

RCN Forum Annual Report 2024

Forum Name:

Research Forum

Introduction:

The Research Forum:

- Provides research leadership and expertise to support the RCN's strategic intent to influence the development of practice and policy from an evidence base.
- Supports and meets the needs of the Society's members.
- Provides a network for sharing experiences and learning and development opportunities

Membership of the forum:

The RCN Research Forum currently have **5635** members

1st Choice:	1476
X (Twitter):	3143 (now stalled as per RCN policy)
Facebook:	505

(5467 members in 2023) The Research Forum has two voting places at Congress.

Professor Bridget Johnston commenced as Chair in January 2023 and was re-elected October 2024 for a second 2-year term. Professor Jane Coad was elected as Vice Chair November 2024. Steering group members are Professor Jane Coad FRCN, Dr Gordon Hill, Professor Heather Iles-Smith, Dr Barbara Farquharson, Professor Parveen Ali and Dr Keith Couper. Dr Helen Jones chairs the clinical research nurse's subgroup.

Reflections on 2024 (Outputs and outcomes)

➤ Provide some narrative on what the forum planned to deliver and achieved in 2024

For example, this may include:

- FGG projects submitted and approved – types of activity
 - Events (including webinars) and conferences
 - Congress related information – resolutions/ matters for discussion submitted
 - Collaboration/ projects with stakeholders e.g. colleges, DOH
 - Projects that were delivered and have closed
- What has been the main highlight/s of the year for the forum?
- What has been the impact of the work undertaken by the forum for the RCN membership (consider 4-country perspective)?
- Are there any informatics or pictures of the forum activity that could be included?
- How/what action has the forum committee taken to engage with the wider membership e.g. development of link nurse or expert reference group etc. Indicate any changes or developments in the way that communications take place and what has been the impact
- Highlight any changes or different ways of working that has been implemented this year
- Publications (include link if possible)
- Contribution to Consultations/Policy development e.g. NICE guidelines
- Any other relevant information or highlights

RCN Representations:

Demonstrate how the representation by forum members has been influential

1. **Events** – The RCN International Nursing Research Conference was held in Northumbria in September – a first joint conference between the Research Forum and Clinical Research

Nurses which was extremely successful. This is a key output for the Research Forum with a steering committee member chairing the scientific committee-, for 2024 this was Dr Barbara Farquharson. We had 400 delegates from 13 different countries. The focus was specifically showcasing research that addresses the needs of under-served populations. We also celebrated research that uses innovative designs to facilitate inclusion of all stakeholders.

2. **Congress** – two voting members attended Congress. This included a fringe learning event to raise awareness of the importance of research and the work of the research forum, including partnership working with KCL to develop six research modules.
3. **NIHR KCL Research Modules** – the research forum contributed as part of an expert reference group towards the design and development of six research modules in partnership with KCL and the RCN, funded via the NIHR.
4. **Engagement with members** - The forum actively engages with members through social media. We have successfully commenced a podcast series, with currently three conversations currently hosted on the RCN Research Forum web page, with more planned. We would appreciate RCN comms help so that the podcasts can be shared on searchable podcast platforms.
<https://www.rcn.org.uk/Get-Involved/Forums/Research-Forum> (podcasts here and on sound cloud).
5. **Publications Key publication from FGG bid (open access)**
Kent, B, Ali, PA, Farquharson, B, Harris, R, Johnston, B, Kelly, D, McKenna, H, McMahon, A, Taylor, RM & Traynor, M (2024), 'Hidden' work and lost opportunities: Nursing research and Impact Case Studies submitted to REF2021', *Journal of Research in Nursing*. 2024;0(0). <https://doi.org/10.1177/17449871241261971>

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/17449871241261971>

6. **Contribution to Consultations/Policy development** Members of the Steering Committee have made a significant contribution to national initiatives to develop and strengthen academic nursing clinical career pathways:
 - Dr Barbara Farquharson represents the RCN at the Clinical Academic Roles Implementation Network (CARIN) hosted by the Councils of Deans for Health.
 - Dr Keith Couper represents the RCN on the CNO (England) Strategic Advisory Board – Research; CNO Strategic Plan for Research – Delivery Board.
 - Professor Bridget Johnston represents the RCN on the UK Coordinated Approaches to Research and Care Embedded (CARE) group – tackling the separation of research and care in the NHS.
 - As chair of the RCN Research Nurse Subcommittee, Helen Jones currently sits on the NIHR Research, Recovery, Resilience and Growth (RRG) Advisory Board as the RCN representative. She also attends the NIHR CRN Workforce Oversight Group.

Plans for 2025:

What does the forum hope to achieve next year:

1. Winifred Raphael Memorial Lecture- 20th March 2025
2. Annual Forum Strategy Day 21st March 2025
3. International Research Conference 2025 to be chaired by Professor Jane Coad, Exeter 9-11 September 2025
4. Nursing repository for research – jointly with RCN institute
5. Newsletter to increase communication with members
6. Contribute to RCN Research Strategy

Name of Forum Chair Professor Bridget Johnston (Chair, Research Forum)

Name of Professional Lead Dr Ada Hui, UK Professional Lead for Research

Date Prepared 27th November 2024