

**Special points of interest:**

- \* EfCCNa participates in Declaration of Vienna on Patient Safety
- \* 10th Anniversary celebrations in Berlin
- \* EfCCNa awards four Fellowships

**Spring Meeting 25-26th April, Danderyds Hospital, Stockholm Sweden**



**Inside this issue:**

Update on research projects	2
Ongoing funded projects	2
Completed projects	2
Associated projects	2
EfCCNa & ANIARTI Congress	3
News from Denmark	3
Declaration of Vienna	3

**23rd Meeting**

At the 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Council of Representatives we welcomed three new Representatives attending for the first time; from the Spanish Critical Care Nursing Association (Maria Carrion Torre); the Icelandic Association of Critical Care Nurses (Guðrún Jónsdóttir);

and the new Finnish Representative (Catharina Alanko). There were 16 Representatives present from Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, ESPNIC, Finland, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland and the UK.

**Elections**

There were two positions for election to the Board of Officers: the Secretary and the Vice President. Heike Strunk (Germany), the current Secretary was re-elected for

another term of office and Bronagh Blackwood (UK), the acting VP was elected as Vice President.

## Update on Research Projects

### Ongoing funded EfCCNa projects

1. The 'Nurses' Autonomy' study is a questionnaire survey of participating nurses at the 2008 Congress exploring autonomy, moral distress and empowerment. The data collected at the last Congress are currently being analysed.

2. The E-Link Study (European survey of Levels of Intensive-care Nurses' Knowledge) is a web-based

questionnaire survey to determine knowledge of European critical care nurses to help inform the education strategy. It has been translated into 15 national languages & data collection has begun.

3. The Delphi study is a web-based study using a Delphi research technique to identify intensive care nursing research priorities

within Europe to help inform the research strategy. It is now entering Phase 3 and a final report is expected at the next Council Meeting in the autumn.

### Completed EfCCNa funded projects:

The End of Life Study has been published. (Nursing in Critical Care 2009 14 (3) 110-21

### Associated EfCCNa projects

These projects are not funded by EfCCNa, but they are open to participation across Europe and EfCCNa encourages interested members of national associations to participate in them.

1. Study on decision making in daily activities (For further infor-

mation contact Anne Kokko at [anneko@pp.inet.fi](mailto:anneko@pp.inet.fi)).

2. Mechanical ventilation and weaning role responsibilities. The purpose of this project is to develop a profile of role responsibility and nursing scope of practice for key venti-

lation and weaning decisions in European ICUs. (For further information contact Bronagh Blackwood at [b.blackwood@qub.ac.uk](mailto:b.blackwood@qub.ac.uk)).

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Get involved in  
research—  
improve  
evidence based  
practice

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## **3<sup>rd</sup> EfCCNa & 27<sup>th</sup> ANIARTI Congress, Florence 2008**

This was a magnificent success and was the largest critical care nursing event in Europe. There were 2022 delegates (1555 from Italy; 459 from 23 European countries; 8 from Australia; 2 from USA & 1 from India). The Congress profit was €125,000, making a profit to EfCCNa of €35,000. The success of the Congress was mainly attributed to the ANIARTI conference team (the Italian Critical Care Nurses' Association organise the Congresses themselves without the aid of an external project management team) and the huge attendance support normally provided by Italian critical care nurses to their association's annual Congresses

## News from Denmark



### 4<sup>th</sup> EfCCNa Congress and FSAIO (Danish) Spring Congress, Copenhagen March 2011

Planning is underway for the next Congress in Copenhagen. Further information can be obtained from the website [www.efccna2011.dk](http://www.efccna2011.dk).

### News from Mette Ring

About a month ago the President – Connie Kruckow - for our National Nurse Organization decided to resign from the job after nine years as the President. Connie Kruckow has been popular; she has been doing a great job promoting the profes-

sion of nurses. In August we'll have the election for our next President. Until September our Vice-president Grete Christensen will be appointed temporarily. Grete Christensen is also the President of EFN.

At the hospital where I work, we are involved in a research-program about nurses who are assisting surgeons in the operating theatre. The tradition in Denmark has always been, that the nurses assist during surgery, but with all the technology and robotics coming in the operating theatre, it might be of relevance to

think of a different education for the assisting persons. The research is taking place at two different University hospitals - it will be interesting to see, what the conclusions will be.

Middle of May we had our last meeting before summer in our Danish Society of Anaesthesia and Critical Care Nurses. We usually have 6 meetings a year. We had a three day congress in April and in November we'll have the autumn congress lasting two days. Our next meeting is planned to be in August, so we'll stay in contact via email until then.

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**Elections for Denmark.**

**EfCCNa will attend Patient Safety meeting in Vienna**

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## Declaration of Vienna

The European Society of Intensive Care Medicine is holding a meeting in Vienna in October 2009 to raise the profile of patient safety on political and scientific levels .

EfCCNa has been invited to participate and Rosa will attend this important meeting. ESICM hopes that all participating societies can sign an agreement

'a Declaration of Vienna' to describe common interests in improving safety and quality of care. Feedback will be provided in the next newsletter.

## Clear Signal of the German Parliament: Living Will Documents are legally binding

On June 17, 2009, after six years of debate the German Parliament finally issued a fundament for a legally binding of the patients will. The new law sets a legal precedent for the use of living will's and specifies that the treating physician must follow the directives as stated in the patient's living will. This also applies in that case that where treatments and other actions might lead to the death of the individual.

Heike Strunk, RN CCRN CRNA MN





## The World Federation of Critical Care Nurses (WFCCN)

In September 2004 in Cambridge UK, EfCCNa and the WFCCN had their first joint meeting. At the meeting there were several ideas to produce projects jointly, where it is preferable to speak with one voice. Other thoughts are chairing objectives, key projects, and exchange of good practice and position statements. It is the view of the representatives at the meeting, that it is important the wheel should not be re-invented. Since then there have been several other meetings where one or two representatives on behalf of EfCCNa have met with the council of WFCCN.

The only joint project EfCCNa and WFCCN have had so far is the online journal CONNECT – the world of critical care nursing.

On August 28 – September 1st, 2009 there is a joint congress and in collaboration with the WFSICCM, SIAARTI, ANIARTI and the WFCCN.

Prior to the congress there will be a WFCCN council meeting. Rosa Thorsteinsdottir and John Albarran will be representing EfCCNa at this meeting. One of the main issues that will be discussed is the future and organisation of WFCCN.

## EfCCNa celebration ...

In October 2009, EfCCNa will celebrate its tenth anniversary. The celebration will take place in Berlin on October 2-4, where the Federation was officially established. Heike Strunk who is the secretary of EfCCNa and the German representative has been very busy for months planning the celebration programme and the council meeting that will also take place that weekend.

The EfCCNa adventure started already in October 1997. With sponsorship from Siemens Europe, representatives of over twenty European critical care nursing associations met in Rotterdam for a weekend, to discuss the possibility of setting up a federation of critical care nurses. At this first meeting, the broad aims and objectives of a European Federation were established. At two further meetings, in Stockholm and Zagreb, we further developed and refined the purpose of the Federation, and established its founding principles of equity and collaboration.

**Ultimately, on October 2nd 1999 in Berlin the European federation of Critical Care Nursing associations was officially established.** At that time, it had a working Constitution and it elected an administrative board. So when Heike Strunk suggested to hold the celebration in Berlin in October 2009, there was no doubt that it would be the right thing to do. There will be a two days council meeting during Saturday and Sunday as usual.

In addition there will be a celebration programme which will include a reception held by the German association (DGF) on Friday night. A festive dinner on Saturday night and on Monday the council members have an opportunity to participate in a Berlin day, where we will be given the opportunity to do a boat trip to sightsee beautiful Berlin. Several guests have been invited and there will be issued a press release as well.

When looking back at our short history, the work that has already been accomplished by the council members and the member associations has already proved its validation and the commitment of the members to continue the good work. For the next 10 years I have no doubt that EfCCNa will have even a stronger voice, that by then all critical care nurses who are members of our member associations will know who EfCCNa is, what it stands for and be proud of our achievements.

Congratulations to all EfCCNa members and let's continue proving that by working together – we achieve more.

Rósa Thorsteinsdóttir  
President of EfCCNa



## EfCCNa Fellows

In October 2008, those representatives that have made a lasting contribution to the growth, establishment and profile of the Federation were awarded EfCCNa Fellowships.

**Wouter de Graaf:** was the Dutch representative since 2001; treasurer since 2002 – 2005; First president of EfCCNa 2005-2008. Wouter is a leader; he is innovative, supporting, encouraging and capability to development and improvement. He is an enabler and a facilitator. His major goal was to “push” EfCCNa forward. To reach

that goal, he recognized that EfCCNa had to have a president and a board of officers. In 2005 the council elected the first president and board of officers. For the past years he has also been EfCCNa representative and treasurer in the European Specialist Nursing Organization, ESNO.

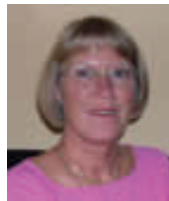
**Jos Latour:** Is a founding member of EfCCNa and has been the European Society of Pediatric and Neonatal Intensive Care, ESPNIC representative from 1997 – 2005. Chair of the congress com-

mittee since 2004 which resulted in two international, successful congresses. Jos is a leader, effective and productive. He is a good strategic, inspirational and has a great sense of humor. He has tremendous energy, is proactive and a successful negotiator. He has participated in several research projects, including the Position Statement on Family Witness Resuscitation.



**Birte Baktoft:** Is a founding member of EfCCNa. She was the Danish representative from 1997 - 2007. Birte was the chair of the Education Committee from 2000 – 2007. During that time a survey of critical care nursing education in Europe was carried out with a following of a position statement on post registration critical care nursing education in Europe. Birte is an innovator, proac-

tive and a team player. She is a hard worker and devoted to all the projects she takes on or participates in. She is now a member of the research team of the E-LINK study.



### **Paul Fulbrook:**

Paul had a strong belief and a vision that by establishing a European federation of Critical Care nursing associations, it would make a difference for critical care nursing and nurses in Europe. In 1997 he arranged the first meeting, sponsored

by Siemens Europe, where more than 20 representatives from critical care nursing associations in Europe met, in Rotterdam Holland. Paul was the treasurer of the Federation from 1999 – 2002.

Since 2001, Paul has been a joint editor of Connect: Critical Care Nursing in Europe which in 2003 became the online journal Connect and the official journal of World Federation of Critical Care

Nurses. Since he left the Federation in 2002, he has participated in research projects, including the Position Statement on Family Witness Resuscitation. He is the leader of the research team of the E-link study.



On behalf of all national Member Associations, EfCCNa council and board of officers, I thank Wouter, Jos, Birte and Paul for their outstanding contribution to EfCCNa, which will have an invaluable impact on future development of the Federation.

Rósa Thorsteinsdóttir

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**EfCCNa**

**Fellows**

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