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# INTERNATIONAL BRAIN WAVES

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## *From the President*

With the increase of the average life span in western countries, epidemiological the neurological syndromes also increase. The incidence of Stroke by women exceeds the incidence of myocardial infarcts. The expectation is that in this decade the incidence of important neurological diseases such as stroke and dementia will exceed the other main illness categories such as heart and vascular diseases and cancer.

Psychiatry becomes also more "brain oriented" and the neurologist has a more important role in the acute diagnosis and treatment. In Europe more than half of the CT and MRI examinations are made on the order of neurosurgeons and neurologists and the neuro divisions are the largest suppliers of nursing homes and revalidation centre.

The break through of thrombolysis as an important treatment of an acute ischemic stroke gives the neurologist an even important role in the acute care, as the neurosurgeon has for patients with a brain haemorrhage or a neuro-trauma. Metabolic coma's, meningitis, dystonic reactions or seizures are also diseases that need a fast intervention of the neurologist. Neuroscience becomes more and more important in health care, just as the task and position of the Neuroscience Nurses.

All over the world there are new initiatives concerning specialized outpatient clinics and specialized nurses for Stroke, Parkinson, Epilepsy, Pain Management, Neurotrauma, Movement Disorders, etc. In the USA and Canada, the Neuroscience Nurse is well known and in several other western countries a specific training for Neuroscience Nurse begins to find entrance. In Belgium we have also started a specific national Neuroscience Nurses training and the next step will be to get an official acknowledgement of the Neuroscience Nurse. Here lies an important task of the national and international associations. We need to get them well known and to exert pressure on the authorities and to get everywhere a special acknowledgement of the Neuroscience Nurse.

Our next WFNN Congress in Barcelona on 9 to 13 May 2005 is a good opportunity to show our interest and efforts and to prove that there are many resolute nurses all over the world who are dedicated to Neuroscience in benefit of the patients they take care of. So keep this date in mind and be there!

Herman Ubachs  
President WFNN

## **American Association of Neuroscience Nurses (AANN)**

January 2004

AANN has a number of exciting things going on for 2004:

1. The 4<sup>th</sup> edition of AANN's Neuroscience Nursing Core Curriculum is set to be published and available April 2004. We are most grateful to editors Mary Kay Bader and Linda Littlejohns for their hard work on this important project as well as all contributing section editors, authors, and reviewers.
2. Three monographs entitled, "AANN's Guide to the Care of the Patient With....." are scheduled to be available April 2004. These first three will describe the care of the patient with seizures, care of the patient following a stroke, and care of the patient with an ICP monitor.
3. The 36<sup>th</sup> annual meeting will be held April 17-20, 2004, in San Antonio, Texas. This is going to be a very educational and exciting meeting. Please visit [aann.org](http://aann.org) to download the brochure and to take advantage of the ease of online registration!
4. At the annual meeting Donna Avanecean will succeed me as AANN President; Cynthia Blank-Reid will become President-Elect.
5. In June 2004 there will be a strategic planning session where the direction of AANN for the next 5 years will be determined.
6. The *Journal of Neuroscience Nursing* (JNN) continues to be an extremely valuable asset to neuroscience nurses. Editor Chris Stewart-Amidei has been striving to diversify the journal and better meet the needs of the membership. Nursing education contact hours continue to be offered through the journal on the website, [www.aann.org](http://www.aann.org)
7. AANN has entered into a partnership with Medscape, which will bring content from JNN and the AANN annual meeting to Medscape.com in the near future.

I would like to sincerely thank the leaders and members of EANN and WFNN who warmly welcomed me, as the AANN representative at the EANN Congress in Copenhagen. It was truly wonderful.

On behalf of the members of the American Association of Neuroscience Nurses, please accept our best wishes for the New Year!

Warmest Regards,

**Andrea Strayer**  
President, AANN

### **Australian Report for WFNN:**

The Australasian Neuroscience Nurses Association (ANNA) completed a very successful 2003. One of the main achievements was the revision and acceptance of the Standards of Neuroscience Nursing that was reviewed and substantially updated by the Western Australian Branch.

The Annual Conference was held in Queenstown, New Zealand with over 80 delegates in attendance. This represents approximately 25% of all members. The feedback was very positive with a marked increase in the presentation of posters. ANNA has been approached by a sponsor for the 'Best Poster' at this years Annual Conference. Organisation of this is well underway with the venue at Newcastle in NSW. Abstracts will be invited shortly.

Consider visiting Australia for a holiday and join us between 16th and 19th of September at the National Conference. Information regarding abstracts and registration will be available on our web site [www.anna.asn.au](http://www.anna.asn.au) shortly.

I look forward to meeting you then!

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## **Report from the British Association of Neuroscience Nurses 2003**

2003 ended with more stability within the British Association of Neuroscience Nurses.

The recruitment campaign for new board members has been successful and we now have all our posts filled. We have also redefined some roles within the board to ensure that the workload is more evenly spread.

Telephone conferences have been very successful in ensuring everything is running smoothly and have been much less time consuming for the board than travelling to meet face to face. They have been productive and shorter than our usual meetings. We are planning to hold one between each face-to-face meeting.

Our total membership stands at 300 with some turnover of people leaving and new people joining us.

Our annual conference was held in Blackpool with eighty delegates on each of the three days. The varied programme was stimulating with time for discussion. We are updating our web site please be patient while we finalise this. The five-year strategy is also being scrutinised and updated to keep our goals fresh and appropriate for the changing NHS.

The member's information book and conference organising guidelines are next to be updated.

The national adult neuroscience-benchmarking group are now represented on the BANN board, which will be supportive of their work and can be fed back to the membership.

The NHS Modernisation Agency, which was established a few years ago, has recently been working with neuroscience staff to deal with issues concerning access for patients and neurosciences services within the England. An 'E –smart group has been set up and has generated a lot of discussion and sharing of views, projects, questions and answers. As well as advertising forthcoming events and new publications people are sharing work around guidelines and protocols of care. We are hoping to make contact with people from other countries, as this would allow open communications for many. Please contact me if you would be interested in joining the group at [kate.mcardle@orh.nhs.uk](mailto:kate.mcardle@orh.nhs.uk) and I can discuss with you what you would expect to gain and what you can offer further.

Our next annual conference will be held in London, October 15th, 16th and 17<sup>th</sup> 2004. Please contact me if you would like more information about it.

We wish everyone a very happy and prosperous 2004.

**Kate McArdle**  
December 2003

## **Annual report from the German Association of Neuroscience Nurses**

The German Association of Neuroscience Nurses (danp: Deutsche Arbeitsgemeinschaft NeuroPfleger) currently has about 95 members including honorary members, the annual fee is still 51 €. In 2003 the association newsletter was published twice.

On April 23rd and 24th we will celebrate our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a 2 -day congress in Bad Neustadt/Saale highlighting professional care. A further congress will be in June in Frankfurt discussing human dignity.

It is doubtful if the German Association will exist after our annual meeting in April. Three of the executive committee will resign and we have only two members who are interested in joining the executive committee. This is not enough to keep the work of an association going. But we will see and keep you posted.

### **Susann Schultka**

Secretary danp

Representative to EANN and WFNN