

meet the PRESIDENT



Professor Kathleen McCourt
CNMF President

The CNMF is very pleased and honoured to welcome Professor Kathleen McCourt as the new CNMF President, elected unopposed to serve 2018-2020. Professor McCourt was the CNMF Deputy President from 2014-2018.

Professor McCourt was nominated by the Royal College of Nursing UK and has a distinguished nursing career. Professor McCourt holds a Masters of Education Development and a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Nurse Education Studies. She is a Fellow of the Royal College of Nursing; a registered nurse teacher; registered clinical nurse teacher; registered midwife; registered general nurse.

Professor McCourt has recently retired from her substantive position as Executive Dean of the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences, Northumbria University, a position held since 2008. Previous and ongoing positions include: Chair of the RCN Council (2011-2013); Chair and member of the RCN International Committee since 2010; Sigma Theta Tau member and Chair of Sigma Theta Tau Education Conference Planning Committee since 2011; Governor of Gateshead Acute Foundation Trust since 2005; Governor of Northumberland College since 2012; and Honorary Colonel of 335 Medical Evacuation Regiment since 2013. She is currently a non-Executive Director of an outstanding teaching hospital Trust in the north east of England where her portfolio includes patient experience, clinical governance, and safety and quality issues.

Professor McCourt's extensive experience in working with Boards and Committees, and having served in high-level leadership positions related to nursing and midwifery practice and education in the Royal College of Nursing, as well as working alongside Ministers of Health and Education, Chief Nursing Officers, and Executive Boards, has given her a clear understanding of governance.

Her professional career as a nurse, midwife, and in education has given her an opportunity to work within the UK and across the world with a long involvement in the Commonwealth, delivering nursing leadership and education workshops in Asia and Oceania. In recognition of her service to nursing, Professor McCourt was awarded an RCN Fellowship in 2008 and was honoured by Queen Elizabeth II in the 2012 birthday honours, becoming a Commander of the British Empire (CBE) for her services to nursing.



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Professor McCourt said that the CNMF is a distinctive organisation which draws together nursing and midwifery associations across the Commonwealth acting to improve nursing and midwifery education, leadership, career progression, and the sustained development of health Commonwealth citizens. As Deputy President, Professor McCourt represented the CNMF at Biennial Meetings; European and other global conferences; meetings of civil society; presenting the work of the CNMF; and contributing to global campaigns with fellow nursing and midwifery organisations. Professor McCourt said she is greatly honoured to have the opportunity to further develop her role within the CNMF by working with the executive team to ensure the voices of nurses and midwives are heard at all levels of the Commonwealth.