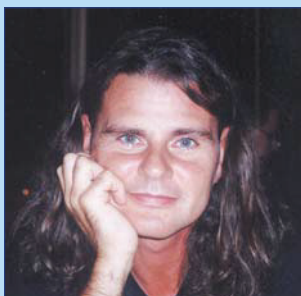


# Editorial



Lynne Harrison, joint editor



Paul Fulbrook, joint editor

## NETWORKING: A PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY

The structure and form of language evolves over time. Words and phrases are introduced and integrated into the cultural framework of a society or group. An example from nursing that springs to mind is the word 'networking'. Networking can be described as a process through which individuals or groups share ideas, provide information, offer advice and support and gain access to a range of resources.

Nurses can engage in networking activities in a variety of ways, and EfCCNa is committed to the provision of networking opportunities for critical care nurses. The development of this journal has promoted the exchange of ideas and information; indeed we would like to see a greater level of debate and dialogue emerging within its pages. We actively encourage individuals or groups to submit articles for publication and to respond to those already published to seek clarification or expansion of ideas. This can be done through direct contact with authors or through the journal. Perhaps you have come across a problem or situation in your own practice and wonder how others might have coped or responded; use this journal to network with colleagues by writing a short report, article or letter which outlines the issue or problem and ask for help.

Attendance at, or participation in, a conference provides many networking opportunities. This year marks a milestone in the history of the European Federation of Critical Care Nursing Associations (EfCCNa); the association will host its first conference at Disneyland® Paris, France from 26–27 May. The title of the conference is 'Working Together – Achieving More', a clear statement that reflects the outcome of networking activity. The structure and organisation of this conference provides opportunities for nurses to meet, debate and discuss critical care nursing issues. Individuals and groups will be able to meet in both formal and informal settings to exchange ideas and information.

Participation in conferences should provide a mix of scientific and social activity; they should provide opportunities for reflection, stimulation and relaxation, all of which have direct benefits for patients, their families, nurses and other members of the multidisciplinary team.

Disseminating information and working collaboratively are key features of professional practice. Through participation in networking activities, critical care nurses have the potential for:

- ▶ Developing a shared vision of critical care practice
- ▶ Providing and gaining inspiration to develop practice
- ▶ Recognising and celebrating the value of collegial relationships
- ▶ Establishing the most challenging and stimulating forum for problem-solving.

We hope to see many of you at Disneyland® Paris and we would welcome contact from anyone interested in writing an article for this journal. We will be around for the duration of the conference; please network with us!

Lynne Harrison and Paul Fulbrook

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