



Name: Laura McNab

Place of Work: The Christie Institute for Cancer Education

Role: Specialist Practice Educator (SACT)

1. How did you first get involved with UKONS, and what drew you to it?

Enjoying a career in Cancer care since qualifying in 2007, I was made aware of UKONS by colleagues involved from the beginning of my career, as I have worked predominantly in a specialist tertiary Cancer care centre.

I have always been reassured I could look to UKONS for trusted support and guidance; especially whilst completing my Masters in Advance Nursing in 2013, with the desire to propose standardised SACT clinical practice and assessments for the future.

Since coming into Clinical Education roles in 2016, I have attended many UKONS conferences, and this promoted my confidence to present my Oral Poster on Advanced Therapy Investigational Medicinal Products (ATIMPs) training provisions to a room full of UKONS members at Telford in 2019.

2. How has UKONS influenced your career?

The inspiring individuals I have met through this networking opportunity who are all so passionate in wanting to improve patient care through evidence-based practice and encouraged me to want to help further. I proposed to a small group of SACT nurses with a specialist interest in the development of SACT education and training we work together to support the standardisation of SACT practices Nationally in alignment with the strategic objectives of UKONS SACT MIG, and through word of mouth, 40 nurses attended a virtual meeting in September 2022, forming the SACT Education Network. This group has progressed to 2200 attendees from 135 trusts in 36 meetings over the last 3 years. Having grown in size and governance, we feed directly into the UKONS SACT MIG committee, which I now also Co-Lead. We focus monthly meetings on pertinent clinical issues chosen by the group, and it has felt inspirational to observe so

many likeminded nurses support one another sharing advice, guidance, policies, projects and educational material to improve patient care. I enjoy facilitating these meetings, whilst also enabling shared documents as resources on its website, monitoring the UKONS SACT MIG discussion forum and chairing SACT MIG Webinars too.

3. In what ways has UKONS influenced or supported your cancer nursing career?

UKONS has enormously shaped my career, from offering opportunities to be involved in National education projects, present at National SACT teaching sessions and at University, reviewing proposed National guidance provisions and clinical objectives in association with BOPA and the UK SACT Board too.

I have met many interesting individuals, travelled across the 4 Nations for conferences, meetings and observed pioneering practices. I have been offered infinite support, and expert supervision from many UKONS board and MIG members to selflessly help shape my career, and I look forward to many more exciting involvements associated with UKONS in the years to come.