

## Studies supported by EfCCNa

### End of Life (EoL) Care Study

- \* Project lead: John Albarran (team includes Julie Benbenishty, Jos Latour, Ruth Endacott, Bronagh Blackwood)
- \* Purpose of the Study. Approximately 19% of patients die in the ICU and the majority of deaths are preceded by a decision to withhold or withdraw life-sustaining therapies. Death generally occurs within the first few days and the transition from curative care to end of life care is often rapid. This places a large emotional burden on the ICU nurse who may not be prepared for the suddenness of preparing the patient and the family for this tragic event. Thus, the aim of this pilot study was to explore the role of Critical Care nurses in EOL care across Europe. The study was supported by EfCCNa as one of its priorities to improve end of life care in the intensive care unit.
- \* Methods. The study involved 6 focus group interviews. The specific objective was to explore experiences of EOL care to identify factors that enhance and detract from providing such care. Focus group interviews were conducted during a Knowledge Café workshop at the 2011 EfCCNa Congress in Belgrade, Serbia.
- \* Progress. A literature review highlighting end of life care in European countries is currently being written up for publication. The analysis of the interviews has been completed and is currently being written up for publication. The projected completion date is December 2015.