



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

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INTERNATIONAL BRAIN WAVES

The Official Newsletter of the World Federation of Neuroscience Nurses

Volume 15, Number 2

September, 2005

From the President

Presidential Letter
September 2005

Greetings to all who have visited this website. As the newly elected president, I would like to welcome you to the World Federation of Neuroscience Nurses, an organization with nearly 5000 members worldwide.

Many of you may have attended the 9th Quadrennial WFNN Congress in Barcelona. Thanks to the dedicated efforts of the Scientific Committee and the Spanish Society of Neuroscience Nurses, the meeting provided an excellent forum for neuroscience nurses. Agnes Marshall Walker, foundress of WFNN, attended the meeting and was able to provide the plenary audience with some of her reflections of past Congress meetings. Regretfully, Herman Ubachs, the past president of WFNN was unable to attend. His presence was missed and we wish him well in the future.

Please join me in welcoming the new Executive Committee Members of WFNN:

Vice President: Vicki Evans

Secretary: Rochelle Firth

Treasurer: Paul Bours

Since the conclusion of our Congress meeting in Barcelona, there have been several actions made towards advancing the organization. Plans are currently underway to improve the website and allow for bulletin board postings, grant applications, and notice of educational opportunities. We anticipate the improved website to be available in January of 2006.

It is also my great pleasure to announce the funding by Codman to establish the first "Neuroscience Nurse Exchange Program". The exchange program is available only to members of WFNN. Applications, available on this website, will be posted in January 2006. Continuing to look ahead, the WFNN Board of Directors will be making the decision of the host city for the 10th WFNN Congress meeting by the end of this year. For the first time ever, member organizations have been asked to complete a proposal form for consideration of hosting the Congress meeting.

As you can see by the activities of the past four months, there will be a number of new and exciting changes to our organization. If you have any questions of myself, or of any member of the executive committee, please email us.

Sincerely,
Virginia Prendergast

Canadian Association of Neuroscience Nurses (CANN)

September 2005

CANN continues their activities with 11 chapters across Canada, 390+ members, and approximately 222 certified neuroscience nurses (CNN(C)). This year, we began active priority and goal setting for our 5-year strategic plan. The Board of Directors, engaged in a working strategic planning session in January 2005. This remains an ongoing activity. 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 and work on aspects of the strategic plan will continue throughout the year and at our Annual Meeting of both Board and local chapter members during our 36th Annual Conference to be held June 14-17, 2005 in Ottawa, Ontario.

This Annual event provides an opportunity for nurses worldwide to present and/ or gain knowledge from peer-reviewed selected scientific papers or posters. The scientific sessions include both plenary, concurrent and poster sessions on a variety of topics of interest to neurosciences 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 the medical scientific sessions, as applicable. Social events at the conference are often combined, with neuroscience nurses and physicians/ guests attending.

The local chapters also host educational events/conferences with registration information found on the CANN website.

CANN remains active with other neuroscience linkages, providing CANN representatives to Think First, Canadian Nurses Association, Canadian Brain and Nerve Coalition, Stroke Coalition and Canadian Association of Brain Tumour Coalition. CANN is often asked to submit names for various advisory meetings, most recently the National Stroke Nursing Forum.

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. A number of Awards, research grants and bursaries are available through CANN. The website "cann.ca" contains current information regarding our associations' activities. We encourage you to view it.

Submitted by
Wilma J. Koopman, RN MScN
WFNN Representative

DANN REPORT 2005

Since the EANN Congress in Copenhagen the DANN has had a change of its BOD members. I, for one, took over from Bente Hoeck as International representative, as she was going to concentrate on writing her PHD. Then our vice president stopped and now our president Susanne Poulsen has chosen to stop as well. In her place is Anette Mussmann, who started at the EANN Congress as well. So, the BOD has said farewell to some great capacities with a great deal of experience in running the DANN. Luckily, we have kept our treasurer for many years, Oda Jacobsen. A month ago, two new members joined our BOD. So, we are a new group, many of us experienced in our field, but not in the DANN work. The "old" members offer their advice when necessary and at the same time we have new fresh ideas on the future of the DANN.

Our new president, Anette, has her expertise in the ICU. She is a clinical advisor at Odense University Hospital, where her main function is training new nurses in the NeuroICU. At the moment she is studying to get a diploma in clinical field.

Since the EANN Congress, we have tried to think innovatively on how to recruit new members to our organisation. One of our tactics is to "catch" the interest of the operating

nurses and the intensive care nurses, as these two groups have their own organisations. However, we believe that there is a reason why they work in the Neuro OR or in the Neuro ICU. There is a huge difference in working with other patient categories. So, we organised a theme day where we invited all the Neuro OR nurses from the whole country and created a program that would be of interest to them. Another objective was to help them create a network. The theme day was a great success, which they hoped would be repeated.

Later this year we plan to do the same for the NeuroICU nurses. Here the theme for the day will probably be Basic Stimulation.

This year one of DANN's long wished for goals, to make a Danish translation of Peter Nydahl's book about Basic Stimulation, succeeded. With Bente Hoeck's persistence, an agreement was made with a Danish publishing company. They took full economic responsibility and also paid the salary of two nurses who assured that the translation was correct in a nursing context as well. This is an important step for neuroscience nurses in Denmark as they now have access to the implement the concept where it may be relevant.

We have worked with a professional in modernising our website. Our goal is to make it more useful than it has been. Being able to advertise our courses, create links to articles relevant websites, will make networking for our neuroscience nurses easier. Our address will be www.neurosygeplejersker.dk.

Our annual course, "Neuropsychology in Neuroscience Nursing" is still at great success and fully booked each time.

This year the DANN BOD is planning the Danish NeuroCongress. Every other year it is us and every other year it is the University Hospitals that plan it. Our guest speaker has just published a book on "Neuropedagogy". The rest of the speakers are nurses from all areas of neuroscience nursing. The Congress ends with a dinner party where the nurses can socialise with other nurses from the whole country working in the same field.

This fall, we hope to plan two meetings, one in east Denmark the other in west Denmark. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the role of a neuroscience nurse. We will invite key role nurses and nurses from all areas of practice. The information gathered can be used in the development of European Competence Profile.

Another important achievement of the "old" BOD members was creating a neuromodule under a formalised education center. The module takes 6 weeks and is worth 9 ETCS points. It is part of taking a full clinical diploma. This is an important step in improving the quality of neuroscience nursing.

Finally, we have had a Strategy Planning Weekend, where we discussed and brainstormed on where we are headed. Are we just a course planning organisation? What would we like our role to be? We also evaluated on the former Strategy and as a compliment to the "old" members, a great deal of the objectives where met. So to them we say a big "Thank you" for a job well done :=) !

Submitted by

Anita Mayntzhusen

International Representative for the DANN

Report of the Dutch Association of Neuroscience Nurses (NVNV)

NVNV Board 2003-2005

President: Paul Bours

Vice-president: Paul van Keeken

Secretary: Niek Sanders

Treasurer: Piet van Geyn

9 board members: the NVNV is organized in focus groups. The chairman of each focus group represents the group in the Board of Directors.

Membership

700 members

National cooperation

The Dutch Association of Neuroscience nurses is member of the National counsel 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

The NVNV is a member of the WFNN and of the European Association of Neuroscience Nurses (EANN) as well. EANN develops 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.

Finally we have our own website www.NVNVV.net. It is the information and communication port for our members and it is complementary to the newsletter.

Congress

In 2005 the Dutch association celebrates its 35th anniversary. This was reason enough for a great congress at April 7. Theme of the congress was: "The human brain: source of inspiration".

Neuro Quality management and - education

In cooperation with the Dutch national council of nurses the NVNV has developed a quality program for the association. In this program is stated how the association is organised, the priorities of policy and the process of policymaking and the ways of contacts with her members. One of the priorities of policy is cooperation with neuro disease patients associations.

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

Furthermore the NVNV together with the EANN partners are developing the nEUroBlend project. This is a system for blended learning supported by IT for neuroscience nurses.

The project proposal has been selected in previous procedures of the Leonardo da Vinci Fund of the European Union and is now waiting for the final selection (see appendix).

Focus groups

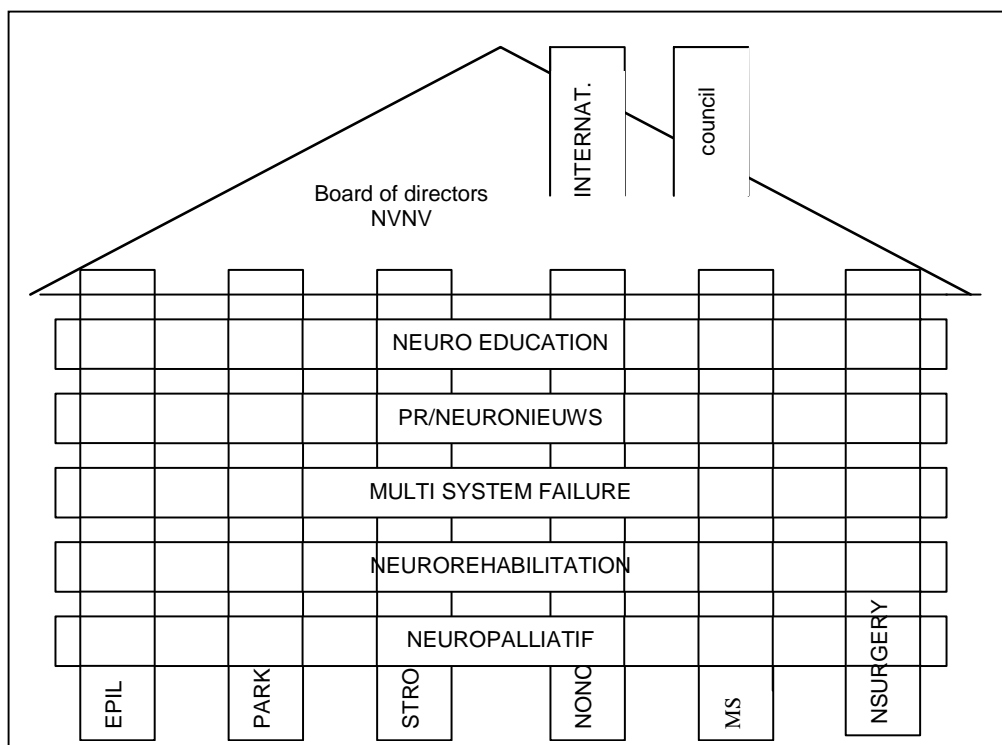
Within the NVNV there are 9 focus groups.

Neurorehabilitation	125 members
Parkinson's disease	60 members
MS	65 members
Epilepsy	25 members
Stroke	50 members
Neuro oncology	15 members
Neuro surgery	25 member
PR/Neuronews (newsletter)	5 members
National Education	12 members

Each focus group organizes 2 or 3 study days a year. The increasing number of members causes luxury problems. The structure and the organization of the some of the focus group

has to be improved in order to serve all members in the best possible way. In the years

to come even the organisation of the association will change. Leading starting points of the new organisation are the three main areas of neuroscience nursing as defined in the Dutch Competence Profile: neuropalliative care (chronically care, neurorehabilitation and multi system failure). The focus groups on these themes are now standing next to the other focus groups. In the future they will cover the other groups. In this way neurorehab nursing for instance can be stimulated in Stroke as well as in PD, MS or Epilepsy.



Submitted by
Paul van Keeken
 April 2005

Japanese Association of Neuroscience Nurses Report, 2005

Summary of our activities

1. Annual workshops had held in Tokyo (2001), in Shizuoka (2002), in Yamaguchi (2003) and in Osaka (2004). These workshops provided useful learning opportunities to our 300+ members who listened to the research presentations and speeches, and attended symposiums and seminars.
2. We have 10 local chapters, which also held regional meetings. They study and exchange ideas and information together. The number of local chapters has been increasing and is expected to be 12 this year.
3. Japanese Nursing Association has been promoting the Approved Nurse System by offering 6- month course work in many different areas. Offered classes are; communicative disease control, emergency and lifesaving care, neonatal care, oncology, diabetes, and kidney disease. JANN would like to join this movement and is trying to establish the approved/professional nurse course in neuroscience. Many of our members requested such a course, so that they could become a word leader to improve the quality of care. There is a Master course, called CNS (Clinical Nurse Specialist), as an advanced course.

Our wish for WFNN:

We are sorry for small number of Japanese attendance at the Barcelona congress. The months of April and May are the busy time for the hospital workers, as newly graduated nurses arrive and they require on the job training. It's difficult to be away from work long enough to attend the overseas meeting.

Submitted by **Teiko Yumi**
Translated by **Keiko Gray**

Leonardo da Vinci program

Title of the project: **nEUroBlend**

(European competence based blended learning framework for life-long vocational training of neuroscience nurses)

SUMMARY *Context of the project: what and why*

Neurological disorders (stroke, epilepsy, Parkinson's disease, Multiple Sclerosis (MS), dementia/Alzheimer's disease, and disorders in the area of neuro-oncology) are often severely disabling. Many patients not only need medical treatment but often (long term) nursing care as well. Consequently, on a European level a substantial amount of patients and a lot of money is involved in the care and treatment for them. The number of patients is growing rapidly.

From a quantitative point of view, a large number of neuroscience nurses and attendants are involved, who -from a qualitative point of view- go through substantial development where expertise is concerned (Life Long Learning). This amounts to a large investment in time, money and resources. An efficient and effective method of training can yield high results, but is not available yet. The *nEUroBlend* project aims at developing methods and materials for training, based on a European Competence Profile and learning plan.

Finances and partnership

The project budget is 400,000 euro. This is financed by a grant of the Leonardo da Vinci fund of the European Union (75%) and by the executing partnership of universities, education centers and hospitals (25%). There are 21 partners from 11 European countries, among which the European Association of Neuroscience Nurses (EANN) and the national associations of the member states.

Target sector and target groups

The target sector of this project is neuroscience and neurosurgery nursing in Europe. The target groups consist of nurses who care for patients with a neurological or neurosurgical syndrome in the European member-states, and their educators and trainers. This project connects strongly with the Strategic Policy Plan 2003-2008 of the EANN.

The goals of the project are:

- To develop materials for E-learning based on a competence based curriculum, which can be combined (blended learning) with other educational methods for the purpose of training and life-long-learning for neuroscience nurses.
- Collecting, re-designing and developing learning objects and other educational materials (didactical tips, templates, etc) for this combination of E-learning and other educational methods for the purpose of competence based training and life-long learning for neuroscience nurses.
- Describing and disclosing of learning objects and other educational materials through a digital repository, and advancing the use of them by neuroscience nurses and their teachers.
- Providing tools, how-to's, didactical templates, tips and rich content for trainers and educators, in order to create flexible blended learning solutions

In order to reach the projects goals, these products will be delivered:

1. European Competence Profile (ECP) and European Learning Plan (ELP) for the

- neuroscience nurse.
2. Descriptions of Training Modules, flexible learning paths and a Blended Learning Plan based on the ECP/ELP for the advanced training of neuroscience nurses.
 3. An implementation/valorisation plan with support, such as a plan to set up Educational Organisations, a plan to advance instructors and education manuals.
 4. A shared workspace for project members and a community of practice for the teachers, for development, discussion and training as related to the project, in order to realise implementation immediately from the start of the project onwards.
 5. A system for E-learning that enables competence based education and which can be combined with other educational delivery modes for the purpose of training and life long learning for neuroscience nurses.
 6. Training materials for 11 main content areas of neuroscience nursing.
 7. A digital repository to store, describe and disclose learning objects and stimulate the use of E-learning systems and the training materials by neuroscience nurses and their instructors.
 8. To spread and implement the ECP, ELP and developed materials through presentations and affirmation on the 2007 EANN convention in May/June Reykjavik, Iceland.

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