Hello colleagues,

I hope you enjoyed the Annual EAUN Congress as much as we did. The sessions were well attended, informative and gave much food for thought. Apart from the sessions, the posters were of a high standard and gave the adjudicators a headache trying to select the top two in each category. In total there were 44 posters and 3 video abstracts submitted with 25 selected for your review. The poster abstracts were then roughly split evenly into ‘practice development’ and ‘scientific’. The abstracts were submitted by colleagues from Europe as well as from Australia, Pakistan, Israel, Hong Kong, Qatar, Singapore, Taiwan and China. Just to show you how well-known our conference is around the globe.

Entire patient pathway

The posters came from a wide variety of settings: from outpatient departments to clinical settings in hospitals and from the entire patient pathway, from pre-diagnostic tests to post-treatment follow-up. The subjects of the posters were good examples of how nurses can improve their clinical or personal practice, as well as their work settings for other nurses to follow in the future.

Unfortunately, our colleagues from Pakistan were unable to attend the conference in person. Therefore they gave their presentation via Skype, a first, I am led to believe. This worked well, it seemed they were able to follow both the lectures and workshops online by accessing podcasts. This is an essential element in China when considering education approaches due to the sheer size of the country and the ability of nurses to travel to these meetings.

In my opening speeches, on behalf of the EAUN, I once again reiterated the importance of such collaboration and from its infancy the developments and significant achievements that had already occurred. I stressed that “while being divided by culture and language, there was a strong unity in the need to provide optimal patient care for urology patients, and as such collaboration provided the vehicle by which to achieve this goal” and that we had a lot to learn from each other.

Nurse specialisation

This year also saw a growing interest in the concept of nurse specialisation in urology with the development of programmes in urological nursing as the first nursing discipline in China to address this issue and begin to formulate key aspects of this approach.

Experiences from the UK and elsewhere were viewed with great interest, and allowed all parties to consider both the positive and negative aspects, while identifying commonalities in the rationale for these approaches to be developed.

Once again this visit proved to be a highly interactive educational event, with a real sense of the mutual need to develop urology nursing excellence and therefore all credit goes to our colleagues from Hong Kong & China. Without their continued support such an event would not be possible.

EAUN19 Poster Sessions: Food for thought

How to transfer new information from session to daily practice

Winner practice development section

The winner of the practice development section was poster 3: ‘Development of an advanced nurse practitioner-led bladder cancer surveillance service in Ireland: Preliminary audit results’, presented by R. McConkey. This practice development was building on the advanced nurse practitioner role used in other countries where the role of a nurse cytopathologist had evolved. The poster showed the reader how the role was conceived, planned and implemented and then evaluated. It was this evaluation that McConkey presented to the conference. It took into account some of the issues that we contend with every day in clinical practice, and their caregivers. They compiled 305 patients and 75 caregivers. The conclusion of this study showed that the tools were important in supporting nurses in their practice, as they gave an objective assessment of patients and caregivers levels of self-care. Boarin hypothesised that these tools may contribute to significant reduction in readmissions and urology complications.

Improve healthcare

In concluding this short piece, I don’t think I have done the winners and their work enough justice, so I wholeheartedly invite you to look at these pieces of work by following this link https://resource-centre.uroweb.org/resource-centre?price-winners/eaun/.

Please feel free to take a look at other works presented as well, digest them and look at how they can be used to inform your daily practice. These examples can be spread all over Europe by presenting them in a congress such as ours, as well as in your own workplace. This way, best practice and knowledge can be used in other hospitals and improve healthcare for all our patients.

The EAUN lectures in China (Guangzhou, Hefei, Beijing, Tianjin) were attended by over 1,000 delegates. Thanks to supporting technology, nurses could improve their clinical or personal practice, while building on the advanced nurse practitioner role used in other countries where the role of a nurse cytopathologist had already occurred. I stressed that “while being divided by culture and language, there was a strong unity in the need to provide optimal patient care for urology patients, and as such collaboration provided the vehicle by which to achieve this goal” and that we had a lot to learn from each other.

Members of the Urology Department of the Peking University Hospital
EAUN20 delegates: An exciting programme awaits you

Imagine an event so comprehensive that it covers care principles and current topics and debates in urological nursing. Not only will joining that event benefit you, but also the patients who are under your care. An event such as described does exist.

Every year, the European Association of Urology Nurses (EAUN) organises its congresses to focus on the professional needs of urological nurses and other healthcare professionals (HCPs). The upcoming 21st edition, EAUN20, in March 2020 will offer you current relevant scientific and practical updates.

Abstract submission now open! Deadline: 1 December 2019

What to look forward to

For urology nurses at EAUN20, topic coverage will include doctor-nurse cooperation in daily practice from both points of view; nurse-led management of UUTS (fewer urinary tract symptoms); strategies for improving the quality of urological care, and plenty more.

Complementing the Scientific Programme, EAUN20’s Thematic Sessions will include new sessions of SRS (Special Interest Sections), concentrating on endourology (i.e. coverage on stone disease, benign prostatic hyperplasia, and technologies such as robotics) and addressing skeletal issues in metastatic prostate cancer (PCa).

And as you know, uroscopy is prevalent among children and nocturna in middle-aged and older adults; and both conditions have a profound impact on the patients’ quality of life. At EAUN20, you’ll know how the predictive factors, as well as medical and non-medical management will increase.

Additionally, you can further enrich your skills through workshops on antimicrobial resistance; sexual function; uro-oncology; palliative end of the urology care; cancer care; urology’s role in shared decision making; and patient education initiatives.

Nurses whose dedication is a source of inspiration, and whose contribution help boost the quality of nursing care will share their experience in the Special Session “Best of urological nursing practice in Europe”. Their efforts have been recognised and will be awarded during the session as well.

Developments and controversies

The PHS Study “Educational Framework for Urinary Nursing (EFUN) (Curriculum) and the role of ANP” will centre on the development of the ANP role, which has advanced in a variety of ways across Europe. Experiences with the ANP role and the link to the current Guidelines will be shared with the audience, as well as, the progress with the development of an Educational Framework for Urinary Nursing (Curriculum).

EAUN20 will also examine controversial topics such as the emerging role of genomic screening in treatment decision-making for PCa and bladder cancer.

Meeting current challenges

The influence of ANMR (Antimicrobial Resistance) on urological healthcare, and the long-term side effects of BSG (Bacillus Calmette-Guerin) therapy are among some of the challenges that EAUN20 will address. The congress will also investigate how to overcome difficulties in non-muscle invasive bladder cancer care.

In addition, EAUN20 will examine the ability of nurses to easily interpret the evidence-based findings that support current practice. The main challenge here is to meet the needs of patients who have high expectations of healthcare, whilst balancing it with the nurses’ ability to interpret current research, best practices, and the Guidelines.

Be part of this impressive lineup

EAUN20 is designed to stimulate discussions with the latest evidence and practice updates in urological nursing. The congress will bring together an exceptional group of nurses and HCPs, and we would be very pleased to have you present your original research and valuable insights at EAUN20.

Submit your poster and/or video abstracts, research project plans, and difficult cases before the deadline of 1 December 2019. You will find submission details at www.EAUN20.org/Scientific-Programme.

We look forward to welcoming you in Amsterdam, the Netherlands!

Save the dates: 21 to 23 March 2020.