**Association of Nephrology Nurses UK (ANN UK) Special Interest Groups**

Special Interest Groups (SIG’s) are groups of individuals that meet to promote specific aspects of the care of patients with kidney disease. ANN UK Special Interest Groups (SIG) were developed as part of ANN UK to promote a shared interest in areas with the aim to advance a specific area of knowledge, learning where members cooperate to develop guidance and produce solutions within their particular field.

The purpose of our special interest groups is to share best practice by enabling members to learn from each other’s experiences and knowledge. It is also an opportunity to make people aware of existing excellent practice, of ongoing projects and of useful resources.

We have a number of well-established SIG’s within ANN UK and are continuing to develop new groups to help promote best practice guidance, the development of the highest standards to help staff improve delivery of kidney care.

By having specific expertise across kidney care, members of the special interest groups will also be called upon to be part of wider National projects as ANN UK is now seen as the voice for renal nurses Nationally. We therefore want to promote and support these groups.

Memberships of the SIG’s are open to all ANN UK members and we welcome new members at any stage. Below is a list of our existing SIG’s with details of the nominated leads for each SIG should you wish to get involved.

**Acute Kidney Injury ( AKI) SIG** – Lead – Becky Bonfield – Email: [Becky.Bonfield@uhs.nhs.uk](mailto:Becky.Bonfield@uhs.nhs.uk)

**Home Therapies SIG** – Carol Rhodes – Email: [carol.rhodes1@nhs.net](mailto:carol.rhodes1@nhs.net) and Gail Williams – Email: [Gail.Williams4@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:Gail.Williams4@wales.nhs.uk)

**Nursing Research in Kidney Care SIG** - Nicola Anderson – Email: [Nicola.Anderson@uhb.nhs.uk](mailto:Nicola.Anderson@uhb.nhs.uk)

**Education in Kidney Care SIG** – Nicola Thomas – Email: [nicola.thomas@lsbu.ac.uk](mailto:nicola.thomas@lsbu.ac.uk)

**Anaemia Nurse Specialist Association SIG –** Binta Bangura Email: [Binta.bangura@nhs.net](mailto:Binta.bangura@nhs.net)

**Our future plans are to continue to develop SIG’s in a number of additional areas, if you have an interest in joining or helping to establish any of the SIG’s please email the identified lead for the areas below.**

**Supportive Care SIG** – Lead tbc – Email: [Breeda.mcmanus1@nhs.net](mailto:Breeda.mcmanus1@nhs.net)

**Diabetes SIG -** Lead TBC Email: [Breeda.mcmanus1@nhs.net](mailto:Breeda.mcmanus1@nhs.net)

We have developed a summary below on our existing SIG’s to share their achievements to date and to identify their overall aims and objectives.

**Home Therapies SIG**

The ANNUK Home therapies SIG started as a Haemodialysis Special Interest Group (SIG) in November 2018.

The group consisted of haemodialysis nurses who’s aims were to develop materials to identify and clarify best practice to support the implementation of Home Haemodialysis.

The group produced guidelines for nocturnal home haemodialysis which were published in November 2019 and are available on the ANNUK website.

Initially the group had 5 members from separate renal units across the UK and following discussions felt it would be appropriate to become a home therapies SIG to combine home haemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis. Since this change, the membership has already extended to over twenty members

Our revised aims are:

• To provide recommendations for renal units to encourage a standard approach to facilitating utilisation of home therapies • To identify, develop and clarify what is best practice in Home Therapies and share information with the wider community.

• To work alongside ANNUK/BRS to develop a workforce plan for Home Therapies.

Working collaboratively as a group offers a more joined up approach to services, we can collectively use and share our resources which we hope will help develop and grow safe and effective home therapies programmes.

If you would like to join this national working group, please email ANN UK at [info@ann-uk.org](mailto:info@ann-uk.org) or [carol.rhodes1@nhs.net](mailto:carol.rhodes1@nhs.net) / [Gail.Williams4@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:Gail.Williams4@wales.nhs.uk) Follow us on twitter @ANNUKHomeHD

**Education SIG**  
ANN UK is committed to providing development, learning and teaching opportunities to all its members. The Association launched a mentorship scheme in 2020, specifically for nurses of Black Asian and Minority Ethnic heritage. We are now proud to support three renal nurses who are taking part in the scheme this year.

In 2020, the Association provided a number of free places for the online Foundation in Kidney Care e-learning modules developed in collaboration with OCB Media. This module is for staff new to renal care. It is still possible to access these modules here https://kidneycarelearning.ocbmedia.com/

Later in 2021 we are hoping to launch a longer, more detailed e-learning module for nurses who have some experience in nephrology, but who have decided to make renal nursing their career. This e-learning module reflects the content of modules currently offered by Trusts/universities, and comprises topics such as anatomy and physiology, prevention of kidney disease, self-management, Acute Kidney Injury, preparation, and choice for renal replacement therapy, transplantation, in-centre and home therapies and supportive care. The Association will be announcing the launch date later this year. We responded to nurses across the UK to make this happen and hope in the future all nurses can access courses so there is recognition for a National Standard of education for kidney care nurses.

ANN UK works closely with Kidney Care UK and will be developing a working group to explore advanced kidney care (pre-dialysis), education available for patients. If you would like to join this national working group, please email ANN UK at [info@ann-uk.org](mailto:info@ann-uk.org) or [nicola.thomas@lsbu.ac.uk](mailto:nicola.thomas@lsbu.ac.uk)

**Anaemia Nurse Specialist Association (ANSA) SIG**

ANSA has been an independent association for 20+yrs and has just joined ANN UK as a SIG.

The aim of this group is to provide professional and clinical support for health care professionals specialising in the management of anaemia, promoting best practice for patients with anaemia of Chronic Kidney Disease, providing a voice for patients and taking anaemia treatment forward. ANSA have their own website with many resources <https://anaemianurse.org>

ANSA aims to

* Provide a forum for sharing best practice and keeping abreast of new development in anaemia management
* Provide high quality educational resources in the form of webinars /face to face meetings e-learning modules
* Optimise clinical management and improve patient outcomes by enhancing understanding of anaemia of chronic kidney disease and non- renal anaemia
* Launch iron deficiency anaemia e-learning modules in 2021

If you would like to join this national working group, please email ANN UK at [info@ann-uk.org](mailto:info@ann-uk.org)

or [Binta.bangura@nhs.net](mailto:Binta.bangura@nhs.net)

**Nursing Research in Kidney Care SIG**

Clinical research is one of the fastest growing specialities in healthcare delivery, with the NHS being seen as an international leader. With NIHR strategies, such as the Clinical Research Nursing (CRN) Strategy 2017-2020 and increased opportunities to develop clinical academic careers, the potential impact and contribution of the nursing workforce in research environments is being recognised.

The establishment of a special interest group promotes the voice of renal research nursing in the wider ANN UK strategy, whilst creating a national network and forum to further the influence of nurses working in kidney care research across the UK.

**The aims of the group are to:**

•Develop and share best clinical and research practice.

•Inform & enhance the care of patients with kidney disease participating in research studies.

•Create a network to encourage collaborative working and career development.

•Offer support to nurses considering submitting proposals and bids to grants

•Create a wider awareness of the role of the research nurse in practice

•Enhance the voice of research nurses within the research/clinical MDT, both locally and at national levels.

Membership comprise of renal research nurses, nurse researchers and clinical nurse specialists with an interest in nephrology research. Since launch of Nursing Research in Kidney Care Special Interest Group in June 2019, the following activity has taken place:

1. Ongoing videoconference meetings to discuss group aims and strategy.
2. Establishment of a social media presence to communicate group activity and increase membership via our dedicated twitter page @ANNUKResearch
3. Successfully submitted a UKKW 2020 session proposal entitled ‘Developing Research Careers- Fitting it in and Navigating Different Options’. Unfortunately this session did not make the final programme following the shift to a virtual format, but the group aims to deliver similar sessions in the future.
4. Successfully acquired funding to assist the group in refining the overall SIG strategy: Working in collaboration with 70@70 NIHR Senior Nurse and Midwife Research Leaders we aim to conduct a scoping exercise to assess the numbers, roles and locations of renal research nurses and researchers across the UK, in order to assess and develop kidney nursing research priorities. A long term aim being to promote and develop nursing research within kidney care.
5. The Group has sent out offers to ANNUK members to assist with abstract preparation/poster design and aims to offer further support for virtual presentations
6. In November 2020, the Group successfully presented ANNUK’s first webinar entitled ‘A Challenge or an Opportunity? Top tips for nurses coping with the impact of COVID-19 on research in kidney care?

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ANN UK welcomes ideas and suggestions for new SIGs. Join of ANN UK and become a member of these proactive groups of like- minded nurses working in kidney care. Follow ANN UK on twitter @annukrenal

Authors

Breeda McManus, Deputy Chief Nurse, Whittington Health NHS Trust, [Breeda.mcmanus1@nhs.net](mailto:Breeda.mcmanus1@nhs.net)

Professor Nicola Thomas**,** Professor of Kidney Care, School of Health and Social Care, London South Bank University, [nicola.thomas@lsbu.ac.uk](mailto:nicola.thomas@lsbu.ac.uk)

Binta Bangura, Lead Anaemia Nurse Specialist, Kings College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, London., [Binta.bangura@nhs.net](mailto:Binta.bangura@nhs.net)

Nicola Anderson, Senior Research Nurse, University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust, [Nicola.Anderson@uhb.nhs.uk](mailto:Nicola.Anderson@uhb.nhs.uk)

Gail Williams, Role, Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board, [Gail.Williams4@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:Gail.Williams4@wales.nhs.uk) & Carol Rhodes, Role … University Hospital of Derby and Burton NHS Foundation Trust, [Carol.rhodes1@nhs.net](mailto:Carol.rhodes1@nhs.net)