



RCN Forum Annual Report 2024 Forum Name: Trauma and Orthopaedic Nursing (TON)

Background

The Trauma and Orthopaedic Nursing (TON) forum formerly known as Society of Orthopaedic and Trauma Nursing (SOTN) forum is an established dedicated committee with strong links to the International Collaboration of Orthopaedic Nursing (ICON). TON’s aim is to engage with all our members, practitioners and educators, within the four countries of the UK in order to best inform practice; work in collaboration with international colleagues and other UK forums, in order to improve patient care. The committee members meet monthly via MS Teams to discuss our planned annual outcomes agreed at our face-to-face strategy day at RCN headquarters.

Membership of the forum (November 2024)

Count	Forum (All)
Nov 2024	3787
Nov 2023	3661
Increased by	126

Count	Forum (1 st Choice)
Nov 2024	2321
Nov 2023	2255
Increased by	66

Committee numbers and membership:

1. Chair: Dr Sonya Clarke
2. Donna Little
3. Jessica Oto
4. Rebecca Clark
5. David Raynsford-Dyer
6. Kirsteen Kelly

The outgoing Chair and one committee member left the committee at the end of 2023 on completion of 8-year terms. We commenced 2024 with two new committee members David Raynsford-Dyer and Kirsteen Kelly, Dr Sonya Clarke was appointed as chair for a second time. The one vacant committee place has been appointed and commencing in January 2025. This means the Committee will move into 2025 with its full quota of seven members.

At the end of 2025, 4 committee members will have completed their term.

Reflections on 2024: (Outputs and outcomes)

1. The forum has undergone a name change in 2024. From Society of Orthopaedic and Trauma Nursing (SOTN) to Trauma and Orthopaedic Nursing (TON).
2. Our last conference was on 8th December 2023 – a change to a biannual conference was discussed and agreed with the committee and Professional Lead. Our next conference is scheduled for 14th November 2025.

Projects -

3. The 2023 project to develop an evidence-based document, which can guide orthopaedic and trauma practitioners caring for patients with an acute spinal injury across the lifespan was not taken forward in 2024, as it was felt guidance was already within the public domain
4. The 2024 *Acute Compartment Syndrome* project, whose remit included setting up a multi professional project group to review the existing RCN 'early warnings score' chart. Very quickly it was agreed there was a need to pose a number of questions using the RCN TON FB and MCC as the group hypothesised there may be an educational deficit within nursing which needs considered first before a review of the chart
5. The committee agreed to take forward a second project which has been put on hold due to capacity related work commitments
6. Congress 2024 – TON were represented at congress and secured voting places. We were also successful with the Older Person Forum and jointly delivered a falls prevention session as part of the Learning and Wellbeing programme.
7. Social media: we continue to have a very active Facebook forum with 1,112 members at the end of October 2024 when compared with 971 members at the same period in 2023. We also have an active X (formerly twitter) account.

Collaboration with stakeholders:

We continue to connect and engage with affiliated orthopaedic groups, associations and health-care professionals, e.g. British Orthopaedic Association, British Orthopaedic Association for Casting, British Society Children's Orthopaedics, Royal College of Nursing Children and Young People's Orthopaedic Trauma Community.

- International Collaboration of Orthopaedic Nurses (ICON) – Dr Sonya Clarke and David Raynsford-Dyer represents the UK on orthopaedic nursing and as RCN committee member.
- National Falls Prevention Collaborative Group – Donna Little represents the RCN & TON forum on this group – many of our forum members working in the trauma setting will encounter patients who have sustained injury/ies following a fall. This is a growing issue as the number of people live longer. Donna is also a member of the Older People forum. Representation at this group ensures our involvement when policies are being discussed.
- Fragility Fracture Network (FFN) – former chair Karen Bernard attended the FFN board meeting in September 2023. FFN is an international collaboration of Doctors, Orthopaedic and Trauma Nurses, Fragility Fracture Nurses and allied health professionals. They are closely linked with the National Hip Fracture Database in the UK and similar databases globally. Best practice and research is shared at an annual conference. Jessica Oto is the link member.

8. We continue to develop a list of forum link nurses, to provide wider clinical expertise and to help make sure that nursing practice, nursing policy and research expertise is represented – the list values previous committee members.

Contribution to Consultations/Policy development

- TON continues to receive invitations to comment on or participate in related work e.g. BOA, FFN.
- Links to IJOTN are strong – the TON chair also acts as a review editor for the journal and remains actively involved with the forum. For example, they have agreed to support a best poster prize at the 2025 conference.

Plans for 2025:

- Develop and deliver the conference on 14th November 2025 - Plenary, workshops and posters.
- Complete the review of the competence Framework for Orthopaedic and Trauma Practitioners.
- Annual strategy day, formerly Introduce and work with the new committee member at the strategy day to plan future work/projects. Professional Lead to attend.
- Continue with the ACS project
- Develop and facilitate 3-6 educational webinars
- Continue to develop blogs
- Develop TON online module educational material
- TON forward planning/ recruitment - 4 committee members terms end December 31st 2025

Date Prepared and By:

31st October 2024 Dr Sonya Clarke