



Update from ANN UK: what we have achieved so far

The Association of Nephrology Nurses UK launched at UK Kidney Week in June and it has been striving to support all grades of registered and non-registered nurses working in kidney care since. In this article, Executive Board Member Sue Woodcock gives an overview of what the association has achieved so far.

■ nurses ■ kidney care ■ update ■ quality improvement

Since our launch at UK Kidney Week in June, where we saw an excellent turnout at our first meeting, the Association of Nephrology Nurses UK (ANN UK) has already started to make significant steps towards achieving its purpose: to provide professional and clinical support, education, training, and develop clinical standards of care for all grades of registered and non-registered nurses working in kidney care. This article will concentrate on what we have achieved so far.

One of the themes we are particularly excited about is the development of Special Interest Groups (SIGs). A SIG is a community within a larger organisation (in this case, ANN UK), with a shared interest in advancing a specific area of knowledge, learning or technology. Members co-operate to affect or produce solutions within their field, and may communicate, meet face-to-face and organise conferences. The British Renal Society already has SIGs for young people and shared decision-making, vascular access and a renal rehabilitation network. These SIGs have produced extensive work,

with the intention of improving the quality of patient care and management, such as: toolkits, recommendations and guidance (some of which have been adopted and endorsed by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence), teaching packages and training resources, and patient information (visit <https://tinyurl.com/y9gay4v4> for more information). However, ANN UK would like to extend the number and range of its SIGs, specifically for nurses, to further progress this great work.

How to become a Special Interest Group of ANN UK

If you are aware of an area in renal care that you think requires further development in terms of evidence base and practice by setting up a Special Interest Group, then contact us for further guidance at info@ann-uk.org. Examples might include psychological care and support, home haemodialysis, fertility, pregnancy, peritoneal dialysis, pre – dialysis care and paediatrics.

We can discuss it with you further and help you to formulate ideas and a strategy. Our only stipulation is that you need to be a member of ANN UK to apply to become a SIG. You would be able to run your SIG independently and source your own financial support as required. We will then invite you to attend our executive board meetings and produce a report on your projects and activities to share with ANN UK members.

Affiliation with ANN UK also means that your SIG would have access to ANN

UK membership, receive support for small meetings for registered participants (through the provision of access to rooms at our annual conference), and a presence on the ANN UK website. ANN UK will also link you directly with the British Renal Society to enable collaborative working within your own and other SIGs.

Networking

In terms of spreading the word and developing our network across the UK, we are building a database of renal lead nurses, head nurses and matrons. The idea is that each member of the ANN UK Board will also be a regional link and so will be in direct communication with each unit. We will be able to share details of upcoming events, seek feedback from proposed recommendations and guidance, and release links to new guidance as it is published.

Follow us on Twitter @aassociation for the latest news and views from ANN UK. We are also creating a national dialogue that renal nurses can engage in.

ANN UK is also making links with the Scottish Renal Nurses Strategy Group and the European Dialysis and Transplant Nurses Association/European Renal Care Association (EDTNA/ERCA). In fact, Karen Jenkins—the ANN UK Interim President—is scheduled to meet the EDTNA/ERCA President, Edita Noruisiene, at the EDTNA conference in Genoa this month, creating an official collaboration between these two organisations.

ANN UK will also have a stand at the EDTNA/ERCA UK seminar on 4–5

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November 2018, so if you are there, drop by and say hello.

Another ANN UK appearance this autumn will be at the Home Haemodialysis conference in Manchester on September 24–25, so be sure to stop by our stand and get involved.

ANN UK is also actively involved with the programme for UK Kidney Week 2019, to be held in Brighton in June, and will be hosting a half day session on Monday 3 June exclusively for ANN UK members.

Renal Nurse of the Year award

ANN UK is excited to be supporting the British Journal of Nursing (BJN) Awards 2019, which includes a category for Renal Nurse of the Year. If you know of someone who is worthy of this prestigious award, consider nominating

them. The winner will be invited to speak at UK Kidney Week 2019. More information will be available soon at <http://www.bjnavards.co.uk> and <https://britishrenal.org/ann-uk>.

Education

As someone with a keen interest in renal education, I am particularly passionate about another of our projects, where ANN UK is working with the BRS Education Committee to develop a national curriculum for renal nurses. It is hoped that the curriculum could also eventually provide guidance on the evidence base, to be used when developing practical competencies.

Workforce planning

Finally, ANN UK's work on producing a new workforce planning document, as

mentioned in the previous issue (Jenkins, 2018), continues apace. Many hours have been spent developing a tool that will capture as much information about the number of specialist renal nurses currently employed, the roles performed, and the numbers required. This is a huge piece of work that will analyse the whole multidisciplinary team. I know from personal experience how useful the 2002 document has been in setting establishments and staffing levels. Our vision is for the new document to be just as useful. Once you receive the workforce staffing tool, please do your best to complete it and return it to us. We can then start to number crunch! **JKC**

References

Jenkins K, Hurst H, Ormandy P. Welcome to the Association of Nephrology Nurses UK. *J Kidney Care*. 2018; 3(4):245–246. <https://doi.org/10.12968/jokc.2018.3.4.245>

