

## Dr Audrey Morrison

Audrey is a mother, daughter, sister, wife, nurse, carer, colleague, friend, doctor, supporter, researcher and Soroptimist. She accredits working with so many inspirational people for her success in both her working and personal life.

Audrey studied Japanese at University while continuing to work part time as a nurse. In 1995 Audrey was studying in Kobe Japan when the 7.3 magnitude Great Hanshin earthquake struck. After one week of basic survival, she walked 24km with thousands of others fleeing the city. Although this was a challenging time, and despite suffering PTSD, her personal experience resulted in new resilience and coping skills, and a fresh outlook on life.

Soon after, Audrey obtained a Masters degree, followed by a PhD. Since then, Audrey has worked as a research practitioner at the Beatson West of Scotland Cancer Centre in Glasgow. Audrey helped set up a collaborative research group with the University of Glasgow, which earned her honorary research fellow status.

Audrey's work is varied, acting as researcher, advisor, educator and support mechanism for others. She has been principle investigator and co-investigator in various randomised clinical trials and other research projects, exploring interventions to support patients with and surviving cancer. Audrey has recently become involved in a large international EU funded project, a Macmillan-funded creative arts project, and is about to explore individual perceptions of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on staff and patients within the cancer centre.

In 2016-2017, Audrey won a prestigious Florence Nightingale Foundation Travel Scholarship in which she visited and observed world-renowned experts in New York, Toronto and Manchester. Audrey has since been an invitational speaker at various Soroptimist clubs and healthcare events. On the 12<sup>th</sup> May 2020 (International Nurses' Day), Audrey co-organised an event celebrating the bicentenary of Florence Nightingale's birth, designed to help staff rest, relax and find some reprieve from the challenges and burden of work during the current COVID pandemic.

Audrey always aims to inspire others, encouraging and facilitating individuals to reach their best potential. On a voluntary basis, Audrey is an expert reviewer for several healthcare journals and the West of Scotland Research Ethics service.

Audrey has always been an active member of SI Falkirk and has undertaken the roles of convenor, web mistress, and club president. After meeting members from SI New York City during a business visit, a friendship link was established. From her background as a competitive (youth) dancer, Audrey has directed large social functions in true 'Strictly' style at both club and regional level, and finally, as a 'solo' effort, successfully raising over £10,000 for a children's bereavement counselling service at Strathcarron Hospice.

Whatever Audrey does, it always involves people, fun and creativity! She also cares for her elderly blind and disabled mother, so having a balanced 'work-home - soroptimist' arrangement can be very challenging at times. However, everyone has challenges of one kind or another, and support from fellow Soroptimists can always be relied upon.

