

## 2022 Executive Director's report – Simon Capper, Japanese Red Cross Hiroshima College of Nursing

As we prepared for the 2021 AGM, we expressed a fervent wish to be able to meet in Morioka in 2022. Alas, it was not to be, so here we meet again, in JANET's very own corner of cyberspace. Face-to-face conference cancellation notwithstanding, we've enjoyed a year of steady progress and innovation. Perhaps our biggest highlight was the news that, after nearly a year in limbo, our application to join the Science Council of Japan was ratified. We are now officially members of the 日本学術会議 (SCJ) and as such, articles published in our journal, *Nursing English Nexus*, will be recognized for academic credit by Japanese universities. On a side note, how many JANET members knew that the SCJ was established in 1949 by an American physicist, Harry C. Kelly? His reasons for coming to Japan were perhaps a little different than our own, but it's nice to know that we're continuing in this tradition of international cooperation.

On all other fronts, JANET continued to function smoothly. Our 2021 online conference went without any major hitches, EBMs were carried out each month, newsletters were sent almost every month and two more volumes of *Nexus* were issued. Many thanks to all who were part of these endeavours, with a particularly huge debt of gratitude to outgoing *Nexus* editor, Mike Guest. Since our establishment in 2016, Mike has been one of JANET's greatest supporters, and his professional expertise, wisdom and hard work were crucial in the development and growth of *Nexus*. Thank you, Mike, we owe you so much. Good luck in all your future adventures, and good luck too to Jeff Huffman, who has now taken over from Mike. A tough act to follow, but we're delighted that Jeff has taken up the challenge.

I mentioned progress and innovation. Earlier this year we carried out a membership survey. Returns were fewer than expected, but the comments section yielded two very similar and interesting suggestions about how to nurture a sense of collegiality and communication among JANET's members. Our thanks to Margaret Chang and Margaret Yamanaka (henceforth known as "the Margarets") for suggesting and then running our first online JANET discussion group. It was both stimulating and enjoyable, and we hope to make this a regular JANET event.

Another innovation, still very much in its infancy, has been a proposal to offer sponsorship / research grants for conference participants (presenters) who have no institutional financial support. This is likely to be dependent on a physical conference that would generate enough revenue to make such subsidies possible. For now, watch this space!

Finally, this year's AGM marks the completion of our Auditors' and Advisory Committee's three-year term of office. The Executive Board sincerely thanks everyone who has served in these roles for their time and invaluable support. We very much hope that they will consider re-signing on the dotted line, rather than resigning *en masse*! As always, I'll end by saying that we're always looking to welcome new members to the Advisory Committee. If you have an interest in helping us, please do get in touch.

## 2022 Treasurer's report – Simon Capper, Japanese Red Cross Hiroshima College of Nursing

Our financial report was submitted, audited and confirmed in June 2022. Our only expenses were the subscription costs to maintain our websites, although our bank balance actually increased thanks to the largesse of our Gold Sponsors, Nellie's Books. Please support Nellie's in any way you can as a way of thanking them for their support and trust.

I'd also like to thank our auditors for their help, including outgoing auditor Paul Mathieson, and his more than able replacement, Rima Ghashut. Rima joins Michiko Sakaguchi in helping to keep JANET's books on the straight and narrow.

As mentioned in the Executive Director's report, this year we hope to explore the possibility of offering subsidies for JANET Conference presenters who have no institutional support.

## **2022 Membership Chair's report – Simon Capper, Japanese Red Cross Hiroshima College of Nursing**

Membership numbers made only half the gains of the previous year, rising from 231 to a current total of 247. The introduction of the Facebook page “Teaching English to Japanese Nursing Students” hasn’t had the impact on membership that we had expected. This, and our decision not to carry out a postcard conference promotion campaign perhaps account for this slow growth.

On a more positive note, it gives me great pleasure to report that, as of June this year, the reins of the Membership Chair have been handed over to Sean Thornton. Sean will take over the membership communication duties, and has already been instrumental in carrying out the extensive membership survey in late 2021.

The survey gathered data that, among other things, will help us to gauge whether members are full-time or part-time in their capacity as teachers of nursing English, and also enabled us to get suggestions and feedback regarding future conferences. Our thanks to all members who kindly responded to the survey.

## **JANET Program Co-chair's 2022 Report – Yutaka Kato, Shiga University of Medical Science**

As a program co-chair for 2021-2022, I collaborated with Eric Fortin with the vetting of proposals (inviting competent members to review a proposal), the arrangement of the schedule, etc. For the annual conference, which is going to be completely online, we have accepted 9 proposals. We could have made additional efforts to solicit (more) contributions (earlier). Having a talk session where nurses can share their experiences with those in charge of education at colleges is an option for a future conference.

## **JANET Program Sub-Chair's 2022 Report – Eric Fortin, St. Mary's College**

As program sub-chair for 2021-2022, I assisted the program chair with the vetting of abstract proposals, which numbered 10 in all. All of the proposals were accepted, some with minor revisions, except one, which was considered by its readers to be too personally narrative and thus not appropriate as a conference presentation. Although the program chair and I asked the submitter to rewrite the abstract after pointing out what needed to be altered, as well as conveying our willingness to help out with that revision process, the submitter asked to be taken out of consideration as a JANET presenter. In addition to vetting all the proposals, I also organized a preliminary schedule for JANET’s one-day online conference that is scheduled to take place on Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, although it was later modified by some of the other officer.

As program sub-chair, for the next and future conferences I plan on discussing with the program chair and the other officers the following concerns that I have:

1. Emphasizing and periodically reminding prospective proposal submitters of the need to write abstracts in both English and Japanese. Most submitters have been good at observing this request, but every year there are some who only submit an abstract in English, which I believe to be unfair to those who put in the effort.
2. Every year there have been proposals submitted after the stated submission deadline. I feel that, although JANET benefits by having as many presentations as possible, in order to maintain the professionalism of the organization we should make it clear to prospective submitters that, barring unusually exceptional circumstances, late submissions will not be accepted.

## **Nursing English Nexus Editor's Report – Jeffrey Huffman, St. Luke's International University**

*Nursing English Nexus* Volume 5, Number 2 was published (<https://www.janetorg.com/nexus-5-2>) in October 2021 with three articles, including one in Japanese, a welcome addition.

*Nursing English Nexus* Volume 6, Number 1 was published (<https://www.janetorg.com/nexus>) in April 2022 with six articles, one of which was a short retrospective by outgoing editor Mike Guest, and two of which were textbook reviews. With this issue, we also officially changed the full title of the journal from *Nursing English Nexus: The E-Magazine of the Japan Association for Nursing English Teaching* to *Nursing English Nexus: The Journal of the Japan Association for Nursing English Teaching*.

Many thanks to all the contributors and reviewers, to outgoing editor Mike Guest, and of course to Mathew Porter for his tireless efforts in proofreading, layout, and website editing.

Jeffrey Huffman, Editor  
*Nursing English Nexus*

### **JANET Newsletter Editor's Report – Jonathan Levine-Ogura, Iwate Medical University**

Through a free Internet email service called MailChimp, JANET's newsletter has been providing nursing-English related information for our members since 2017. Currently, the newsletter reaches 225 subscribers.

The newsletter mainly consists of English articles and multimedia content found on the Internet, both related to Japan and from international sources. We hope that this content provides useful and timely information for teachers and students of nursing English. The newsletter also provides the latest information on conferences and other academic organizations that cross JANET's interests as well. As a service, we can also provide employment information if requested to do so.

MailChimp data shows that many of our subscribers opened the newsletter, with an average performance of nearly 60%, which is consistent to last year's average.

Though most of the newsletter content is provided in English, we also try to provide Japanese content for our Japanese-speaking members. As always, we encourage JANET members to share anything if the opportunity arises. Our editors will be more than happy to hear from our subscribers.

### **JANET Publicity & Publications Chair's Report – Mathew Porter, Fukuoka Jo Gakuin Nursing University**

The current publications chair encompasses two areas: the online journal and web administration. It includes the following duties: (1) updating the Janet.org website (Wix) and conference site (Google Site); (2) formatting Nexus and uploading it to the JANET website twice yearly; (3) updating supporting documentation for Nexus such as formatting specifications, guidelines, and workflows; and (4) designing flyers, posters, and other promotional materials.

Except for the Nexus page, the public information on the JANET website is up to date as of June 15. Information about being recognized by the Science Council of Japan has been added in both English and Japanese to the home page and the timeline under the About heading. I will be adding a SCJ logo. I have also added the logo of our 2022 sponsor, Nellie's English Books, to the home page. The Conference Website is up to date as well, currently displaying the conference schedule, all of the abstracts and speaker bios, and the registration form. We have received a single pre-recorded presentation video and this will go live on the conference site on Friday, June 17.

The Wix Site currently has 153 registered users, but some of these are second (or third) accounts. When new members are added to the members list, there is a column for website membership and I have been trying to note if they have also signed up as website members. Most people who have become members in the last year are also members of the site; however, an audit of the website membership status of people

who have joined JANET before 2021 is necessary. Despite having a large membership, the forums at the website are silent. Although it is easy to create an attractive website with Wix, I continue to question whether it is the right tool for hosting both the members area and the Nexus archive. Registering new members is also confusing, with some people registering to become a site member instead, causing an additional step for the webmaster and membership chair in order to add someone to the JANET membership list. Wix has many out-of-box features that must be used as is, making it impossible to attractively modify JANET membership registration or to combine organization and website registrations.

The loosely affiliated Facebook page that is administered by Nick Boyes of Meijo University has seen little growth over the last year, adding only 7 members for a total of 46. The page usually sees a few posts a month with a few members commenting. Although some people do not use Facebook (or use it for work), the group seems to be becoming the forum that the website is not.

The Nexus archive on the website has been updated to show the most recent article on the main Nexus page. Past articles have been given their own pages, with a list of links to those pages directly above the latest issue. I have created individual article pdfs for all issues from 2019 to 2022, but have not finalized metadata or uploaded them to the website. My apologies to all of the authors affected.

In other Nexus news, we held our first publications steering committee meeting online in December, where we decided to move deadlines up to January 15 and July 15 and discussed registering Nexus with CrossRef, the Directory of Open Access Journals, and J-Stage. In 2023, I hope to see Nexus registered with at least one of these organizations and plan to start with J-Stage. Our next steering committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, June 17.