



THE WORLD FEDERATION OF CRITICAL CARE NURSES

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

It is my honour to greet the South African critical care community. I visited your wonderful country, albeit briefly, in 2004 and continue to marvel at the way in which you tackle many exciting challenges: clinically, professionally and socially. I do look forward to meeting many of you again in the future, but for now our correspondence is formal and written – I do hope that next time we speak it is overlooking a beach with a drink in our hand!

The World Federation of Critical Care Nurses (WFCCN) was formed in October 2001 and exists to provide a forum to link the critical care nurses of the world as individual practitioners and through their local and national professional associations. Over 20 national critical care nursing associations now belong to WFCCN.

We aim to expand communication and collaboration among the nursing and other critical care communities of the world. We do this via an online journal (*CONNECT*), website (www.wfccn.org), national conference (2005 – Argentina, 2006 – Philippines), attending meetings and fostering friendships and linkages with critical care nurses around the world. In addition we have established formal and lasting relationships with groups such as the International Council of Nurses and the World Federation of Societies of Intensive Care and Critical Care Medicine – two key bodies that we work with regularly.

We have assisted and continue to work with regional groups of countries who are emerging in many parts of the world – Europe, Asia-Pacific, and in South America where I will be meeting with their leaders in April and August 2005 to establish a formal network if possible.

We are also hopeful to work through our growing number of friends in South Africa to establish a greater linkage with critical care nurses throughout the African continent.

In 2000 we studied critical care nursing in 23 different countries – in 2005 we hope to study many more and we are working with our African friends to try to get as many African countries involved in this study as possible.

This is an exciting and pioneering era in the internationalisation of professional critical care nursing practice. South Africa has joined this movement early in the process. We look to nations like South Africa and to regions like Africa to enlighten our global view of the issues and needs of critical care nurses and populations everywhere.

We belong to a small planet with some very big issues. Together each and every one of us can make a contribution. In its own small way, WFCCN is trying to make a contribution and we look forward to working with you and your associations to improve the contribution of critical care services throughout the world.

Best wishes and take care

Ged Williams

Chair, WFCCN