

## **NACC Announces the Winner of the New Colitis and Crohn's Nursing Award**

**23<sup>rd</sup> November 2005, St Alban's, Herts, UK.** Leading Colitis and Crohn's Disease patients' charity, The National Association for Colitis and Crohn's Disease (NACC), is delighted to announce the winner of the new Colitis and Crohn's Nursing Award 2005. With over 138 excellent nominations the four judges had an extremely difficult task in deciding upon a winner but after careful deliberation they all agreed that Belle Gregg, IBD Nurse Specialist and Nurse Endoscopist of the Royal Liverpool University Hospital brought particularly outstanding qualities to the care of her patients. Receiving the Award at the recent RCN Gastroenterology and Stoma Care Nursing Forum at Telford, Belle was presented with the prestigious NACC training bursary worth £1,000.

The judging panel comprising of Elaine Steven, Chair of the NACC Council of Trustees; Susanne Wood, Vice Chair of the NACC Council of Trustees and a Nurse Specialist in Clinical Nutrition; Dawn Elliott, Chair of the RCN Gastroenterology and Stoma Care Forum and Dr Karen Birmingham, Editor of Gastrointestinal Nursing also selected three strong finalists, Wendy Fletcher, Clinical Nurse Specialist, Gastroenterology at St Mary's Hospital, Portsmouth and Janice Fennel and Sue Aitkin who job share the role of IBD Nurse at Western General, Edinburgh.

Commenting on Belle Gregg's winning nominations, Chair of the NACC Nursing Award judges, Susanne Wood said, "Belle demonstrates special qualities and an outstanding approach to her patient care. Her patient nominees described Belle as, "Someone who is always there to listen, help and advise and she works tirelessly for IBD patients. Belle has centrally organized the Merseyside IBD Open Forum encouraging and co-ordinating consultants, surgeons and dieticians to give up their Saturday mornings to provide information

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and support to IBD patients. Belle also arranges outreach meetings with local Women's Groups to increase understanding of Colitis and Crohn's disease."

Susanne continued, "The entries we received for this new award were all wonderful and we had difficulty picking an outright winner. The level of patient care, enthusiasm and personal relationships that these nurses deliver is crucial to the well being of both the patient and their family."

Explaining the need for the new NACC Nursing Award, Richard Driscoll, Director of NACC said, "With the launch of the "2005 NACC Calls for more Colitis & Crohn's Specialist Nurses Campaign" and the new Nursing Award as a key part of the campaign, we are highlighting the fact that only a quarter of NACC members surveyed earlier in the year have access to a Specialist Nurse involved in the care and management of their Colitis and Crohn's disease.

These two diseases are much more common than people generally think, affecting 1 in 400 people, similar to Parkinson's disease (1:500) and more common than multiple sclerosis (1:700). However, there is a serious lack of recognition of Colitis and Crohn's disease at both Government level and in the NHS which is reflected in the lack of provision of specialist Colitis and Crohn's nurses. It is for this reason that the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) Gastroenterology and Stoma Care Forum is strongly supporting the NACC Campaign and we as the patient charity will continue to campaign for more Colitis and Crohn's Nurses". **ENDS**

**Health professionals, patients or their families seeking further information or support can contact:**

**National Association for Colitis and Crohn's Disease (NACC)  
4 Beaumont House, Sutton Road, St Albans, Herts. AL1 5HH**

**Daytime Information Line 0845 130 2233      NACC-in-Contact Line 0845 130 3344  
Website [www.nacc.org.uk](http://www.nacc.org.uk)**

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## Editor's Notes

- **NACC provides Support and Information**

NACC provides a valuable support network and information resource for people and families affected by Colitis and Crohn's Disease as well as raising significant funds for research. The 70 NACC Groups across the UK enable members to share information and experiences. The Daytime Information Line is available to members and non-members alike who have queries about all aspects of their disease. The NACC-in-Contact Line offers members a chance to speak to a trained volunteer with Colitis or Crohn's Disease. Membership of NACC is open to anyone who has Colitis or Crohn's Disease, their friends and families, health professionals and anyone who wishes to support the charity. Membership costs £12 in the first year, £10 thereafter.

## **NACC – Improving Life for People Affected by Colitis and Crohn's Disease**

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