounder, ANN UK
- Secretary—Helen Hurst: consultant nurse, frailty and older people, Central Manchester NHS Foundation Trust; vice president, education, BRS; cofounder, ANN UK
- Treasurer—Paula Ormandy: chair, long-term conditions research, University of Salford; vice president, research, BRS; cofounder, ANN UK.

Executive board

- Vicky Ashworth—advanced nurse practitioner, haemodialysis, Royal Liverpool Renal Unit
- Nicola Anderson—senior renal research nurse, University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust
- Marissa Dainton—senior lecturer, adult nursing, Canterbury Christ Church University

- Claire Main—lead nurse, nephrology and transplant, Cardiff and Vale Health Board
 - Breeda McManus—consultant nurse, Barts Health NHS Trust
 - Helen Watts—lead nurse, chronic kidney disease, Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust
 - Eleri Wood: consultant nurse, King's College Hospital
 - Sue Woodcock—head of nursing, Renal Services (UK) Ltd
 - Linsey Worsley—lead peritoneal dialysis nurse specialist, Royal Derby Hospital
- For those who are interested, full details of the executive board members can be found on the ANN UK webpage (<https://britishrenal.org/ann-uk>).

Workstreams

Workforce planning

ANN UK is working with the BRS to replace its 2002 publication—*The renal team: a multi-professional renal workforce plan for adults and children with renal disease* (BRS, 2002)—to be in line with today's practice and update the nursing section.

The purpose of revising the existing workforce document is to support the delivery of comprehensive and specialist kidney care for adults and children across the UK by dedicated clinical and non-clinical multiprofessional teams.

Although another survey was sent out in 2016, much of the nursing data were missing or inconsistent, not giving a true reflection of the workforce. ANN UK is therefore creating a new questionnaire to be sent to nurse leads in all units, focusing

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Paula Ormandy

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on levels of practice and staff:patient ratios, and would appreciate nurses' help with this project.

Education

As part of ANN UK's vision to create and lead innovative nurse training and professional development, the board plans to develop a national curriculum for nurses working in kidney care and explore different ways of delivering core education, such as an online renal course. Standards for renal nurses and competencies will also be included in the education workstream.

Research

There has been a gap in support for renal nurses to share research findings and develop research proposals. ANN UK will offer support to nurses considering submitting proposals and bids for grants, work to increase the presence of nurses on national renal research committees, and

create a wider awareness of the role of the research nurse in practice.

Kidney Quality Improvement Partnership

While there is key nurse involvement in the various Kidney Quality Improvement Partnership (KQuIP) workstreams (e.g. vascular access, home dialysis, transplant), there is a low attendance at regional meetings by renal nurses. This may be due to lack of awareness of the meetings. Nurses play a vital role in the implementation of these projects and should look out for their regional days and attend. More information about KQuIP can be found here: <https://www.thinkkidneys.nhs.uk/kquip>.

Communication with units

ANN UK will be getting in touch with renal units to find out who the lead nurses are, enabling it to develop a network of nurses across the UK. It will

be linking up with other nursing groups, such as the Anaemia Nurse Specialist Association (ANSA), European Dialysis and Transplant Nurses Association (EDTNA) and Peritoneal Dialysis Nurses Forum, to strengthen the line of communication. ANN UK would like to have a contact person in every renal unit. Contact info@ann-uk.org to be part of the network.

Membership

To succeed, ANN UK needs a membership. ANN UK wants renal nurses to be actively involved in shaping the association, contributing to consultations, influencing policy and developing core standards. Join ANN UK online by going to: <https://britishrenal.org/ann-uk>. **JKC**

References

British Renal Society. The renal team: a multi-professional renal workforce plan for adults and children with renal disease. 2002. <https://tinyurl.com/y88ggsnx> (accessed 4 May 2018)



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