



**World Federation of Neuroscience Nurse:
International Brain Waves:
Neuroscience Nurse Profile**

Name: Patricia K. Gallagher

Position Held: President Canadian Association of Neuroscience Nurses (CANN)

Country/Institution: Canada

Describe what/who influenced your decision to become a neuroscience nurse:

I believe it was based on the fact that as a group the nurse educators in my original diploma program seemed to be intimidated by anything neuron. I found the brain fascinating, scary, mysterious and above all a challenge.

Briefly describe a highlight of your neuroscience career:

I have practiced primarily in neurosciences for over 30 years and coming from an area where the population is less than most major cities I have not had to pick any specific area of neurosciences but have followed the continuum from health promotion, primary prevention, acute, emergency, rehabilitation and community integration. As the old expression goes "I am the jack of all trades but master of none."

I guess my most favourite time was my sojourn in Montreal. I enrolled full-time in the six month post basic neuroscience nursing program in 1979. There were 10 of us from all over the world. 2 from Singapore, 4 from the US and 4 from Canada. We were all so thrilled with neuro and had many similar interests. We learned so much, studied very hard; and because we were young and single we also enjoyed fun times in that cosmopolitan city.

What has been a professional/person achievement?

I guess it goes without saying that becoming president of our national organization CANN is an honour and privilege, as well as the recognition of what I can offer in the development of strategic directions for stroke care are my personal favourites. I was appointed to the Canadian Stroke Strategy Steering Committee as well as my provincial steering committee and our provincial Heart and Stroke Foundation Board. At one time I was active in Think First and received an award of excellence from the national board.

What are your future goals?

I want to continue in neurosciences and maintain the interest and passion that I still have until my retirement. I am not sure which direction that neuro will take me. It has been a fun ride so far filled with many surprises and unplanned opportunities and I wish to continue.