

Judith Burnett Grant Report

BACCN Conference 2023.

Having taken over as chair of the Wales regional committee in 2022, attendance at national conference this year was very important to me. When I applied for funding my primary reason for attending the conference was the opportunity to network and learn from the experiences of others.

I attended the conference with 3 follow members from my regional committee and for 1 committee member this was the 1st time we actually met in person! Seems crazy to think we have been on the committee together for a long time now, yet working in different Health Boards and holding our meetings and study events online meant we had never met in real life. As a committee this gave a fantastic opportunity to learn more about each other, establish shared interests and gain tips for my fledgling garden!

Meeting the National Board was also a fantastic opportunity. To further develop my understanding of work priorities of the National Board and how they are working to protect, promote and develop the critical care nursing workforce was extremely reassuring. Having an opportunity to meet Sarah with whom I have exchanged many an email was great. Discussing how we as a committee operate and potential future plans was extremely helpful. It enabled me to come away with renewed ideas to help promote the work of our committee and support our aim of attracting more committee members. Spending time with the regional advisors and discussing their roles within the National Board was equally beneficial. The opportunity to discuss how as a regional committee member I would be able to apply to attend National Board meetings to further my understanding of their workings was greatly appreciated.

The conference was a wonderful learning experience. The keynote speakers were fantastic, the debating and discussion following their sessions helped as I undertake work in my own unit to progress and develop the workforce. I was particularly interested in learning more about the introduction and development of the PNA role and the band 4 role. PNA's are very limited throughout Wales, and it was extremely helpful to learn more about the process's others had followed to establish the role within their units. The discussion and debate around the Nursing Associate role was equally very interesting. Working within Wales we do not currently have Nursing Associates, however we will imminently be introducing band 4's into our workforce structure. Listening to the experiences of those who are currently working with the Nursing Associates was very thought provoking. The passion around protecting the role of the nurse and recognition for the expertise held by a critical care nurse with a PG Cert qualification was both reassuring and inspiring.

I was also able to gain contact details and advice for others working in my own unit who are leading on specific projects. The opportunity to network with others working within critical care services is invaluable. Equally, an opportunity to look at the stands of sponsors during conference was inspiring. Information collected has already been passed on to the key colleagues within my own unit and I am hopefully this will support our continuing desire to provide the best patient experience possible.

It would not be right to fail to mention the wonderful social side of attending the conference. The conference dinner was a wonderful evening, and I would thoroughly recommend anyone attending a future conference to ensure they book their ticket for the dinner. The silent disco was fantastic, it was great to see everyone having a wonderful evening. Finally, the shock of the Wales Regional Committee winning 2 awards was completely unexpected. Well done team, Cymru am Byth!