

## CCSSA news

### From the president's desk:

The recent World Congress of the World Federation of Societies of Intensive and Critical Care Medicine (WFSICCM) in Buenos Aires, Argentina, was well attended by delegates from South Africa. At the meeting a number of CCSSA members, including Sats Bhagwanjee, Shelley Schmollgruber and Andrew Argent, presented papers.

Sats Bhagwanjee was elected as secretary general of the World Federation. He has also been appointed as editor of the World Federation journal, and is active on a number of international research and training projects.

Shelley Schmollgruber is now the secretary of the World Federation of Critical Care Nurses. Andrew Argent has been appointed as vice-president and corporate secretary of the World Federation of Paediatric Intensive and Critical Care societies.

## Critical care nursing education and workforce

Critically ill patients have very special needs and must be cared for by nurses with specialist skills, knowledge and attitudes, the World Federation of Critical Care Nurses (WFCCN) believes. To this end the WFCCN has drafted a position statement in order to assist critical care nursing associations, health care providers, educational facilities and other interested parties in the development and provision of critical care nursing education.

The statement is based on the principle that critical care nurses should possess the appropriate knowledge and skills to respond effectively to the needs of patients, to the demands of society, and to the challenges of advancing technology. When a basic nursing education programme does not include the specialised knowledge and skills needed, these must be provided to nurses who will take care of critically ill patients and their families, and nurses with such specialised knowledge and expertise should themselves play an integral part in the education of critical care nurses, even when a multidisciplinary, educational approach is utilised. It is crucial that the preparation of critical care nurses must be based on the most current available information and research.

The WFCCN also has drafted a position statement on the provision of the critical care nursing workforce, recognising that the development of such nursing workforce requires careful planning and execution to ensure an appropriate balance and mix of staff skills and attributes as well as the provision of a learning environment for novice critical care nurses. As a minimum, critically ill patients require one registered nurse at all times, while high-dependency patients in a critical care unit (CCU) require no less than one nurse for two patients at all times. Moreover, a CCU must have a dedicated head nurse to manage and lead the unit, as well as a dedicated nurse educator to provide education, training and quality improvement activities for the unit nursing staff.

The two position statements were ratified at the WFCCN's international meeting at the World Congress on Intensive Care and Critical Care Medicine in Buenos Aires, Argentina in August.

Source: [www.wfccn.org](http://www.wfccn.org)

## Support for Mercy Ships



*Adcock Ingram Critical Care has supported Mercy Ships' activities in Liberia by facilitating a consignment of life-saving medicines and consumables. To mark the event a function was held aboard the Mercy Ships vessel M/V Anastasis during its stay in Cape Town before heading off to West Africa, and present were Dr Wayne Riback, category executive, Adcock Ingram Critical Care, with Mercy Ships medical director Dr Gary Parker and MN Health Care Services Sonja Frischknecht, RN.*