Advancing the role of specialised nurses in Europe

European Specialist Nurses Organisations (ESNO)

The European Specialist Nurses Organisations (ESNO) (www.esno.eu) is founded in 2006 and aims to highlight the role played by specialised nurses in Europe.

Nurses are the largest group of professionals (three million) in European healthcare, and it is expected that in the future the role of nurses will further expand, including that of specialist nurses or nurse specialist. Thus, nursing societies such as the EAUN are eligible for ESNO membership to support the goals and long-term strategy of ESNO. In 2013, 19 specialised nursing organisations became ESNO members, further expanding ESNO’s influence.

ESNO’s long-term strategy will undergo updates this year and its main goals include the following: (1) A stronger professional organisation for nurse specialist position in healthcare or in the interdisciplinary team and (2) Greater involvement in decision-making at local and EU policy level. A dominant concern is to achieve wider recognition of specialist nurses in the next five years across Europe.

For ESNO, lobby initiatives and public relations in the European Union (EU) are important, striving for a better position for specialised nurses in Europe. Ber Orsten (NL) represents ESNO and its members in the EU, where he spends time at the European Parliament in Brussels.

The Institute of Medicine’s 2015 report ‘Crossing the Quality Chasm: A New Health System for the 21st Century’ advocated that high-quality healthcare should be patient-centred healthcare including the diagnosis and follow-up of test results, especially after a patient has been discharged from hospital. The Institute of Medicine highlighted that these processes can be fraught with danger. It was a timely reminder that getting the right diagnosis is a key aspect of healthcare. As a registered nurse I have contributed to the formulation of patient diagnoses throughout my career. When I became a specialist practitioner in 2010, my scope of practice permitted me to autonomously and collaboratively provide patient-centred healthcare including the diagnosis and management of health conditions.

The Institute of Medicine’s 2015 report ‘Improving Diagnosis in Healthcare’, states that “It is likely that most people will experience at least one diagnostic error in their lifetime, sometimes with serious and even lethal consequences”. This is a worrying statistic and thought-provoking for all of us involved in the formulation of diagnosis. With this in mind, I was keen to attend the 1st Australasian Diagnostic Error in Medicine Conference, held in Melbourne, Australia, from 23 to 25 May 2017.

A variety of disciplines (including nursing, medicine, pathology, radiology, education and research) were represented by the 220 participants who came from Japan, Singapore, United States, Australia and New Zealand. The presenters included world-leading experts in medical diagnosis, and patient advocates all sharing ideas and initiatives aimed at reducing diagnostic error. Right at the beginning I saw the positive energy of the participants, and in this column I would like to share some of the highlights of the conference programme.

The conference theme was “Towards safer diagnosis – a team effort”. Day 1 started with a workshop entitled ‘They got it wrong’: How patients and health professionals contribute in a different way to diagnostic errors. It was a thought-provoking dialogue that reminded us of our responsibility to create environments in which patients and their families can feel comfortable to voice their concerns and feel more comfortable participating in the process. The symposium leaders urged us to get to know ourselves better and be open about our experiences.

For ESNO, lobbying initiatives and public relations in the European Union (EU) are important, striving for a better position for specialised nurses in Europe. Sue Osborne

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References

(2) Do No Harm.” Jess’ Story. https://my.youtube.com (2022)
There is no harmonised training for nurses and RNFA’s at this moment and this meeting aims to fill this gap with a high quality nurses programme. The 2017 edition of the ERUS-EAUN Robotic Urology Nursing Meeting in Bruges is a unique meeting for nurses and RNFA’s working in robotic urology. By collaborating with EAU and ERUS we are able to provide an educational programme based on best practice and high standards.

The aim of the ERUS-EAUN Robotic Urology Nursing Meeting is to become the educational platform for OR nurses and RNFA’s working with robot-assisted urology surgery. The programme will include the latest research in our field of expertise and also anticipate what the future will bring. The meeting will offer theoretical in-depth knowledge and optional hands-on training for nurses working in robot-assisted urology surgery (for hands-on training separate registration applies).

The first day will be completely dedicated to the operating room nurse / assistant role in theory and practice. This will include state-of-the-art lectures on safe positioning, avoiding complications, radical prostatectomy, kidney and bladder cancer, amongst others. Team training, troubleshooting, ethics and educational video presentations are some of the other important topics that will be discussed with the audience by highly skilled and experienced speakers. This day will deepen the knowledge of the patient’s pathway from diagnosis to surgery and increase awareness of the importance of having the right competences in the operating room.

On day 2 and 3, the nurse delegates will attend the lectures and live surgery sessions of the regular ERUS programme, to return home completely updated on the latest developments in the field.

The hands-on course at ORSI (HOT 1) includes:
- Theory regarding the impact of robotic surgery in a perspective of minimal invasive surgery, including the pros and cons and cost effectiveness of robotic surgery.
- What different robotic instruments are there and which ones are suitable for urology surgery.
- Handle the Endo GIA® stapler and different cartridges, vessel staplers and sealers and different clip applicers.
- Training on the Si and da Vinci® systems: port placement, different clutches, docking and positioning the arms, adjusting the ports, etc.

The hands-on course at the congress venue (HOT 2) includes:
- Team training and assisting laparoscopically: test your skills, examine the role of the RNFA and practice collaborating with a person in the console.
- Console training, enabling a greater understanding of the roles in the team, the advantages of 3D vision and high definition, etc.
- Team training and assisting laparoscopically: test your skills, examine the role of the RNFA and practice collaborating with a person in the console.
- Communication training in high risk settings such as the operating room.

Registration for the HOT sessions is on a first-come, first-served basis. Few places are still available.

More information: www.erus17.org/special-meetings/erus-eaun

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As author Ralph Marston once said, “What you do today can improve all your tomorrow.” It is crucial that nurses share what they know and have the platform to do so. “Nurses are always interested in finding ways to provide optimum care for their patients. The sooner they present their research to a wider audience, the more they help raise the level of patient care,” said Ms. Franziska Geese (MScN, RN) of the University Hospital of Bern.

Ideal platform
Geese said, “The programme of the upcoming 19th International Meeting of the European Association of Urology Nurses (EAUN) is designed to give nurses by offering them the opportunity to present their research, and by providing them the latest trends and technologies in urology nursing.”

There are four ways nurses can present their research at EAUN18, via the Poster Presentations, Nursing Research Project Competition, Video Presentations by Nurses, and “Difficult Case” Session.

Nursing Research Project Competition
Do you have ideas on improving urolological care, or solutions for issues encountered in daily clinical practice? Submit your research project plan and win €2,500!

Poster presentations
Submit your abstract on urology nursing, continence nursing or any related field that has relevant applications for clinical practice. Be one of those to bring home the third, second or first prize for the Best EAUN Poster Presentation!

Video Presentations by Nurses
Do you prefer expressing your ideas in a visual way? Create a video presentation (plus an abstract) and if selected, your video will be presented to an international audience at EAUN18 and your registration fee will be waived!

“Difficult Case” Session
Ever encountered a challenging case? Or puzzled by an unusual one? Share them! The cases do not have to be solved as these will be discussed during EAUN18 to generate fresh perspectives and innovative approaches. If your case is selected, you and 4 other winners will be given free registration to EAU18!

Top 5 tips for joining these competitions

Tip #1 Take a chance
Already decided to submit your work? Congratulations! Getting over this first step takes courage. Feelings of insecurity often hinder nurses from sharing their work, but to begin despite these feelings is one huge step forward. Go for it!

Tip #2 Read EAUN’s guide “How to write an abstract”
“Let this help you with the outline of your research. It gives you accurate and practical advice on how to write your abstract.”

Tip #3 Ask for help when needed
“If you have colleagues who have written abstracts before, feel free to ask them. In addition, the EAUN has research mentors who can help you if you have questions with regard to developing your research project plan.

Tip #4 Take part in the presentation skill lab
“If your work is accepted, take part in the presentation skill lab in Copenhagen to practice your presentation skills. A coach will guide you through your presentation. Everyone whom I spoke with used this service swears by it!

Tip #5 If your abstract is not accepted, keep going
“Keep submitting because it raises your chances of being approved. Attend the meeting to enhance what you know and to expand your network.”

An example to inspire you
One of the most popular submissions during the EAUN Meeting in Aarhus, Denmark this year was the poster presentation “Can self-installation improve QoL in patients with painful bladder syndrome?” by Continence Advisor Ms. Annette Hjuler of the Regionshospitalet Randers. This poster was an excellent example of how nurses can collect daily sample data and transform it into research.

Gather your data and document it well. You have the capability, the experience and the knowledge to do so. Submitting your research can help gain new evidence to improve patient care and can inspire others to expand the research as well.

So hesitate no longer, and prepare an abstract, video, research plan or case to present at EAUN18 in Copenhagen!