



**THE WORLD FEDERATION OF
NEUROSCIENCE NURSES
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INTERNATIONAL BRAIN WAVES

The Official Newsletter of the World Federation of Neuroscience Nurses

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From the President

Dear members of the WFNN,

This is my last report for the IBW as president of the WFNN. Two years ago I agreed to be president for two more years because there were no other candidates but I think that after 6 years it's time to have someone else leading the WFNN. I enjoyed very much the 30 years that I was active in the board of directors and that I served as president of the Belgian, the European and the World Federation of Neuroscience Nurses. I had the opportunity to learn so many new things about Neuroscience and to experience the evolution of Neuroscience Nursing all over the world. Nurses became so much more professional and specialized in all branches of Neuroscience. I attended many national and international Congresses and met so many interesting colleagues all over the world. I enjoyed the contacts with so many wonderful and competent personalities and learned a lot from them on every domain. One of the major things I learned was that almost everywhere the same problems occurred with relation to recruitment, training, wages, physicians, membership..., even not always on the same time but everywhere and every time I met with enthusiastic and passionate professionals. I learned that it was very important to expand your field of vision and not to stay on your own little island. Of course there were better moments and also moments of disillusionment but the good memories take the overhand. I can say that I tried to do my best in the interest of Neuroscience and am also aware that it could have been better. The greatest restriction is that we are all volunteers who have also a full-time job next to the activities in the federation but we are trying to fulfill our commitment in the best way we can.

The last preparations are being made for our next WFNN Congress in Barcelona on May 8-12. For the first time we have 4 excellent Pre-Congress Workshops on Sunday, May 8. On Monday the official Congress starts: there are more than 50 oral sessions and 20 poster sessions. There will also be an exhibition that can be visited during the complete duration of the Congress. At this Congress you can meet colleagues from all over the world and learn about the advances in clinical practice, research, education and professional development in the field of Neuroscience Nursing. The opening reception and the Congress Diner will be a good opportunity to learn to know your colleagues better in a more informal way. Barcelona is also a cosmopolitan, vibrant city with architectural masterpieces, beautiful museums, fantastic shops and restaurants and worth to visit, certainly in the ideal climate in May.

We ask all the representatives for a last time to promote our next WFNN Congress on May 8-12 so that we can welcome many Neuroscience Nurses in Barcelona.

With friendly greetings,
Herman Ubachs President WFNN

American Association of Neuroscience Nurses (AANN)

February 2005

AANN has had a very exciting year for 2004 and 2005 looks to be just as exciting.

The 36th Annual Meeting took place in April 2004 in San Antonio, TX and was very well attended.

The 37th Annual Meeting will take place on April 2005 in Washington, D.C. Please visit the www.aann.org to download the brochure and take advantage of on-line registration. The annual meeting will not only have exciting pre-conference symposia but it will also have a post-conference workshop entitled "Stroke Center Certification: Achieve and Maintain the Designation."

AANN and the American Association of Critical Care Nurses (AACN) have entered into a publishing partnership to produce the neuroscience content for their Protocols for Practice series. Mary Kay Bader and Linda Littlejohns have been selected to be the co-editors of these projects.

AANN has received a grant offered through the "Nurse Competence in Aging" and is an initiative funded by the Atlantic Philanthropies (USA), Inc. and awarded through the American Nurses Association (ANA). AANN will be hosting a pre-conference symposia focusing on the management of "Dementia, Delirium, and Depression in Geriatric Patients." It will be made available in either CD-Rom or web-based learning modules after the conference.

As part of its commitment to neuroscience patients throughout the lifespan, a new Special Focus Group (SFG) has been started which will deal specifically with Geriatric Neuroscience Issues. AANN already has SFGs, which deal with pediatrics, neuro trauma, stroke, movement disorders and several others.

The largest number of CNRNs sat and successfully passed the exam this fall. There are now a record number of CNRNs.

Donna Avanecean will step down as President of AANN in April, Cynthia Blank-Reid will become the President and Lynn Goodloe will become the President-Elect.

On behalf of the members of the American Association of Neuroscience Nurses, please accept our best wishes for a wonderful meeting this May in Barcelona, Spain.

Warmest Regards,
Cynthia Blank-Reid
President-Elect

Australian Report for WFNN - Update Brainwaves

The end of 2004 saw a change of the Australasian Federal Executive with President Maureen Edgetton- Winn and Vice President/Conference Convener Sharryn Byers stepping down from their roles after many years of dedicated leadership and service to the association. Thankfully both are continuing to contribute the association and neuroscience nursing. Their ongoing commitment and work for the association are very much appreciated.

At the Annual General meeting in September 2004 after the Inaugural Scientific meeting Sharon Eriksson, Clinical Nurse Consultant for Stroke was voted in as Vice President, Cheryl Trudinger Nurse Unit Manager, was elected Conference Convener and myself, Tracy Desborough Nurse Unit Manager- Stroke, President. The end of the year saw a handover from the outgoing executive to the incoming executive, with much discussion regarding the future activities of the association.

2004 saw the association achieve many milestones including the revision of and distribution of the Neurological Nursing Standards, which are presently being printed for all members. It saw celebrations from all Neuroscience Nurses for the Australasian Neuroscience Nurses day in May and amalgamated in the Inaugural ANNA conference in Newcastle, NSW Australia.

Plan for 2005

The executive met early in the year to discuss future directions and plans for the association and have committed to the development of a strategic plan to further develop and track the successes of the association. Some of the key areas of focus included,

- Refinement of ongoing recruitment and retention strategies for members
- Promote, encourage and support ongoing educational opportunities for all members
- Refining processes for communication, feedback and expectations of members, state delegates and the executive.
- Conference planning for 2005 is well underway with this year's inaugural scientific meeting planned for the sunny Gold Coast in Queensland during September 2005. ANNA encourages you to mark this event in your diary as this years meeting will be one not to miss. Visit our website www.anna.asn.com.au for further information on this upcoming event.

Looking forward to a productive and challenging 2005.

Tracy Desborough
ANNA President.

British Association of Neuroscience Nurses 2003

BANN has had another successful year with a steady membership.

The annual conference and annual business meeting was held in London. The programme was varied with presentations from the Royal Collage of Nursing about the NHS pay modernisation programme called Agenda for Change. This affects every health worker except doctors and new job descriptions are required for everyone prior to the assessment of which pay band they will be put onto. A knowledge skills framework will then be developed for each role and this along with annual performance appraisals an individual's development and pay progression will be achieved. This is an enormous piece of very time-consuming work and concern for everyone. Working conditions also change with the length of a full time working week being standardised, more annual leave after five or ten years working in the NHS. This presentation provoked a lively debate, which continued over the whole conference weekend.

Other presentations included new or specialist roles in Neuro, which also resulted in much discussion.

There was also a presentation about a new national journal, which will be launched in March 2005. This will be called the British Journal of Neuroscience Nursing. If any one would like more information about this journal or how to subscribe to it please contact me at the address below.

The Association has been involved in the review of neurosciences services in Wales. Two groups were set up looking at north and south Wales. This has been a very interesting experience and it is good news that BANN were invited to participate to offer an objective view of the service.

Another project for England has been the development of 'bundles' of care for Neuro patients. This was first started for ventilated patients to reduce the incidence of ventilator pneumonia and then extended to look at sepsis, tracheostomy care. This Neuro bundle has been slowly developing to encompass :

- Communications on admission
- Optimum cerebral oxygenation
- Modify excess oxygen consumption
- Minimising increases in ICP

These are being developed and implemented in distinct ways, either to direct clinical care or to formalise and record referrals to tertiary units. There are four main neuroscience units piloting this at present and once they have implemented their successes and difficulties can be fed to other interested units throughout the UK. As discussions have progressed it has become clear that this 'bundle' will be suitable for patients with traumatic brain injury. The Royal College of Nursing Neuroscience forum, Society of British Neurological Surgeons and BANN have all been invited to observe, support and participate in this national project.

Our Annual conference in 2005 will be held in Edinburgh.

If you have any questions about any of this or wish more information about BANN please contact me at:

Kate.mcardle@orh.nhs.uk

Kate McArdle
February 2005

Nominations for WFNN Executive Committee

Due to Herman Ubachs resigning from his present position as the WFNN President following the WFNN Congress in Barcelona 2005, the following nominations for the WFNN Executive Committee are announced.

Nominations are now being accepted for three offices on the WFNN Executive Committee:

President (term: 2005-2007)

Vice-President (term: 2005-2009)

Treasurer (term: 2005-2009)

The elections will be held in conjunction with the 9th WFNN Congress next May, 2005. The new officers will assume responsibilities during the meeting.

To be eligible for nomination, the individual must be an active member of their WFNN member organization. If you are interested, and would like additional information, please contact:

Herman Ubachs: herman.ubachs@pi.be

Peter Hagell: Peter.Hagell@omv.lu.se

Virginia Prendergast: vprender@chw.edu

Rochelle Firth: rfirth@doh.health.nsw.gov.au

If you are interested in becoming a candidate, please complete the Nomination Form (enclosed with the last issue of International Brain Waves). A signature (in support of the candidate) endorsing the nomination of the candidate from the Executive of the WFNN member organization must accompany the completed nomination form.

The completed Nomination Form and a copy of the nominees CV is to be sent to:

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Nominations are due no later than April 15, 2005.

Nomination Form for WFNN Executive Committee

Complete the form below and submit a copy of your curriculum vitae.

1. Name:

2. Address:

3. Phone:

4. FAX:

5. Email:

I consent to being nominated for the office of (circle one):

President

Vice President

Treasurer

Candidate's signature:

Date:

I confirm that the (insert name of your national or professional organization) _____

supports the above nominee for the WFNN Executive Committee post as noted on this form.

Executive's signature:

Date:

WFNN Member Organization:

The completed Nomination Form and a copy of the nominees CV is to be sent to:

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