

The participant's view: critical care nurses' experiences of the 2nd Congress of the WFCCN in Argentina



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The congress in Buenos Aires, Argentina, which was held from 27–31 August 2005, was a major event in the critical care world, as it combined three major conferences. In addition to the WFCCN congress, the event was hosted by the World Federation of Societies of Intensive and Critical Care Medicine (WFSICCM) in collaboration with the World Federation of Pediatric Intensive and Critical Care Societies (WFPICCS). This unique event attracted over 4500 delegates, with the largest group coming from Latin America. The programme was varied with many opportunities for learning about new practice and research developments. But what did the nurse delegates think?



"It is significant for me to be here to share my ideas and issues for my country and to work with other critical care nurses around the world. The concerns I have are similar to nurses in other countries and I realise that these concerns are not only important to Venezuelan nurses. Basically we do not have a structure and finances to support our critical care nurses to come here. I had to find sponsoring for all of us. However, I have had the opportunity to give my colleagues the experience, and we are all delighted to be involved and to participate. We are very supportive of the WFCCN and its ideals. This congress has given me opportunity to gain rich experiences. Thank you to the WFCCN!" Raiza Rada, President of the Critical Care Nursing Association of Venezuela

"This is my first international congress. First of all I am looking around to soak up information, knowledge and the atmosphere of the place. As a board member of the Danish Society of Anesthesia and Critical Care Nurses I hope to bring back inspiration in order



to plan and develop the Danish annual congresses. Beside that, we have a close collaboration with the other Scandinavian countries. Every three-years we hold a Scandinavian congress and every member country contributes to this event. I very much enjoyed the nursing sessions, but I also attended a few of the physicians' sessions. One of the physicians – Gilbert Park - was both very inspiring and very provocative talking about sedation policy in ICUs. All things considered I have enjoyed my time in Buenos Aires." Tove Pelle, intensive care nurse, board member of the Danish Society of Anesthesia and Critical Care Nurses.



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"To participate in a world congress gives me the opportunity to meet other critical care nurses from other countries and to hear about other ways to do things. It also gives me the opportunity to look outside Australia from a researcher's point of view. You gather memories to take away and you remember the kindness of all people. Besides that there have been opportunities to visit hospitals, intensive care units and to talk to local ICU nurses. The congress is a contribution to ICU nursing around the world." Professor Wendy Chaboyer, Griffith University, Gold Coast, Australia.



"We have been participating in both nurses' and physicians' sessions. We work in the only paediatric ICU in Perth and that's why we join both the physicians' and the nursing sessions in order to gather as much knowledge as possible. Despite the language barrier we have been talking to lots of nurses' and physicians'

from South America. The congress is inspiring and we will bring back lots of experiences." Karina Hay and Ruth Payne, paediatric intensive care nurses, Paediatric ICU, Princess Margaret Hospital, Perth, Australia.



"This is my first international congress and my first opportunity to present a poster. It is exciting and a little bit scary at the same time. I have only been to the nursing sessions. Compared to Slovenia where I come from, the content of the sessions is far more theoretical. In Slovenia we have no postgraduate critical care course and we have a lack of research. I have met so many people from so many countries and to me it is a new world." Drago Satosek, intensive care nurse, board member of the Slovenian Association of Emergency Nurses.