

Meet the Judging Panel: Excellence in Cancer Research Nursing



Anne Croudass

Lead research nurse, Cancer Research UK

Since qualifying, Ms Croudass has worked in a variety of clinical and research settings. Following graduation, she worked in general medicine, progressing to become manager of a 32-bed respiratory and diabetes specialist ward. She has managed research nurses in asthma, allergy and oncology, and was involved in establishing the UK Clinical Research Facility (UKCRF) in Southampton and the Central South Coast Cancer Research Network. Since 2006, she has been the lead research nurse at Cancer Research UK, where she heads up a national team of 15 senior research nurses. In this role, she works strategically and operationally to ensure that clinical research, and research nursing, are recognised as crucial to good quality cancer care.



Dee Sissons

Chief executive, Rainbows Hospice for Children and Young People

Dee Sissons joined Rainbows Hospice for Children and Young People as CEO in June 2018, after working as director of nursing for Marie Curie Cancer Care for five years. Her career spans commissioning acute services and the independent sector, and she has represented nursing and end of life care at board and national levels across the UK.

Ms Sissons continues to play a key role in nursing leadership and is an active council member at the Royal College of Nursing. She took on the role of chair of Council in January 2020. She is passionate about developing others and brings a wealth of knowledge about practice development and professional standards. She is also a Florence Nightingale leadership scholar.



Gary Bell

Editorial director, RCNi

Gary Bell has been a journalist for 30 years, working on newspapers in Australia and the UK.

He joined RCNi in 2004 and held a number of different posts within the company, before being appointed to his current role in June 2019.



Helen Jones

Head of research nursing, Royal Free Hospital London NHS Foundation Trust

Dr Jones has spent much of her nursing career working as a clinical research nurse in various clinical areas. She was formerly the research matron at Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust for seven years where she supported and led a workforce of 150 research nurses. She recently took up the post of head of research nursing at the Royal Free London and has academic links with the University of Hertfordshire.

Her research nursing career has spanned more than 20 years and she has experienced first-hand the growth and development of the clinical research nurse role and workforce, and the development of the national research infrastructure supported by the National Institute of Health Research (NIHR). Last year she completed a doctorate in healthcare at King's College London. For her thesis, she carried out the first national study to examine the organisational structure of the national clinical research nurse workforce and their experience working in research delivery.

Dr Jones has a national presence in research nursing, which includes sitting on the NIHR Research Nurse Strategy group and the CRUK Senior Research Nurse Advisory panel.



Margaret Sneddon

Honorary senior research fellow, University of Glasgow

Margaret Sneddon joined nursing and the Royal College of Nursing in 1974 as a student. Her clinical background spans gynaecology, oncology and palliative care, subsequently specialising in lymphoedema. She is an educator who initiated and led various palliative care and lymphoedema programmes in the University of Glasgow, taking on leadership of the Nursing & Health Care School for nine years. Ms Sneddon's contribution was recognised by the university with a Teaching Excellence Award in 2007 and an Outstanding Contribution to Lymphoedema Education from the International Lymphoedema Framework in 2009. In 2016 she received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the British Lymphology Society. Having retired as head of school in 2016, Ms Sneddon continues input to university education of all disciplines, support of the RCN and has an active leadership role as a trustee with the British Lymphology Society to further understanding of lymphoedema and chronic oedema.



Yvonne Coghill CBE, OBE

Director of WRES Implementation in NHS England

Yvonne Coghill commenced nurse training at Central Middlesex Hospital in 1977, qualified as a general nurse in 1980 and then went on to qualify in mental health nursing and health visiting. In 1986 she secured her first NHS management job and has since held a number of operational and strategic leadership posts.

Ms Coghill has been voted by colleagues in the NHS as one of the top 50 most inspirational women, one of the top 50 most inspirational nurse leaders and one of the top 50 BME pioneers. In 2018 she was awarded a fellowship of the Royal College of Nursing, an honorary fellowship from King's College University, honorary doctorates from the Middlesex and Buckinghamshire Universities and has become deputy president of the RCN.