

BIOG

Dr Gillian Hood PhD, MSc, BSc, RGN

Gill has been involved in diabetes care since qualifying as a nurse in 1984 and from 1997 began working in diabetes research. She managed the NE London Diabetes Research Network from 2007-2013 increasing patient recruitment 5 fold during this period and conducting her own research. She has run a diabetes research lay panel for people with diabetes for 13 years encouraging users to discuss research and be more involved in research design.

From 2013-15 Gill worked for the National Institute for Health Research first at Barts Health NHS Trust and later Imperial College NHS Trust where she was Workforce Development and Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement Lead until 2017. In her capacity as Workforce Lead Gill ran courses in Clinical Research for nurses and allied health professionals. She has also presented her research work at a number of National and International Conferences in Diabetes over the last 10 years.

Gill is currently diabetes research manager at Queen Mary, University of London and Barts Health NHS Trust. She is a member of the Foundation of European Nurses in Diabetes (FEND) and is currently the Chair for the Novo Nordisk Research Foundation for Nurses and Allied Health Professionals. Gill's diabetes research interests include ethnic minorities and engaging hard to reach groups in research, diabetes and older adults, health professional education, and patient and public involvement.

ABSTRACT

My presentation on “**Diabetes Specialist Nurses in the Digital Age**” is in part a personal reflection on the changing role of the DSN over the 40 years of my career and how Digital Technology may change that role even further.

Like many, I have seen changes to the hospitals we work in; the universities we attend for further training; the actual curricula for training nurses, down to how they look and what their duties will be. I've learned not to dwell too much in the past but to learn lessons from it. We must continually evolve in our role to serve people with diabetes effectively.

For example, back in 2011 when I addressed a European Diabetes Nursing Symposium in Levekusen I recall banging home the message about our increased role in diabetes prevention. It seems strange to admit that nurses were not so keen on prevention a decade ago. Today is quite different with dedicated staff undertaking diabetes prevention roles.

Now we are at the cusp of another larger transformation – the Digital Age – and this presentation will discuss some of these new developments and the implications for us as DSNs and our patients. The Digital Age is an enormous subject and I could never do justice to it all in this presentation. So I am just going to touch upon some salient points for us with a hope that pertinent themes on this subject may spark further debate in your groups and lead to further discussion and potential changes.