

Global connection of critical care nursing organisations



The Critical Care Society of Southern Africa has recently become an associate member of the World Federation of Critical Care Nursing (WFCCN), and we now have a representative on that body's Council. The motivation was put forward by critical care nurses following a presentation by Professor Ged Williams, President of the WFCCN, at the annual Society conference in Durban.

South Africa has a proud history of critical care nursing. The CCSSA has inspired critical care nursing leadership and development, by offering them a home within one of the largest medical organisations. The CCSSA continues to strive to enhance the development of critical care and, through their collective responses, critical care nurses have gained strength in knowledge and skills in caring for patients.

One of the initial aims of the WFCCN was to invite critical care nursing organisations onto the Federation so that they could inform it of their particular needs and activities. This was achieved through a world survey of critical care nursing organisations.¹ These authors established a total of 73 contacts from 44 countries. Of these countries 24 responded, representing a response rate of 55%. Almost every country identified inadequate staffing levels as the most important issue for critical care. Ninety-two per cent of respondents perceived the need for an international society. Professional representation, national conferences and standards for educational courses were identified as the three most important activities that a professional organisation could provide for critical care nurses in their countries.

The WFCCN represents 20 critical care nursing organisations worldwide. It has an established link with

the World Federation of Societies of Intensive and Critical Care Medicine (WFSICCM). Recently, the International Council of Nurses (ICN) accepted WFCCN as an affiliate member to share information and activities. WFCCN is one of the few international nursing bodies to receive this level of recognition from the ICN.

The official journal of WFCCN is *CONNECT*, which is available as an online journal. The main focus of *CONNECT* is clinical practice; the editors are particularly keen to receive articles that describe or evaluate developments in nursing. The journal is CINAHL-listed and peer reviewed. An article entitled 'Perspectives on critical care nursing: South Africa'² is available online at www.connectpublishing.com. CCSSA is currently tasked with the responsibility of nominating a representative to the international advisory board of *CONNECT*.

It is an honour on academic, professional, clinical and collegial levels to be associated with the many nursing organisations that have already joined the WFCCN. We look forward to enhancing standards while drawing on opportunities from the experience and expertise of international evidence-based practice.

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1. Williams G, Chaboyer W, Thomsteindottir R, et al. Worldwide overview of critical care nursing organisations and their activities. *International Council of Nurses* 2001; **48**: 208-217.
2. Scribante J, Schmollgruber S, Nel E. Perspectives on critical care nursing: South Africa. *CONNECT* 2004; **3** (4): 111-115.