

New Zealand Nurses Organisation Gastroenterology Nurses College (NZgNC)
AGM report from the Chairperson 2024

2024 has been a challenging year for Nursing as a profession, as a result of significant and high impact decisions made at a national level. Nurses of all levels of practice from new graduate right through to senior and leadership positions, are struggling with the impact of restrictions to recruitment and replacement of staff to manage day to day patient care, and are facing an uncertain and concerning immediate future.

In gastroenterology, we remain well connected, resourceful, and adaptable to changes and continue to find options to continue to provide safe and efficient care to our patient groups.

The NZgNC committee continue to build upon the foundations we have build in recent years of connectedness, collaboration, and draw strength from these for our membership of more than 500. We have a strong Nurse Leaders network and use this avenue to work together, share ideas, and seek innovation in practice.

Committee:

Merrilee Williams- Chairperson

Jessica Southall- Secretary and Hepatology Sub group

Kirsten Arnold- Treasurer and IBD sub group

Karen Kempin- Committee and Nurse Endoscopist sub group

Fiona Williams- Committee and Enteral Feeding network

Nicola Caine- Committee and Hepatology Sub group

Justin Augustine- Committee

Gino Borromeo- Committee

Julia Anderson- Professional Nurse Advisor- NZNO



(Missing- Nicola Caine, Julia Anderson)

This AGM will see the end of terms for Merrilee Williams, Jessica Southall, Kirsten Arnold and Justin Augustine. I thank them for their immense contribution over their time on the committee. New committee members will be elected at the AGM in November.



Sub Specialty Groups:

Our sub specialty groups are thriving, and doing excellent work towards strengthening nursing professional practice and patient care. The NZgNC provide funding to host workshops to develop and update Knowledge and Skills frameworks (KSF). They also plan and host their own education days for nurses who are working in their specific sub specialty.

Inflammatory Bowel Diseases sub-specialty: 2024 achievements

- Hosted IBD nurse symposium October 2024- Hamilton.
- Continue to collect national IBD workforce data to support and promote senior nurse progression, retention and influence NZNO bargaining.
- Supporting work towards funding of new medications, and alternative formulations for IBD treatment delivery.

Hepatology sub-specialty: 2024 achievements

- Completed the NZ Hepatology Nursing Knowledge and Skills Framework to be launched at AGM 2024.
- Encouraged and supported their members to complete online training module through the Australasian Hepatology Association.
- Continue to strengthen connections with the AHA.

Nurse Endoscopy sub- specialty: 2024 achievements

- Strong committee structure now
- Provide professional comment and perspective on NE flexible sigmoidoscopy workforce proposal.
- Paving way for career pathway for future NE's in NZ setting.

Networks:

We planned to propose at the 2024 AGM that we amend the College Rules to include Networks as well as sub specialty groups. Networks will be a means of connecting people with a special interest in a particular area of practice to share knowledge and learning opportunities, and may prove to be a starting point towards developing a new Sub Specialty group. A network will not have funding, however will have the same access to the Education Fund applications that other members have. We have developed an outline document for Networks and Subspeciality groups to help illustrate the differences and roles for these collaborative groups. The remit is currently with the NZNO Board as Networks are new to the organisation, we will await news on this and hope to present it to the members soon as an option. It may not be in time for the 2024 AGM though unfortunately.

Finances:

The NZgNC continue to receive core funding from NZNO in biannual tranches, from the Annual Scientific Meeting revenue (25% of profits), as well as revenue from the Tube Journal publication.

This year we have increased the cost to sponsors for advertising in the Tube Journal. The Tube is now biannual rather than quarterly, and it had been many years since any increase to the cost of advertising had been made.

The committee received a large volume of applications for Education Grants in February 2024 which we were able to approve, and a lesser number of applications in September.



We approved the increase of the nurses registration fee for ASM Gastro conference this year, as it had not been increased for several years. We considered this closely and determined that the increase was in line with other conference fees that nurses attend, and that it remained high value for money. This will ensure that conference will remain viable and profitable, and that the running costs are not in jeopardy.

The college remain financially sound, and able to continue to support the membership to be able to grow their knowledge and skills in gastroenterology practice through various means.

We look forward to welcoming our new committee members for the coming term at our AGM. There has been a lot of interest in joining the committee, which is pleasing. It reflects the improvements we have made to the visibility and avenues of communication that we have established for over the previous years. The committee and the college are a platform to influence and promote professional practice of nurses in gastroenterology.

Finally, my sincere thanks to the committee members, the membership, as well as the NZSG and our Pharma sponsors who continue to collaborate with us to succeed in being able to provide excellent care to patients.

Merrilee Williams- NZgNC Chairperson