



**THE WORLD FEDERATION OF
NEUROSCIENCE NURSES
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INTERNATIONAL BRAIN WAVES

The Official Newsletter of the World Federation of Neuroscience Nurses

Volume 10, Number 3

Autumn, 2002

From the President

For most of us the summer holidays are over and after having reloaded our batteries we are ready again to resume our daily activities. Some of us had the opportunity to spend more time with family, to have a vacation by the sea, at the countryside, in the mountains..., to walk, cycle, visit other countries or cities with their museums, churches or other sights... or stay at home just to rest or to finish the work that we had no time for during the year.

Others just had to work harder in the hospitals due to the lack of staff and the constant demand for the same quality service that we try to give the rest of the year. All over Europe the new nurses have a job as soon they finish school and at many places they cannot fill in the vacant places because of a shortage of nurses. The work is hard and the payment is not in keeping with the workload. But this also means that new nurses have the opportunity to choose the specialty they want to work in. We have noticed that they are very motivated and eager to learn when they start in the Neuro-services because they have chosen themselves to work with Neuro-patients. It is our task as specialized Neuro-Nurses to educate our new colleagues and to show them our professionalism and our interest in Neuroscience so that they can share our enthusiasm for this fascinating specialty. National and International information and contacts are therefore also very important

The WFNN is already preparing the next Congress in Barcelona in 2005 and we are also finishing our new website. We hope that you can visit it at www.wfnn.nu at the beginning of October so that you will have access to the latest news on Neuroscience Nursing and Congresses from all over the world and also to the electronic version of International Brainwaves.

Herman Ubachs
President, WFNN

WFNN Website!!!

By: Virginia Prendergast

Following support from the WFNN Board of Directors during the September 2001 meeting, work has progressed on the website for WFNN. The site is currently under review by several individuals and should be an official site by the end of this year.

The site will feature information on our organization, the International Brainwaves, and membership applications. The site will also provide a means for obtaining information and registration for upcoming Congress meetings. Applications for the Agnes Marshall Research Award will be available as well. We also hope to offer a bulletin board so that members can pose questions of international neuroscience nursing interest.

In order to make the site as comprehensive as possible, we are compiling various sites for individuals to use. Are there sites of interest that you visit frequently? Are the neuroscience nursing sites that you have bookmarked on your computer?

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WFNN Website!!! *continued from page 1*

Please take a moment and email me any particular links you'd find interesting to our members. I can be reached at: Vprender@hotmail.com.

If you would like to be on the electronic mailing list for the website, please send your email address to me AND Vicki Evans (WFNN Secretary).

Vprender@hotmail.com

Vevans@doh.health.nsw.gov.au

Thankyou!!!

Annual Activity Reports

Spanish Society of Neurological Nursing (S.E.D.E.N.E.)

In the last months the Spanish Society of Neurological Nursing has made some important changes and has achieved a lot. Firstly, our society continues to grow, with 217 members. Secondly, we have restructured our organization, with an official secretary "Catalana de Congressos" to help us in all events and management. Finally, from 1st July we have a web page www.sedene.com, that will allow us to communicate more effectively.

With respect to our executive members, from November there will be changes: I'll take the Presidency for two years and from this year, every two years all executives change progressively. It was approved at the last executive meeting that the present executive members were to be 'founders'.

Last year, the scientific activities included the VIII Annual Meeting in Barcelona in December with 239 participants, covering important subjects for neurological nurses including ways to get help and grants for research; a workshop on ways to communicate between patients, families and professionals; Multiple Sclerosis; Cerebral Haemorrhage and management etc.

This year we held the II local Meeting in Madrid on May 10, in "La Paz Hospital" The most important subject was feeding and nutrition in the neurological patient with dysphagia.

In the last official journal on association activities, apart from papers and research we also presented an extensive document about the specialisation in neurological nursing covering the length of degree courses and areas of study (see website). We sent this to the Minister of Health last January.

Also, we are now participating in a specific magazine with the Spanish Society of Neurology, "Suma Neurológica" in the editorial section.

Finally, the candidacy of our association for holding the next congress of WFNN in 2005 in Barcelona was accepted. Our society is very satisfied with this event!! We have already begun working and next October we'll hold the first meeting with the WFNN Executive in Barcelona.

Thanks WFNN for your continuing support.

Submitted by: Rosa Suner

Sweden: Movement Disorder Caring Society

During the last year we have had 5 meetings of the board; two of them were telephone meetings.

The main functions have been:

- make a better work inside the association
- to make our sphere/field of activities bigger
- to make our existing activities better

Currently, we have 103 members - 78 are nurses. The rest are physicians, assisting nurses, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, welfare officer etc. And we are still growing.

Specific activities during the last year have been:

Creating a website

Together with one of the companies, creating a Parkinson-specific website, www.parkinson.nu

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Annual Activity Reports *continued from page 2*

Sweden: Movement Disorder Caring Society *continued*

Konferens in Bergendal in Stockholm in 12-13th of April, which also invited nurses from Norway, Denmark and Finland to create a Network in The Northern of Europe. In the future we hope to have conferences together with them, at least every second year.

The first of The Parkinson-educated Nurses were examined in November 2001. This is a requirement that MDCS in Sweden made together with The Swedish Parkinson Association and we are very proud of that. The next course will start in August this year.

Our society in Sweden is growing and we are looking forward to what the next year will bring. We are also looking forward to continuous cooperation with WFNN.

Submitted by: Yvonne Jansson

Austria, Israel, Switzerland – no reports submitted

The History of Neuroscience Nursing

Do you know the history of neuroscience nursing for your country/organization? Are you one of the nurses who helped establish neuroscience nursing in your country or organization? If so, I would like to hear from you!

I am trying to compile information on the history of neuroscience nursing to complete archives for WFNN. Agnes Marshall Walker has been invaluable in relaying information on the formative years of WFNN. However, in our records there is little information on how member countries became established.

If you have information, or know of someone who could help, please email me. Any information you have would be of great assistance for our organization!

Thanks for your time!

Virginia Prendergast vprender@hotmail.com

International Leader Profile

Peter Hagell

I was 17 years old and had just finished school – finally! Was completely fed up with anything related to studying since several years and was the only one in my class who did not apply for university or other studies. I just wanted to get a job – preferably in a music store or, even better, as a rock star... However, at the time there was a lack of job opportunities in general and my two areas of preference were no better. But there was one area “screaming” for people - health care. So, faced with no other obvious alternatives, I signed up to work at a rehabilitation hospital half-time over the summer – just enough to keep me alive and give me a chance to find something else. To my big surprise, however, I pretty soon discovered that not only was the job ok – I actually liked it! So, I managed with short-term jobs at this rehab hospital and at a couple of nursing homes until I, a year or so later, went back to school to qualify for nursing school.

My interest in neurology began already during basic nursing training. I was simply fascinated by the brain – bones, skin, guts and stuff just seemed a bit too straightforward to be of any real interest. So I knew I wanted to stick to whatever goes on above the shoulders but did not finally decide whether to look for a job in neurology or psychiatry until I spent time at a ward that in part had a neurology profile during my last year of nursing training. When I graduated from nursing school, in 1989, I moved to Lund to begin working at the Dept of Neurology. I was extremely excited to work at a neurology department at a big university hospital, which was all new to me. However, a few years later I began feeling restless because work wasn't as challenging as it used to be. For a while I thought of getting a new job but didn't because I really liked what I did – I just needed new challenges to cope with the routine. So, instead I began taking university courses, including pharmacology, tropical medicine, and neurological nursing, of which the latter eventually led up to a bachelors degree. The course package was, and still is, quite unique because it is (as far as I know) the first and only time in this country that such an extensive (an equivalent of 1.5 years full-time studies) university level training program has been offered within a specialty such as neurology.

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International Leader Profile *continued from page 3*

Early on it became apparent that movement disorders in general and Parkinson's disease (PD) in particular were areas of special interest and in 1992 I began working with a specialized movement disorder team (MDs, RNs, OT and PT). In parallel, I also became more and more interested in research and a few years later I took the position as a PD/movement disorder research nurse. At this time, I also began attending conferences and visit movement disorder clinics that I knew were of really top international standard in order to learn more. For example, I took a course in movement disorders at the National Hospital for neurology & Neurosurgery in London, where I also spent some time at the clinics of Profs Marsden and Quinn, and made a clinical visit with Prof Fahn and Carol Moskowitz, RN NP, at Columbia University in New York. For those of you perhaps not familiar with the movement disorder field, Carol Moskowitz is a very well known and highly respected movement disorder nurse who has been practicing within this subspecialty for well over 20 years now. This was a truly extraordinary experience, and it felt as though I learned more in a week than I had for the past several years.

At this time, around 1994, nurses from a few movement disorder clinics in Sweden had begun interacting on an informal level, which eventually resulted in the desire to reach out and identify also other nurses around the country who are practicing movement disorders. Inspired by how Carol Moskowitz had organized American movement disorder nurses some years earlier, in the fall of 1994 I was, thanks to invaluable help from the pharmaceutical industry and dedicated nurse and neurologist colleagues, able to organize a one-day national conference for movement disorder nurses. By the conclusion of the day, everyone agreed that we should form an official society. A year later, the constituting meeting of the Movement Disorder Caring Society (MDCS) of Sweden was held, three years later we became members of the World Federation of Neuroscience Nurses (WFNN), and in 2000 we were able (together with the Swedish Parkinson's Association, a national patient organization) to initiate the first university level training course for PD nurse specialists in Sweden.

In 1998, I applied to the doctoral program at the Medical Faculty, Lund University, where I was accepted shortly thereafter. Since then, I have spent most of my time doing research, plus some clinic and teaching. In May 2002, I defended a thesis called "Assessment of Graft Effects and Function in Cell Replacement Therapy in Parkinson's Disease", which resulted in a doctoral degree in medical science within the field of neurology. (Anyone interested in the thesis is welcome to email me at Peter.Hagell@neuro.lu.se and I'll be more than happy to send you a PDF file of my thesis book.) Currently, I am taking yet another course. This time at Murdoch University in Perth, Australia (isn't the internet fantastic...!?) to learn more about psychometrics and measurement theory. This is an area I want to develop more in the future, since one of my main areas of interest is outcomes measurement and research of various kinds. Some of the studies I currently am conducting involve, e.g., how to use and interpret patient diaries of motor fluctuations in clinical trials in PD, development of a health economic model to help conducting cost-effectiveness analyses of novel treatments in PD, and development of valid and objective measures of perceived aspects (e.g., distress, emotional well-being, fatigue, and life satisfaction) of PD that subsequently will be used to learn more about how these relate to motor dysfunction and brain pathology.

My involvement in WFNN began when the MDCS joined (see above) and has the same reason as that behind forming the latter society: a true interest in neuroscience, being convinced of the necessity of working together in order to achieve anything, and thinking that the field of neuroscience nursing has tremendous potentials but needs to develop and strengthen in order to reach the reachable. I am not sure to what extent I have been, am, or will be able to contribute to such a development but if there is anything I can do, I sure want to try to do it. In my current position as the vice president, I see as my main task to strengthen the scientific quality and profile of the WFNN.

*Peter Hagell
August 27, 2002*

Announcements

THE HUMAN BRAIN

International Conference on the Structural Basis for Understanding Human Brain Function and Dysfunction

— Rome, October 5th – 10th 2002 —

Objective

Differing schools of thought and different methodologies have produced conflicting views of how the brain structure underpins brain function and dysfunction. Our aim is to reconcile the different views so that functional workers will have a stable structural framework within which to consider their observations.

Speakers

54 speakers from Australia, Argentina, Canada, the USA, Cuba and many European countries

Location

IRCCS Santa Lucia Conference Center, Via Ardeatina, 342, 00179 Roma

For information and conference registration: www.thehumanbrain.org

Press Office and sponsoring: Benigna Mallebrein, bmallebrein@pelagus.it
Tel/Fax: 0039-06-5015636

Conference Secretariat: ThreeBee Group: secretariat@humanbrain.org
Tel/Fax: 0039-06-5015636

HAVANA, CUBA - November 2003.

The next Annual Meeting will be an International meeting of Neuroscience Nurses in November 26-29, 2003 in Havana. For information please contact: Elizabeth Padilla. Email: elizabeth@neubas.sld.cu



**European Association of Neuroscience Nurses
7th Quadrennial Congress
Copenhagen, Denmark
19-21 May 2003**

The 7th Quadrennial Congress of the European Association of Neuroscience Nurses (EANN) will be held from 19-21 May 2003 in Copenhagen, Denmark. The congress is organized by the Danish Association of Neuroscience Nurses in conjunction with the EANN and will take place at the Scandic Hotel Copenhagen

Neuroscience Nurses from Europe and throughout the world are invited to participate:
? to share professional knowledge and experiences through the scientific programme
? to meet in a social atmosphere with old and new friends

Abstracts

To participate in the Scientific Programme, you must send an abstract in advance. The deadline for submission of abstracts is **1 November 2002**. 2 announcement, information on Call for Abstracts and an Abstract Form are available from the congress website at www.eann.dk or from:

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Fabio Barbarigo
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For further information contact your local National Neuroscience Nursing Association or the congress bureau:

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DK-2730 Herlev
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All participants must register for the Congress and are responsible for their own expenses.

✍✍ We hope to see a lot of colleagues from all over the world at the Congress ✍✍