

## RCN Gastrointestinal Forum Annual Report 2024

### Forum Name & Introduction:

Gastrointestinal Forum - The forum membership consists of members who are involved in all aspects of gastrointestinal care, including upper and lower GI surgery, gastroenterology, Colorectal cancer, endoscopy, nutrition, liver care, IBD, functional and benign specialties, from wards to Specialist Nurse roles, in adult and children's nursing. There are members in the pharmaceutical industry, independent and private healthcare, working in education, clinical research, charitable organisations in addition to the NHS. Gastrointestinal Nursing is a diverse and wide-reaching specialty and so the forum membership reflects this – there is a complexity of GI/Gastroenterology sub-specialties and subsequently the nursing role is varied, extensive and provides huge opportunity for career development.

### Membership of the forum:

Chair: Rebekah Hill (first year)

Steering Committee Members: Lisa Gower, Pearl Avery, Claire Coughlan, Julie Duncan, Amanda Cetroni and Lisa Whitley

Cathy Regan will sadly be leaving in December 2024 after many years of loyal service – she will be missed by one and all. Huge thanks for all her hard work on the Committee.

Claire and Julie were reappointed to the committee in September 2024 - massive congratulations to them both - both will renew a 4-year term of office starting 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025.

There are no vacancies on the Committee.

### **TERMS OF OFFICE 2024**

First Name	Last Name	Description	Position	Join Date	Start term of office	End of term of office
Claire	Coughlan	Gastrointestinal Nursing Forum	Committee Member	01/01/2021	01/01/2025	31/12/2028
Lisa	Gower	Gastrointestinal Nursing Forum	Committee Member	01/01/2024	01/01/2024	31/12/2027
Pearl	Avery	Gastrointestinal Nursing Forum	Committee Member	01/01/2024	01/01/2024	31/12/2027
Julie	Duncan	Gastrointestinal Nursing Forum	Committee Member	01/01/2021	01/01/2025	31/12/2028
Amanda	Cetroni	Gastrointestinal Nursing Forum	Committee Member	01/01/2024	01/01/2024	31/12/2027

<b>Lisa</b>	<b>Whitley</b>	Gastrointestinal Nursing Forum	Committee Member	01/01/2023	01/01/2023	31/12/2026
<b>Rebekah</b>	<b>Hill</b>	Gastrointestinal Nursing Forum	Forum Chair	01/01/2024	01/01/2024	31/12/2025

### **Social Media presence:**

FB membership stats - **1.5k**

### **Membership data:**

	Current count	Current first choice	Count 12 month ago	First choice 12 month ago	Difference in count	Difference in first choice	% difference in count
<b>Gastro Forum</b>	4149	2651	3958	2551	191	100	4.83%

Membership data reflects a growing trend of both members and first-choice forum, which is encouraging.

### **Reflections on 2024 (Outputs and outcomes):**

The forum committee holds 6 weekly meetings for one hour online to discuss projects, plans and outcomes – our listen, learn and lead strategy has been enacted with committee members.

All Committee members have contributed to the following outputs:

- Monthly blogs which have been published on the forum webpage.
- Monthly publications in Gastrointestinal Nursing (GIN) publications and also the committee have contributed to peer reviews for the GIN.
- The forum committee has had a strong presence at national conferences, committee members have not only attended but have presented at, the National Colorectal Cancer Nurses Conference, the British Liver Nurses Association, the BSG 2024, the Gastrointestinal Nursing Congress and the European Crohn's and Colitis Organisation 2024. Presentations have demonstrated the forum's commitment to advanced practice, development of strategy and standards and all presentations were well received.
- Following a successful Forum Governance Group bid for funding, the forum committee have started work on the 4<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Liver competencies. This update will be completed in 2025 with support from the wider forum membership who are providing expert writers for the competency document.
- The committee have supported a successful FGG bid by a group of paediatric gastro CNS to develop Paediatric Gastro IBD competencies. The committee

will work alongside an expert writing group to deliver this project in 2025, and additionally the CYP forum committee will be supporting this project.

- We have published the IBD framework for professional practice in January 2024– already downloaded approximately 900 times. Work commenced on evaluating the impact of the IBD framework.
- We provided accreditation for the National Colorectal Cancer Nurses (NCCNN) Conference, at which 132 CRC CNS's attended.

Claire Coughlan continues to run the MSc In Colorectal Disease, with bursaries offered to CRC CNS's via BCUK. She has published her Systematic Review on the follow up priorities of CRC patients and is a member of the steering committee for the best practice pathway led by the ASCN, first meeting is on 2nd December.

Pearl Avery has set up a National IBD nurse research group and has had abstracts accepted at BSG and ECCO she has worked on the latest IBD guidelines and has recently joined the IBDUK standards review group.

Congress 2024 was attended by 3 committee members who enjoyed the opportunity for networking with other forum members and the wider RCN membership.

We supported successful endorsement of 'Practice recommendations for midwives caring for women and birthing people living with IBD' developed by a multidisciplinary group of HCPs including midwives, IBD nurses (Forum members), clinicians, GPs and patients.

We contributed to a working party of IBD CNS and researchers on an IBD Advice Line project.

Pearl Avery has contributed to the national lower GI pathway development

Factors that have helped our progress: Shirley Foster and Sally Wilson

Factors that have hindered our progress: Social media support with Facebook and X

### **RCN Representations:**

We continue to work closely with a range of organisations to advance developments in gastrointestinal nursing. We Listen Learn and Lead through our collaborations with *(each committee member has a link with one organisation)*:

- IBD association
- Crohn's and Colitis
- Colorectal cancer
- British Liver Nurses Association
- ACPGBI
- NNG

- CCN
- Gastrointestinal Nursing Journal- Editorial Board and Peer Reviewers
- IBD UK standards group

### **Plans for 2024:**

Listen, Learn and Lead by:

Project	Member	Time frame	Evaluate by
Develop a social media strategy	Julie and Pearl	March 2025	Increased membership
Complete the 4 <sup>th</sup> Editions of liver competencies- 4 nation representation and all national support groups	Bekah	September 2025	4th Edition of Liver Competency publication
Association of Stoma Nurse collaboration – best practice pathway	Claire	September 2025	Publication of best practice document
GIN collaboration to continue with monthly journal publications by committee members  *Dual publication with RCN Blog	Dec 24 – Claire Jan 25 – Lisa w Feb 25 – Lisa G March 25 – Amanda April 25- Julie May 25 – Pearl June 25 – Bekah July – Claire August – Lisa W September – Lisa G October – Amanda December – Julie Jan 26 – Pearl Feb 26- Bekah	December 2025	Monthly publications authored by all team members
Continue collaboration with Hertfordshire HEI- the preparedness of final year student nurses to care for gastrointestinal care needs – qualitative study (FGG bid to be submitted)	Amanda	April 25	Research data and publication
Disseminate and evaluate IBD framework	Julie	September 25	Evaluation data publication

Seek recognition of a IBD CNS now retired – contribution to nursing award	Pearl	March 25	Award to be shared
Monthly RCN Blogs  *Dual publication with GIN article	Dec 24 – Claire Jan 25 – Lisa w Feb 25 – Lisa G March 25 – Amanda April 25- Julie May 25 – Pearl June 25 – Bekah July – Claire August – Lisa W September – Lisa G October – Amanda December – Julie Jan 26 – Pearl Feb 26- Bekah	December 2025	Monthly blog publication

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