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NEUROSCIENCE NURSES
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INTERNATIONAL BRAIN WAVES

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From the President

In December I attended, on behalf of the WFNN, the WHO meeting of "NGOs concerned with Mental and Neurological Disorders" in Geneva. For the first time in 16 years it had been decided to include the NGOs with focus on Psychiatry. In 2002 there have been meetings between leaders in Neurology and Psychiatry about the topic "Mind versus Brain" and they decided to cooperate at three different degrees: 1. Reduce stigma and discrimination. 2. Work together on collecting Data. 3. Compile a bank of offered training courses.

In this context I want to present to you an interesting editorial from a special issue on "Neuropsychiatry, XXIst Century", written by Prof. Bogousslavsky and Prof. Ferrero, two eminent personalities in Neurology and Psychiatry.

"Neurology and Psychiatry have become two distinct specialties over the last century. This happened because clinically there were different diseases and patients to be taken care of, but also in relation to the development of two distinct medical mentalities. The focusing of the neurologists on brain « matter » often made them forget the patient's emotional and psychological reality, while the psychiatrists often forgot that their patients also had a brain... Within this evolution, « neuropsychiatry » had a place, but rather with juxtaposed competencies than with conceptual synthesis. The consequence was that it ineluctably disappeared, because of the increasing difficulty to synthesize a dramatically growing knowledge.

In a way, facts have resuscitated it: on one hand, there was clear evidence of brain phenomena contributing to psychiatric diseases and their treatment; on the other hand, there was the observation that focal or diffuse neurological lesions modified not only elementary (such as motion, sensation, etc.) or cognitive functions (language, memory...), but also behavior and emotions. The interest of this renewal has been maintained in avoiding all sorts of reductionism on either side, for instance to consider every psychiatric patient as being originally ill, or to interpret mood and behavioral changes in neurological patients as a pure psychological reaction to disease.

A new neuropsychiatry is emerging, between the developments of biological psychiatry and behavioral neurology: the anatomy of emotions, affectivity and dementia, depression after focal brain damage, etc. These are among numerous topics at the border between "conventional" psychiatry and neurology, which deserve a new, concerted, approach within neurosciences."

Herman Ubachs
President, WFNN

Annual Activity Reports

IBW January 2003

Virginia Prendergast

American Association of Neuroscience Nurses

This year will see a number of exciting events within AANN.

- The 35th Annual Meeting titled: "Advancing Neuroscience Nursing in the New Century" will be held in Atlanta, Georgia from 5-8 April. A number of preconference workshops, including in-depth information on neuropharmacology, are planned. Noted researcher and last year's recipient of AANN's Honorary Member Award, Pamela Mitchell, will provide a plenary session on "Blending the Art and Science of Neuroscience Nursing: Bridging the Centuries". For additional information please refer to AANN's web page: www.aann.org
- Many of you may be familiar with AANN's past publications, the *Core Curriculum of Neuroscience Nursing*. During the past year, nearly 100 authors, section editors, and reviewers having been busy in a major revision of the Core under the direction of Mary Kay Bader and Linda Littlejohns. Anticipated completion of the Core is expected this year.
- AANN has just published the *Scope and Standards of Neuroscience Nursing Practice*. This text reviews the extent of neuroscience nursing practice, and offers statements on the care of patients throughout the lifespan. Copies maybe ordered online for \$16.00USD at www.aann.org.
- The current AANN Board of Directors, under the direction of current President, Nancy Villanueva and President – Elect Andrea Strayer, completed strategic planning in 2002 to guide the AANN through the next 2 years of growth and development.
- Did you know that a number of articles from AANN's *Journal of Neuroscience Nursing* are available on-line? These articles provide continuing education credits for nurses who wish to maintain their CNRN certification as well as those nurses needing to demonstrate ongoing education. You may visit AANN's home page to obtain additional information at www.aann.org
- AANN's extends its condolences to the family of long-time WFNN delegate Fritz Buschacher. Fritz died unexpectedly in December, 2002 and will be missed by his American friends and colleagues.

We extend our very best wishes to all of our neuroscience colleagues for the New Year. Here's hoping we have the opportunity to meet, via email or face-to-face, in 2003!

Virginia Prendergast

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Australasian Neuroscience Nurses Association

Welcome to the WFNN website and the report from the Australasian Neuroscience Nurses Association. Congratulations to the WFNN Executive and webmaster for this excellent achievement. It often seems that what appears to be a simple process is actually a lot of hard work from people working behind the scenes. The ANNA website (www.anna.asn.au) benefits greatly from the input of Chris Baker as webmaster and Anita Lloyd, Links coordinator. A link to the WFNN website will be positioned on the ANNA website homepage.

To continue to develop this amazing resource, ANNA is currently recruiting interested members as Website Liaison Officers to ensure that all the information on the website is of the highest quality and up to date. At a recent Executive Meeting an advertising policy for the website was endorsed and with the additional income further improvements can be implemented. We are also developing a forum page where questions can be hosted and members are invited to respond. It is always a privilege to work with members of an organisation who willingly provide their time and expertise to progress the aims and objectives of the association.

During the last year there has been excellent work on the ANNA Standards from the Western Australian Branch. The draft has progressed the concepts previously evident in the standards, as well as providing quantifiable criteria that will assist members in the application of the standards to education and practice environments. The draft has been widely distributed for final comment before ratification at the next Annual General Meeting in Queenstown, New Zealand this August.

Queenstown, NZ promises to be an exceptional venue for this year's ANNA Conference. The natural beauty of the snow-capped mountains (very close to where Lord of the Rings was filmed) surrounding Lake Wakitipu, will provide a sensational feast for the senses, while the brain is intrigued and engaged in concentrating on the latest presentations from staff involved in the care of patients with neuroscience disorders. The conference will be held from August 14-16 and will be immediately followed by the Neurosurgical Society of Australasia Conference, offering further opportunities for learning and networking with our Neurosurgeon colleagues. Let me take this opportunity to extend an invitation to interested colleagues from around the world to join with us at the annual conference. Why not combine a holiday in New Zealand at the height of our ski season while attending the conference - see the website for details and abstract submission.

While in some ways remote from the rest of the world, we as Neuroscience Nurses in Australasia are all too aware of the current events in the world that may see our neuroscience nurse colleagues, at home and overseas, involved in nursing patients with devastating neurological injuries. I dare say unlike any they would have seen before. Regardless of our background, religious or cultural differences, we all hope and pray that this conflict is soon resolved peacefully.

May 2003 be a year of prosperity, peace and hope for you, your families and those you hold in your hearts.

Best wishes

Sharryn Byers (Vice President)
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British Association of Neuroscience Nurses

The AGM in the autumn of 2001 was traumatic as there were no nominations from people willing to be on the executive committee. With thoughts of disbanding the Association the AGM started but it soon became clear that the members wanted to continue. This has led to more interest in committee posts but sadly only one nomination at the 2002 AGM. We have now re-structured the committee to share roles so that they are less onerous.

Due to technical problems we have had only one 'Headlines' journal published this year. It contains abstracts from the Sheffield meeting in November 2001.

In April 2002 we questioned members about their visions for the association. This had very interesting findings. Members have a wide range of experiences and interests which means that we have a huge resource in the members. Next years conference will see a debate on whether membership should be open to other members of the health care team e.g. physiotherapists and support workers. When questioned about this, members' comments ranged from 'yes as they are caring for Neuro patients' to 'I will leave the association'. This debate should be very lively.

At the 2002 meeting in Oxford 'free' membership was offered and around fifty new people came forward – so from a fragile year we are making new and hopefully stronger progress. We continue to have around 300 members and have just one national conference each year but this year over 120 people registered from all over the UK and one delegate came from Australia and presented a paper on education.

Our web page address is www.bann.org.uk

Our conference in 2003 will be in Blackpool on 24th-26 October. Please contact me if you wish more details.

Hopefully we will have many delegates and presenters in Copenhagen in 2003 and again in Spain in 2005.

Kate McArdle
December 2002.

German Association of Neuroscience Nurses

The German Association currently has approximately 95 members. The annual fee is 51 Euro. Our annual conference 2002 was about Subarachnoid hemorrhage, Bobath and Basale Stimulation with about 200 participants. The conference was very well organised and most of the speakers used computer projections for their presentations, which enabled a very professional performance.

The next conference is scheduled for April 3 - 4 2003, in Giessen/Hessen. The main subject is Stroke. The last edition of our journal was published in December 2002 and we're already working on the next one. Hopefully we will be able to create at least 3 to 4 issues in 2003. Our President, Hildegard Nowaczyk, resigned last year. We will elect a new President at the annual general meeting this year. Nominations are being sort.

Susann Schultka
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ANIN: National Association of Neuroscience Nurses of Italy.

The balance of the ANIN (National Association of Neuroscience Nurses of Italy) activities in 2002 was quite positive. We were able to give a better visibility to the association, to stimulate the professional improvement and increase the interest for the association.

This year we will have our National Congress, in Bellaria (Rimini) from April 10-12, 2003. It is titled " The assistential competences in neuroscience: assistential, safety, society".

It is a very important project for us because the academic year 2002/2003 is the first of the new university course in nursing science which is the substitute of the previous school in nursing science. The "New Nurse" should be more professional that match the goals of our association, so that next year will be stimulating and hopefully the moment of a real grow of our professional figure.

Raffaella Signani

