



**THE WORLD FEDERATION OF
NEUROSCIENCE NURSES
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

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INTERNATIONAL BRAIN WAVES

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From the President

Dear members of the WFNN,
Did you already send in your abstract for the next WFNN Congress in Barcelona or did you at least mark May 8-12, 2005 in your agenda? This is the date of our next WFNN Congress in the beautiful city of Barcelona in Spain. You can start to register for the Congress and make your hotel reservation on the website of the WFNN under "Events".

Barcelona is a modern, cosmopolitan, vibrant city which faces the sea. You can enjoy its wealth of history and culture, its attractive range of shops, excellent cuisine, and a whole host of leisure attractions. The climate, the Mediterranean light, the people, the beaches and its atmosphere invite you to experience it to the full at any time of the day or night. Almost 4.5 million people live in the Barcelona metropolitan area. The city enjoys a prime location, bathed by the sea. It is a modern, cosmopolitan city, but has inherited many centuries of history. Its geographic location and the open character of its inhabitants are the reasons why the city is being culturally enriched all the time. It has a valuable architectural and monumental heritage, the most splendid exponents of which are its Gothic and modernista buildings. Five of its buildings have been designated World Heritage Sites.

Although it is a large city, it is easy to get around on public transport and on foot. One of the city's landmark sights is the "Ramblas", a bustling thoroughfare where flower stalls and performance artists jostle for space. The historic centre is imbued with a bohemian atmosphere which you can discover as you walk through the Gothic Quarter, and the Ribera and Raval districts. This is one of the world's best-preserved medieval quarters. If you take a walk around this neighbourhood you will be able to admire architectural masterpieces such as the Sagrada Família and La Pedrera, among other wonders inherited from Antoni Gaudí and the other architects of the city's home-grown art-nouveau movement, modernism.

Barcelona enjoys a Mediterranean climate and May is an ideal time to visit the city. It has excellent transport links with the rest of the world and it's also inexpensive to stay there.

There are many reasons to visit Barcelona but the main reason of course is the WFNN Congress and to meet neurosurgical and neurological colleagues from all over the world and to further develop the international network in neurosciences. The local organizing committee, the program committee and the board are working hard to try to make this Congress a big success but all depends of course of your cooperation and participation. We ask the national representatives and all our members to promote our Congress so that we can welcome many colleagues in Barcelona.

You can download a printable version of the preliminary program from the WFNN website (Events -> Links for abstracts, Congress Bureau -> [download preliminary program WFNN 2005. PDF](#)) and try to circulate this as much as possible.

Looking forward to meeting you in Barcelona,
Herman Ubachs, President WFNN

Report of the Belgian Association of Neuroscience Nurses. Belgische vereniging voor neuroverpleegkundigen (BVNV)

Rimini may 2004

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

The new board is:

- President: Winny Depaepe, CNS neuro, H.-Hartziekenhuis Roeselare
- Vice-president: Andre Houtman, staff nurse ICU neuro, University hospital Gent
- Secretary: Eddy Deburck, headnurse neurology, University hospital Gent
- Treasurer: Robert Vanseveren, headnurse polyclinic neuro, University hospital UZ Gent

This is a time for the association to explore new roads, but in keeping with the two big values of the association:

- Yearly spring congress, two days
- Neuronieuws, a newsletter we edit together with the Dutch Association.

The membership is stable after some years of decrease. It is also difficult to find new and young board members, but on the last spring congress we did find 3 candidates, which is quite exciting!

What do members get for 25€ a year?

- Reduced fee on the 2-day congress in spring
- 'Neuronieuws' newsletter, 4 times a year
- When not attending the congress, free access to the syllabus
- Half day congress in autumn and winter, free from fee
- Reduced fee at congresses of the World and European Association of Neuroscience Nurses. The association will pay the fee if the member is presenting. The nurse must be a member more than 5 years
- Reduced fee to the congresses and workshops of the Dutch Association

This is quite an offer!

What have we done this year to benefit our members even more?

- We have organised courses of neuroscience in nursing schools. In September 2003 two schools started with this course. Six days basic education on neuroscience and then two days spring congress of the Belgian Association. This education is legal and gives education points towards a post graduate diploma. There were 120 students who completed this education. Most of students were members of our association. Next year the course is organised in other cities, this will help reach more nurses over the country.
- We have been working closer with the nursing groups of the Dutch Association of Neuroscience Nurses as the Parkinson group, the MS group, Neuro rehabilitation group. At the spring congress, members of these groups helped us in organising workshops; this was the first time. In the past, we have only had plenary sessions with mostly medical presentations. Now, we finally have succeeded in organising workshops all presented by nurses. For Belgium this is a big step in a good direction. The delegates were very satisfied with the content of the workshops, so we are seriously considering continuing in this direction (with the help of our Dutch colleagues naturally).

This is quite a challenge to do and we will see if it results in an increase of membership.

Last spring (22-23/04/2004) we had a very good 2 day congress in Blankenberge near the Belgian coast. The topics in plenary session were:

- Anatomy and physiology of 'walking'.
- Parkinson surgery, for whom?
- Cervical and lumbar pathology and treatment
- Normal pressure hydrocephalus
- Spasticity on children and Baclofen intra-thecal treatment, cerebral palsy
- The relationship between brain plasticity and the neuro nurse
- To see and look
- Sex is in the head
- Hypofyse adenoma, treatment and nursing

- Lewy body dementia
- Tumours of the cerebello -pontine angle
- Workshops:
 1. Parkinson
 2. Neurorehabilitation
 3. MS

The attendance was 540 nurses in two days, which was very good. And the best thing is that every attendant was very pleased with the content of the congress, the accommodation and the organisation. This gives us something to be proud of!

In October last year we had our first half day congress. The title was, 'Another 48 hours on the stroke unit'. This was for free for our members. 200 delegates attended. Due to the success, we are organising another free half day congress in January, the topic is: 'the multidisciplinary care of Parkinson's' patients'. 160 nurses attended the congress, also free for our members. These mini-congresses are organised by a delegated hospital. In October the university hospital of Leuven will organise the congress, the topic for this congress will be 'polyneuropathy'.

Neuronieuws, together with the Dutch association is doing very well. The contacts are mostly done between the redaction teams of both countries by telephone or by e-mail. We have a page on Yahoo where you can find the articles. Sometimes we need to meet, so the board of the two associations meet once a year, once in Belgium, the other year in The Netherlands. Last year it was in Den Bosch, We call it: 'the north-south connection'.

So, as you can see, we are very busy.
You will hear from us, next year, same place.

Winy Depaepe,
CNS neuro, H.-Hartziekenhuis Roeselare
President

News from the Spanish Society of Neurological Nursing (S.E.D.E.N.E)

At the end of 2002, our executive committee began a process of renewal. This was after some ten years in which the same people had remained in the positions of responsibility. To this end, we passed new statutes so as to begin a new period in which the elected posts are constantly renewed with a maximum duration of two years.

The new executive committee has commenced working towards the government acceptance of Neuroscience as a specialty. Although with the change of government the whole project of specialties has been put on hold and we are still waiting for this to be developed. Different universities and associations defend the project although things are going slowly, this may be due to the financial repercussions it will have on health expenditure. There have been many other proposals being made for nursing specialties.

Amongst the activities that have been carried out by the S.E.D.E.N.E in 2003 we would like to highlight the local one-day meeting held in Murcia in May. The annual meeting was held in November, with almost 250 participants. There was a celebration during this

meeting of the tenth anniversary of our society. This meeting covered paediatric nursing care, the multidisciplinary rehabilitation of neurological patients and communication with patients with language disorders.

Furthermore, last year we began the organisation and planning of the Ninth Meeting of the WFNN, which is to be held in Barcelona next year. We have finished the draft programs, which can be seen through a link on our website or directly at the website of the WFNN. We are now making the final decisions with regards to both the scientific and social programs.

At the moment we are concentrating our efforts on editing a book on the nursing care of neurological patients. This relies on the participation of many professional nurses, as well as prestigious neurologists, from the whole country.

At this year's national meeting I shall leave the presidency of the society in order to make way for other professionals who will continue with the advancement of the development of our profession. From here in Spain I would like to encourage all in the nursing professionals around the world to continue working in our important task; looking after people affected by neurological diseases, people who will often lose the most basic functions of life, such as the ability to walk and to speak, who sometimes are not even capable of explaining their concerns to us.

Finally, on behalf of the executive committee and all the Spanish members, we are looking forward to the meeting in Barcelona in May 2005 and to welcoming you all here.

Rosa Suñer

Official delegate of the WFNN in Spain

President of the S.E.D.E.N.E