Editorial
Celebrations and farewells

Things to consider when educating a patient with a new caecostomy for antegrade colonic enema via a Chait Cecostomy Catheter

Comparing the skin stripping effects of three ostomy skin barriers infused with ceramide, honey or aloe
AASTN Code of Ethics

1. The Stomal Therapy Nurse will at all times maintain the highest professional standards of nursing care and professional conduct by the use of sound judgement and practice which meets the Standards developed by the Association.

2. The Stomal Therapy Nurse will provide needed services to persons irrespective of race, colour, creed, gender, sexual orientation, age and political or social status.

3. The Stomal Therapy Nurse will respect the rights of individuals, their dignity, needs, culture, life-directing values and customs.

4. The Stomal Therapy Nurse will maintain the individual’s right to privacy by maintaining confidentiality and respecting the privileged nature of client information. The right to privacy extends to the protection of the physical, emotional and social rights of clients from unwarranted intrusion.

5. The Stomal Therapy Nurse will not participate in unethical practice and must at all times maintain the highest standard of ethical practice in nurse-client, nurse-colleague, nurse-organisation and nurse-society relationships.

6. The Stomal Therapy Nurse will maintain competency by keeping informed of new trends, practice-related products and relevant research and be able to apply this current knowledge to promote change and innovation in practice.

7. The Stomal Therapy Nurse will participate actively in professional, inter-professional and community endeavours to support meeting the highest professional standards.

8. The Stomal Therapy Nurse will maintain impartiality in regard to material resources.

9. No Full Member shall be in the employ of a company or self-employed in the manufacture or sale of products, prostheses or pharmaceuticals due to the possible perception of an unethical conflict of interest.

10. The Stomal Therapy Nurse maintains practice under the assumption that society has a responsibility to respect and protect the environment and its resources.

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EDITORIAL BOARD

Carol Stott RN, Cert Stomal Therapy Nursing, BHSc (Nursing)
Master of Adult Education
Prince of Wales Hospital, Barker Street, Randwick, NSW 2031

Ian Whiteley RN, Grad Cert Stomal Therapy, Grad Cert Health Science
(Nursing Education), Master of Clinical Nursing
Concord Repatriation General Hospital, NSW

Fiona Gavegan RN, Cert Stomal Therapy, Grad Dip Adult Education
Westmead Hospital Westmead, NSW

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Westmead Hospital, NSW

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Silver Chain Group, WA

Professor Ian Jones MBBS, FRACS, FRCS, FASCRS
Colorectal Surgeon, The Royal Melbourne Hospital, VIC
Celebrations are an important part of our society and are not just reserved for birthdays and special occasions. Celebrating achievements and successes is significant in our professional lives too. It is important we recognise and celebrate success. Many of us work in isolation, so coming together to share our successes is an important part of how we support each other, regrouping and recharging our professional minds.

Our recent 43rd National Conference was a great celebration of our diversity. We listened to presenters talk about not just physical but psychological care of people we provide service to. One thing I noticed at the AASTN Conference was how many new faces there were. There were a number of first-time presenters and I am hopeful that many will be first-time authors as they submit their presentations for publication in the Journal. The conference report in this Journal is written by a new stoma nurse giving her perspective on her highlights and experience. One thing that stands out is how she felt part of our broader community.

Life members Carol Stott and Bill Tyrell were celebrated for their contribution to our specialty and it was wonderful to see retired life members come to celebrate this achievement at the AGM with their peers and friends. We paid tribute to the legendary Patricia Blackley who died in February and her impact on us all is touched on in this Journal. The memories shared and phrases to describe her passion and character encapsulate the true pioneer she was. The legacy that we have been afforded is certainly worthy of much celebration.

The first article in this edition is written by your new editor, Vicki Patton. She has extensive experience in the management of people undergoing formation of caecostomy for antegrade colonic enema via a Chait Cecostomy Catheter and is passionate about helping people with faecal incontinence and defaecation complications. The second article is a study that relates to skin stripping, which is central to our specialty and a potentially preventable peristomal skin condition.

This being my final editorial, I would like to thank Lynda Staruchowicz for her hard work and reminders in collating all the reports for every issue of the Journal. Thank you to the peer reviewers who have assisted enormously over the last two years in reviewing submitted papers and helping authors improve their writing and achieve publication. I would encourage you all to volunteer to be a peer reviewer. It is rewarding and not onerous in any way. It can help you improve your own writing as well as assist others. Please refer to the peer-review guidelines on our website for more information about what is required. Finally, congratulations to the authors who have published their hard work for others to learn from and bringing evidence to the field of stomal therapy.

For the future, I would like to see our journal contain more articles related to our other domains of wound and continence and some paediatric papers. I am certain our Journal will flourish with your new editor and invite you to challenge yourself and have a go at submitting your presentations from this conference for publication. Thank you to Cambridge Media for supporting me in this role and the membership for this opportunity.

This is my final editorial as I will be handing the position over to your newly elected editor, Vicki Patton. So, it's farewell from me and welcome to Vicki Patton.

Julia