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NEUROSCIENCE NURSES
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INTERNATIONAL BRAIN WAVES

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From the President

Dear members of the WFNN,

The summer holidays have started for many of us and I hope that everyone will have the opportunity to reload their batteries so that you can restart after the summer with a lot of new energy.

It's also time to think about sending in an abstract for the next World Federation of Neuroscience Nurses Congress that will be held at the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB) Campus Convention Center in Barcelona (Cerdanyola del Vallès), Spain on May 8-12, 2005. This WFNN Congress will be attended again by many neurosurgical and neurological nurses from all over the world. These nurses represent direct care givers, managers, researchers, advanced practice nurses, and educators from different areas in the neurosciences such as the operating room, intensive care, general ward, rehabilitation, radiology, and outpatient clinics. The Congress will afford the opportunity for this elite group of nurses to showcase recent advances in patient care, technology, and research in the clinical neurosciences and provides participants the opportunity to further develop the international network in neurosciences. It's a unique opportunity to meet again with colleagues from all over the world and to learn about recent advances in clinical practice, research, education and professional development in the field of neuroscience nursing.

After our previous successful meetings we are very proud to hold the 2005 congress in such an attractive city as Barcelona. There is so much to offer: a beautiful waterfront, fine restaurants, unique Modernist architecture, a Gothic Quarter, boutiques, markets – definitely irresistible, and also not too expensive to travel to and to stay. Also the registration fees are kept as low as possible so that everyone will have the opportunity to attend this unique event.

Therefore we believe that our 9th Congress will be one of the best attended WFNN Congresses. We look forward to your participation and to meeting with you at the 2005 WFNN Congress in Barcelona.

With kindest regards,
Herman Ubachs
President WFNN

Canadian Association of Neuroscience Nurses (CANN) Report

May 15 2004

CANN continues to forge ahead with 11 chapters across Canada, 393 members, and approximately 222 certified neuroscience nurses. This year brought to a close our five-year strategic plan. This afforded the opportunity for reflection and refocusing. As Board of Directors, we engaged in a strategic planning session in January 2004. This culminated in renewed goals and activities, too many to achieve in one year. Although somewhat overwhelming, the opportunity to share across the country a vision for CANN is timely. Neuroscience nursing is not static but dynamic and the challenge to move forward as an association is rewarding. Further delineation of the strategic plan will be developed at our Annual Meeting of both the Board and members during our 35th Annual Conference to be held June 8-12, 2004 in Calgary Alberta.

This Annual event provides an opportunity for nurses worldwide to present and/or gain knowledge from peer-reviewed selected scientific papers or posters. This year a one-day pre-conference workshop highlights neuroanatomy in lecture and lab formats. The scientific sessions include both plenary, concurrent and poster sessions on a variety of topics of interest to neuroscience nurses. (See Website cann.ca for more information). The annual conference is held at the same time as the Canadian Congress of Neurological Sciences affording the opportunity for CANN registrants to attend their scientific sessions, as applicable. Social events at the conference are often combined, with neuroscience nurses and physicians/ guests attending.

The goals of our Association continue to include disseminating knowledge through the publication of a scientific journal "AXON", offering grants for research and educational purposes, expanding membership, and promoting certification in neuroscience nursing. The website "cann.ca" contains current information regarding our associations' activities. We encourage you to view it.

Finally, we look forward to the 9th WFNN Congress in Barcelona, Spain in May 2005. I continue to peruse the website awaiting the call for abstracts and further details. I hope many of our members submit abstracts and plan to attend.

Submitted by Wilma J. Koopman RN MScN
WFNN Representative

Presentation from the Danish Association of Neuroscience Nurses (DANN)

First of all, let me introduce myself as the new international representative for the DANN.

My name is Anita Mayntzhusen. I am a 34 years old. I am half dane/half mexican, and have spent most of my childhood in Africa. As I grew up in an international environment, I have seen great opportunities in working with neuroscience nursing in an international context.

I have 10 years of experience as a nurse and in the neuroscience field. My experience is in the neurosurgical field and I have specialized in neurointensive care. At the moment I am working in a neurosurgical operating ward at Rigshospitalet in Copenhagen. Personally, I strongly feel that networking plays an important role in developing our neuroscience field. And this is an area that I will prioritize in my DANN work.

The DANN has the following objectives:

- Enhance the quality of neuroscience nursing care to the patient and the family
- Participate in strengthening and developing neuroscience nursing care
- Motivate and encourage members to engage in developing and research projects
- Facilitate and promote networking and cooperation between Neuroscience Nursing Associations on an international level

This last year we have focused on the following topics for our Theme Days:

- Neuropsychology in neuroscience nursing
- Neurorehabilitation
- Brain Injury and Sexuality
- Neurooperation nurses

Our 3-day Annual National Course covered several aspects concerning "The Neurooncological Patient". The presentations included "Diagnostics and treatment of cancer in the central nervous system", "Ethical aspects concerning caring for the neurooncological patient", "Palliative treatment and nursing", "Youth and cancer", "Men and cancer", "The difficult conversation seen from an existential perspective", "Cancer and physical exercise (a project)" and "Treatment of pain in cancer patients".

We have also been involved in facilitating the translation of Peter Nydahl's book "Basic Stimulation" from German to Danish. For a long time, it has been a common wish for many neuroscience nurses that this book be translated. In cooperation with our "Center for Brain Injury" and a publishing company, we expect the book to be available in the fall of 2004. We are arranging a Promotion Day for nurses from all over the country, with lectures by Peter Nydahl. We not only expect neurointensive care nurses to be interested, but also nurses from the general intensive care wards.

In the past year, two focus groups have been established; one for nurses working with Parkinson patients and one for nurses working with patients with sclerosis. These groups are active and have created a network for exchanging experiences. The Parkinson focus group has arranged their own Theme Day on the topic of "Parkinsonisme Plus".

We hope that later this year there will be two new focus groups; one for Epilepsi and one for Apoplexi. In the near future we aim at planning Theme Days for neurooperating nurses as well as neurointensive care nurses, in the hope that they too can create a national focus group network.

We presently have approximately 500 nurses enrolled in the DANN. Our annual fee is 27 Euro. In 2004, our aim is to recruit new members. I believe that the nurses who work in the neurooperating wards and in the neurointensive care wards have a strong neuroscience identity. Otherwise they would have chosen to work in other fields. These two groups have an alternative association that they can be members of. Therefore it is important that we also focus on them when we plan our Theme Days.

This year will be work on professionalizing our website and start planning our National Neuroscience Symposium in 2005. Later this year, we will receive a new Danish name, this will not influence our English name.

Last but not least, we are proud of the revival of our 8-week neuroscience course. It has been incorporated as an official part of the Nursing Diploma on Clinical Practice.

At the moment we have eight board members in the DANN, all from different areas within the neuroscience field. We all do this work in our spare time, however we enjoy our meetings as they are very inspiring. It is a pleasure to work with others who also are enthusiastic in the neuroscience field.

Friendly regards,
Anita

Report of the Dutch Association of Neuroscience Nurses (NVNV)

NVNV Board 2003-2004

President: Paul Bours

Vice-president: Paul van Keeken

Secretary: Niek Sanders

Treasurer: Piet van Geyn

The NVNV is organized in specific focus groups. The chairman of each group represents the group in the Board of Directors.

Membership

Stable on 600 members

National cooperation

The Dutch Association of Neuroscience Nurses is a member of the National council of nurses in the Netherlands and works together with companies in the field of neurology/neurosurgery.

There is an increasing cooperation with the Dutch Neurology Association (physicians).

International cooperation

Holland is a member of the WFNN and of the European Association of Neuroscience Nurses (EANN) as well. EANN wants to develop a European Competence Profile for Neuroscience Nurses. In this process the Dutch profile serves as an example and as a discussion document.

Yearly we have a meeting with the Belgian association to discuss new plans of action for Neuronews and share / compare notes of knowledge in Neuroscience nursing.

Communication and PR

Our Newsletter "Neuronews" is edited together with the Belgian association and is doing very well. "Neuronews" is published with a frequency of 4 times a year. Once a year the redaction teams of both countries meet each other to make a year plan of action based on the agreements after the BVNV – NVNV board meeting (North South meeting). Further that year the contacts of the redaction teams are made by telephone and e-mail. A Yahoo briefcase site helped the redaction teams to organize the incoming copy.

The evaluation of the year plan of action for the newsletter is subject of the combined BOD meeting of Belgium and the Netherlands.

The website of the Dutch association is developed and must be complementary to the newsletter and the information and communication port for our members. We want the website www.NVNVV.nl to be available in August 2004.

Congress

The Dutch association has its 35th anniversary next year. We will celebrate this with a big congress in the spring of 2005. Theme of the congress will be: "It's a great opportunity to be a neuroscience nurse".

Neuro Quality management and - education

The Dutch association develops a national education plan for neurosciences nurses based on the Competence Profile for neuroscience nurses. We do this together with all the institutes who provide courses on neuroscience nursing.

Furthermore we are working on specific competence profiles for MS, PD and epilepsy nurses

Focus group Neuro rehabilitation

The Dutch association has several focus groups. One of these groups is on neurorehabilitation with 133 members. This group organizes two study days a year and presented a workshop on neurorehab at the EANN congress in Copenhagen 2003. In April 2004 the focus group worked together with the Belgian association to present a workshop Neurorehab at the Belgian congress.

A special part group started a project for implementation the nursing neurorehab program into the Dutch Guidelines Rehab after Stroke.

There is a plan of action with nurses from Aarhus (Denmark) to discuss the treatment by tetraplegia patients and make plans for a duo presentation at the WFNN congress in Barcelona 2005.

We are working on a preconference workshop on neurorehabilitation in Barcelona. This will perhaps turn out into a complete introduction course on neurorehab. The increasing number of members causes a luxury problem. The structure and the organization of the focus group has to be improved in order to serve our members in the best possible way.

Focus group Multiple sclerosis

The focus group on Multiple Sclerosis (MS) has 70 members. In 2003 there were two study days. The group is developing basic training for MS nurses and a clinical pathway for patients with MS together with the Dutch MS patients association. Furthermore there are study programs on Quality of Life, Pain and MS case studies.

Focus group Parkinson

The focus group on Parkinson's Disease (PD) has 51 members. The group had 3 study days and developed two courses for PD nurses, a basic course and an advanced course. Furthermore the PD group developed clinical pathways for PD patients together with the Dutch PD patient association and published guidelines for PD nursing in 2003. The focus group on PD is strongly represented in the European association for PD Nurses.

Other Focus group

3 other focus groups started in 2003: on epilepsy, on neuro oncology and on neuro surgery.

Vice-President: Paul van Keeken

Annual Activity Report: Japanese Association of Neuroscience Nurses

During the last year we have had 6 board meetings. We have continued to discuss that the Japanese Association remains beneficial and good. We also discussed the associations' growth and development. We have had a business meeting which 9 local societies attended. It was proposed the focus to be, systems, members, and delegates.

A 30-year Scientific nursing meeting was held with 300 delegates.

This year we will have an annual scientific meeting on 6-7th November 2004 in Osaka. The program consists of oral presentations, special lectures, symposium and a social meeting. We are hoping that over 400 nurses will attend.

Teiko Yumi
WFNN delegate