

## UK DCTN Nurse Fellowships

Since 2010, 14 nurses have benefitted from this award, (see full listing in the table on page 2). Since 2021, the Fellowship has also been open for pharmacists to apply for. Some examples of activity are:

### **Alison Lowe, 2019 UK DCTN Nurse Fellow**

I can summarise my experience as a UK DCTN nurse fellow into key words: - motivating; inspiring; challenging; transformational

As a fellow you are provided with a range of learning and educational opportunities, such as the BEES course, critical appraisal tutorials from the brilliant Prof Williams, and provided with a research-based learning experience. My experience was to be involved in a systematic review from which I have learnt so much.

The fellowship has also led to unplanned opportunities. For me these included becoming part of a UK DCTN and BDNG working group, speaking at the BDNG conference, and learning about dermatology and research from the various inspiring people I have met

Less tangible benefits are how the fellowship has shaped me. In the past I did not have much professional confidence. Becoming a fellow has allowed me to realise I do have something to contribute, and it's OK not to know as long as you want to learn. I have recently successfully applied for a new role as a 'nurse consultant in dermatology and skin cancer'. I doubt I would have successfully secured my new role without the experiences and confidence that the fellowship provided.

### **Kathy Radley 2016 UK DCTN Nurse Fellow**

In addition to the core activities of the award, Kathy became involved in the Steering Committee of the Hyperhidrosis Priority Setting Partnership. She has commented that the award has contributed very much to her professional development in both her clinical and academic roles. A keen advocate of other nurses applying for this award, you can see Kathy speaking about her experiences at <https://youtu.be/TWULQ8aCPHA> . Kathy is continuing her links with the UK DCTN by joining the Trial Generation and Prioritisation Panel and becoming a mentor for future UK DCTN Nurse Fellows.

*Kathy said: "I have very much enjoyed the opportunities the fellowship has given me over the last two years and this has contributed very much to my professional development in both my clinical and academic roles. I will advocate nurses to apply for the prize – I have lost count of the number of times I have said to colleagues in many departments to consider applying!"*

### **Angela Steen 2011 UK DCTN Nurse Fellow**

I have really enjoyed my time spent at Nottingham and have learnt a great deal during the duration of my award. I have been working in dermatology for 20 years now and winning the award gave me a new path to explore within my current role. There have been times when I have been out of my comfort zone but I think that is a good thing and have gained from this. The research nurses in Nottingham have given me some great tips on how I can manage studies within a smaller centre and I have incorporated these into my practice. The whole team at Nottingham are enthusiastic and motivated which rubs off on us when we have our visits and send us back to our clinical areas with

renewed enthusiasm. I have always been an advocate of research taking place in normal clinical practice so I will continue to fly the research flag in North Wales and ensure our dermatology patients in District General Hospitals have the same access to studies as those in academic centres to improve outcomes for all.

### **Jane Grundy 2010 UK DCTN Nurse Fellow**

Following my involvement in the Softened water eczema trial as a Research Nurse I was privileged to be awarded the UK DCTN Nursing Prize in 2010. I joined the SpR fellowship prize winners and spent three days at the Dermatology Trials Network base in Nottingham. The trial managers were all very friendly and welcoming and gave us an insight into all the current trials running at the network. We gained useful and practical information into running randomised controlled trials from conception to completion. We also spent a half day with Prof Hywel Williams developing our critical appraisal skills. This has led to an ongoing learning programme organised by the Professor who provides targeted reading for critical appraisal followed by a telephone conference discussion. Winning the prize has given me a unique opportunity to develop my critical appraisal skills and an in depth knowledge of the research process, which I am now able to use within my own work environment. I would recommend any nurse working within dermatology to apply for this very unique and prestigious award.

### **Full listing of UK DCTN Nurse Fellows**

2008	Fiona Cowdell (Bournemouth)	2009	Gemma Minifie (London)
2010	Jane Grundy (Portsmouth)	2011	Angela Steen (North Wales)
2012	Liza Mitchell (London)	2013	Kelly Amor (Staffordshire)
2014	Susan Tyler-Murphy (Brighton) (withdrawn)	2015	Melanie Westmoreland (Oxford)
2016	Kathy Radley (Hertfordshire) Charlotte Walker (London)	2017	Tessa Garland (London)
2018	Nicola Lancaster (Barnsley)	2019	Alison Lowe (Brighton)
2020	No awards made due to Covid	2021	Christina MacNeil (Glasgow) (withdrawn)
2022	Leila Kattach (Bournemouth) Tracy Thompson (London)	2022 Pharmacist Award	William Price (Lancashire)