

ESGENA Editorial Board



Irene Dunkley (RGN; BSc; MSc) from UK

I work as a Nurse Consultant in Gastroenterology & Endoscopy at Hinchingsbrooke Hospital NHS Trust. My main areas of specialist practice are caring for people with inflammatory bowel disease and as a Nurse Endoscopist undertaking Colonoscopy and flexible sigmoidoscopy procedures. I am a non-medical prescriber which allows me to prescribe the patients I see treatment as well as to alter treatment plans. I work as an integrated member of our multi-disciplinary team which includes Gastroenterologists, Surgeons, Radiologists, Pathologists, Dieticians and Nurse Specialists. I both support and participate in the training of our endoscopists to JAG standards, including Doctors and nurses.

I have been working as a nurse specialist since 1996 and have seen many changes in how our roles have developed and impacted changes to patient care. People have difficulty understanding the diversity of our roles and areas of expertise. However, I believe this diversity is to be welcomed as long as it is underpinned with knowledge, skills and expertise in delivering appropriate and timely patient care.

I remain committed to improving patient access to services where they are needed and improving service delivery to meet the changing needs of patients.

Politics has a great influence on health care. Understanding and influencing the political agenda is critical in how we respond to the demands made on our profession that impact how we care for our patients. I believe in quality patient care; if we compromise on standards we will fail in the delivery of our patient services.

I am Vice Chair of the British Society of Gastroenterology Nurses Associates (BSGNA) and a member of the Education working group of the European Society of Gastroenterology and

endoscopy Associates (ESGENA). I believe we need to influence the way we work through nursing organisations by supporting nurse development and learning from other nursing groups and specialties.

I am a member of the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) Gastrointestinal forum committee. The RCN provides a platform for the Gastrointestinal Forum to demonstrate the value of nurses working in this diverse area. The more engaged with forum members we are the stronger our voice becomes.

By working together we strengthen our working partnerships to ensure our nursing voice is being heard and understood, but more importantly, our patients get the care they need.