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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,  
After a hot and dry summer holiday, most of us started again at work with new energy. For most nurses, the months of August and September are not only a period of relaxation but sometimes also a period of more stress and strain. In these months, when many of us are enjoying our well deserved holidays at home or elsewhere, the work in the hospital doesn't stop and the patients need and deserve the same quality of care as at the rest of the year. Almost everywhere in Europe there is a shortage of nurses and in holiday time nothing unforeseeable may happen or the situation becomes disastrous. Most of us are working with a minimum of personal in this period and sickness or an accident can cause a cascade of problems, with more stress and more sick leave. In stead of a period of relaxation, the holidays can become a stressful period at work so that many of us are happy that everything turns back to normal in September so that we can start a next working year with new energy.

The WFNN continued with the preparation of the next quadrennial Congress in Barcelona. Already two years passed since our last meeting in Sydney and we are working hard on the preparation of our next world Congress and the call for abstracts will be out soon.

It would be very interesting to know if there is an interest in starting international e-mail groups on specific pathology or topics as Parkinson, Epilepsy, Stroke, Pain Management, Neurotrauma, Movement Disorders... so that we can present some results of international cooperation in specific workshops at our next Congress. Please let us know if you are interested in starting this up. It would be an excellent opportunity to share knowledge and to know what problems neuroscience nurses have all over the world and how they cope with it and perhaps found already a solution. You can send your reactions to the members of the Executive Committee.

Herman Ubachs  
President WFNN

## Report of the Belgian Association of Neuroscience Nurses.

Belgische vereniging voor neuroverpleegkundigen (BVNV)

After 20 years of Herman Ubachs as the president of our association, the Belgian board has now changed.

The new board is:

- President: Winny Depaepe, H.-Hartziekenhuis Roeselare
- Vice-president: Andre Houtman, UZ Gent
- Secretary: Eddy Deburck, UZ Gent
- Treasurer: Robert Vandewalle, UZ Gent

This will be the start of a different kind of association, however maintaining 2 main values:

- 2 day spring congress
- Neuronieuws, the newsletter we edit together with the Dutch association.

Association membership is stable after some years of decrease. The young nurses in Belgium have difficulties in spending time on association issues. It is difficult to find new and young board members. I am sure we are not the only country with these problems. That is why we have to make the membership of our association more attractive.

What do members get for 25€ a year?

- Reduced fee for the 2 day congress in spring
- 'Neuronieuws', newsletter four times/year
- Free access to the syllabus when not attending the congress
- Free 1/2day congress in autumn
- Reduced fee at the World and European Association of Neuroscience Nurses congress. The congress fee is payed by the association if the member presents a lecture. (The nurse must have membership of greater than 5 years of the Belgian Association of Neuroscience Nurses.)
- Reduced fee to the congress and workshops of the Dutch association

This is quite an offer.

But what extra will we offer?

- Organising neuroscience courses in nursing schools all over the country. These will commence on September 2<sup>nd</sup>. **These courses extend over 6 days and cover basic education on neuroscience. This is in addition to the 2- day spring congress of the Belgian association.** This education is legal and students receive education points towards a PostGraduate Diploma.
- Working closer together with the nursing groups of the Dutch association including the Parkinson group, the MS group, NDT. First discussions about this issue will be held at the end of September.

This is quite a challenge! We will wait and see if it results in an increase of membership.

Last spring we had a very good 2 days congress in Blankenberge near the Belgian coast. The topics included:

- Anatomy and pathology of the cerebral blood vessels
- Brain tumours in children and the post hospital care
- Cervical and lumbar disc prosthesis
- Stereotactic radiosurgery
- Clinical nurse specialist neuroscience, a job with a future in Belgium?
- The new euthanasia law in Belgium and the applications for nurses
- Refractory epilepsy
- Awake surgery for brain tumours
- Headache
- Revalidation of spinal cord injury patients

460 nurses attended over two days, which is really good. The best thing was, every

attendant was very pleased of the congress content, the accommodation and the organisation. This gives the association something to be proud of!

In October we have our ½ day congress. The title is 'Another 48 hours on the stroke unit'. This is being provided for free for association members. There are 200 seats available and we expect they will be all occupied.

You will hear from us, next year, same place.

### **Report from Movement Disorder Caring Society in Sweden**

During the year of 2003, we have had 3 meetings with the board and 1 annual meeting in Uppsala in Sweden. The annual meeting took place on the 4-5th of April. During this meeting, we celebrated our 100<sup>th</sup> member. We also celebrated a man from the industrial part. He became our honorary member, because he was the one, who helped us to start The Movement Disorder Caring Society. For many years he stood by our side and helped us by sponsoring our society. Without him we, perhaps, wouldn't have our society.

Our site on the web is still developing. The address to this site is:

**[vfmd.netfirms.com/1817.htm](http://vfmd.netfirms.com/1817.htm)**

The members can mail us and we are planning to have discussions on this site. Almost everyone of our members have e-mail addresses, so we can therefore reach them quickly with new information.

Two of our board committee were in Copenhagen this Summer to start a cooperation with other Movement Disorder-nurses in Denmark, Norway and Finland, so perhaps in the future we will have an annual meeting in Sweden one year and the other year in some of the other countries. We believe this as very exciting and look forward to these meetings.

The industry is very interested in our society. They want to have our addresses, so they can send us information, invitations and so on. Their eyes are now open for us.

National guidelines for the treatment of Parkinson Disease are now under development in Sweden. We, in MDCS, have also created a group for working with national guidelines for the caring of people with Parkinson Disease. Even The Association of Parkinson's (an association for patients) are working together with us. We will report to you as soon as we have finished this job.

13 nurses have during this year taken part of the education for special Parkinson nurses. Two of them were from Norway one from Denmark.

Next year, 2004, we will have our annual meeting in Gothenburg. We are planning to invite The Nobelprize winner Arvid Carlsson to be our special honorary guest speaker. We will see if we are successful.

So there are many exciting things going on in Sweden for our society. We are also the only national group that is a member of the WFNN and we are lucky to be members in WFNN.

See you in Barcelona

Kindly regards from

Yvonne Jansson

Treasure holder in MDCS and representing Sweden in the board of WFNN