



The World Federation of
WFNN Neuroscience Nurses

International Brainwaves

March 2009

I hope that the New Year has not been too stressful and has brought you some renewed energy. It is only 2 months before we come together for the 10th Quadrennial Congress, May 23 - 29, 2009 on the campus of York University in Toronto, Canada. If you have not registered please go to www.wfnn2009congress.ca. We have nurses from 20 countries presenting. We hope to see you there.

Karen March, Secretary WFNN
Editor, WFNN Newsletter

Upcoming Educational Opportunity

This year the World Federation of Neurological Surgery XIV World Congress meeting will be held in Boston, Massachusetts, August 30-September 4, 2009. They will have several sessions specifically for nurses. Please check out their website for more information <http://www.aans.org/wfns2009/default.asp>

Clinical Research Study

Parkinson's Disease Can Affect More Than Just the Body

1 in 3 people with Parkinson's disease see, feel, or hear things that are not really there. They may also feel paranoid or distrustful of others, suspecting friends or family of stealing or cheating on them. Does this sound like a person you care for? There is a clinical research study now enrolling people with mental and behavioral symptoms of Parkinson's disease. To qualify, participants must be at least 40 years of age, have been diagnosed with

Parkinson's disease for at least 1 year, and be experiencing behavioral symptoms of Parkinson's disease.

For more information:

- US: Call 1-866-565-0262 or click www.ParkinsonsBodyMind.com
- UK: Click www.ParkinsonsConcern.com
- France: Please contact Kathryn Martin (kmartin@mediciglobal.com) for study site information

"Hands Across the Sea" **How the WFNN theme song came about.**

By
JD Meacham, WFNN Executive Director

If you have not heard it yet, you owe it to yourself to go to the WFNN web site and hit play on the 'Theme Song'. It is not only uplifting but it reminds us all of how neuroscience nurses connect the world.

I recently had the opportunity to interview Stephen (Steve) Smith, MSc, BSc, PGCE, RGN the lyricist and composer of "Hands Across the Sea". He tells the story much better than I do so let me share his reply.



"When I nursed young people with neurological disorders in Scotland, I developed a habit of writing songs about the stories of life that our patients and their families told me. People got to know about it and I began being invited to play at Huntington's conferences. Then, one evening in 2003 at the European Association of Neuroscience Nurses 7th Congress, there was a large gathering of the international delegates at an Irish pub. The Irish entertainer took a break, and some people who knew I play guitar, suggested I step in. I played some old Dylan, Presley and Beatles tracks and the crowd sang along. It was then suggested by the Congress organizers

that I play something at the closing ceremony. The Irish singer kindly joined me and we played some quickly penned material consisting of jokes about members of the EANN and WFNN boards.

It went down well, and then it was suggested that we have a song for the next WFNN meeting in Barcelona in 2005. After toying with some more joke material, I found myself thinking about what the WFNN really stood for. I needed to state how suddenly life can change for individuals and their families affected by a stroke and the weight of slowly progressing neurological deterioration.

Then amid the devastation of these broken lives, there are these very special neuroscience nurses. That gave me the first verse. The chorus needed to reflect the reason we meet up from around the world as I had often felt isolated trying to make a difference where I worked. However, by joining hands and sharing knowledge and innovations with nurses overseas, I was often able to do much more than previously. That gave me the chorus.

By reaching out, as axons and dendrites do in rehabilitation to make new connections, the final verse and last refrain came to me as they capture what we can achieve together -through this federation."

Lyrics: [Hands Across The Sea](#)

At a stroke, some lives are changed, the familiar is suddenly strange
And amid this devastation, there's a nurse with inspiration-

*All round the world we bring hope and regeneration
We are axons, we are dendrites, let us build a federation
I reach to you and you reach to me
We are axons, we are dendrites, stretch your hands across the sea,
Stretch your hands across the sea.*

It may be slow and systematic; may be fast, may be traumatic
These are insults to the senses, to the motor but we're not defenseless

*All round the world we bring hope and regeneration
We are axons, we are dendrites, let us build a federation
I reach to you and you reach to me
We are axons, we are dendrites, stretch your hands across the sea,*

Stretch your hands across the sea.

Put your hand in somebody's hand, and together we can stand
The neuro age has just awoken- for the lives so badly broken

*All round the world we bring hope and regeneration
We are axons, we are dendrites, let us build a federation
I reach to you and you reach to me
We are axons, we are dendrites, stretch your hands across the sea,
Stretch your hands across the sea.*

Final refrain: To change these situations needs global integration- we are a world federation!

Steve is not only an accomplished lyricist and composer but recently authored "Huntington's Disease: A Nursing Guide." and is a long-standing member of WFNN. He is currently studying for his PhD.

There will be CD copies of "Hands Across the Sea" available at the WFNN Congress this May 23-28 in Toronto Canada. Do get a copy and play it frequently as it is wonderfully uplifting.

American Association of Neuroscience Nursing Report

By Christi Delemos, WFNN Delegate

As we embark on 2009, it is important to pause to reflect on how we have contributed to our profession and what impact we can make for the future of neuroscience nursing in the coming year. As members of the WFNN, the American Association of Neuroscience Nursing (AANN) celebrates the advances that 2008 has brought. Current membership in AANN includes almost 5,000 professional neuroscience nurses with 34 international members representing nurses from 11 countries.

The 2009-2010 Board of Directors:

- President, Cathy Cartwright, MSN RN PCNS
- President-elect, Barbara Mancini, MBA BSN CNRN NEA-BC
- Past President, Kathy Baker, MBA, BSN, RN, CCRN, CNRN, NE-BC

- Secretary-Treasurer, Megan Keiser, PhD(c) RN CNRN APRN BC
- Director-at-Large, Sandy Brettler, MSN RN CCRN CNRN
- Director-at-Large, Glenna Dowling, RN PHD FAAN
- Director-at-Large, Bonita Gordon, MSN RN ANP BC CNRN
- Director-at-Large, Linda Littlejohns, MSN BSN
- Director-at-Large, Cindy Sullivan, MN RN ANP-C CNRN
- Director-at-Large, Lorraine Fields, MSN CNRN CCRN CCNS
- Ex-Officio, Executive Director, Stacy Sochacki, MS
- As an organization, the American Association of Neuroscience Nursing has focused on improving access to professional development with online access to recently revised clinical practice guidelines in the care of special patient populations. Current topics include:
 - *Care of the Patient with Aneurysmal Subarachnoid Hemorrhage*
 - *Guide to the Care of the Hospitalized Patient with Ischemic Stroke, Second Edition*
 - *Nursing Management of Adults with Severe Traumatic Brain Injury*
 - *Care of the Movement Disorder Patient with Deep Brain Stimulation*
 - *Neurological Assessment of the Older Adult Patient: A Guide for Nurses*

The American Association of Neuroscience Nurses invites international nurses to attend the upcoming 41st annual national educational conference from March 28th- 31st, 2009 at the Rio All Suite Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada. The meeting provides a comprehensive review of neuroscience nursing topics including care of the patient presenting with traumatic brain injury, stroke, neuro-oncology patient, spinal cord injury, complex management of epilepsy and more. Platform and poster presentations will feature speakers from across North America and abroad. For more information go to www.aann.org.

AANN members have embraced the opportunity to share our knowledge and discover new patient management strategies from our international peers. Susan Edwards, RN, ADN, of California is one of the AANN members who has presented platform and poster presentation on the silent secondary injuries of traumatic brain injury at international meetings including the EANN and CANN and hopes to attend the WFNN meeting. "It's always interesting to compare where we are in the United States with our clinical practice to the international community and the WFNN congress meeting provides that forum," states Edwards. In addition, Susan Carroll, AANN's editor of *Journal of Neuroscience Nursing (JNN)*, will be presenting at WFNN. AANN members will join neuroscience nurses from 24 countries in celebrating the fortieth anniversary of the WFNN in Toronto, Canada in May of 2009.

In the coming year, key initiatives for advancing the practice of neuroscience nursing include promotion of the role of the neuroscience nurse with an emphasis on collaboration, professional development, international networking and continued investment in nursing research and publications. AANN is supportive of its affiliations with the Canadian Association of Neuroscience Nurses and the European Association for Neuroscience Nurses. Visit www.aann.org to learn more about the American Association of Neuroscience Nurses.