



Paul Fulbrook - Editor



### EDITORIAL

#### Pat Moloney-Harmon, Associate Editor

##### Paediatric critical care nursing

Paediatric critical care nursing is a specialty with a wide-ranging scope of practice. Paediatric intensive care unit (PICU) nurses care for children of all ages and sometimes even young adults in the same unit, and often during the same shift. Paediatric patients may present with a straightforward problem or with an exceedingly multifaceted disease process. Practising as a nurse in this intricate environment entails a solid foundation in the fundamentals, evidence-based clinical practice, a craving for continuous learning, and an aspiration to provide a supportive presence to child and family. PICU nurses make a unique contribution to the patient care experience by creating the environment in which all critically ill children can benefit from the expert care of an exceptionally skilled team of healthcare professionals. PICU nurses also ensure that patients and families are partners with the healthcare team in assuring the best possible outcome.

One area in which PICU nurses have made significant progress, more than any other ICU nursing subspecialty, is in integrating family-centered care into the practice of critical care. Family-centered care is more than just unrestricted parent access to their children. It is including families as valued members of the healthcare team. Family members should be included in multidisciplinary rounds to ensure that their input is integrated into the child's plan of care. Evidence supports this practice. Families rely upon nurses to make the critical care experience more humane for their child and they expect nurses to be the liaison with physicians and other disciplines. Nurses are often the "interpreters", explaining complex information to families in words that they can understand. PICU nurses have gone beyond the identification of family needs to providing evidence for interventions that patients and families find helpful. We give families what they need to help their child.

There are times in the PICU when despite the very best care, cure is no longer possible. At this point, nurses alter their focus to achieving death with dignity and consolation. Nurses support parents and family members through the worst experience in the world, the death of their child. Nurses often manage the experience for patients and families when death is impending. Numerous studies have shown that parents are often dissatisfied with the communication from the healthcare team leading up to the death. Again, nurses play a vital role as interpreters during this time. In addition, nurses often are the ones to provide comfort in the time after the death, even as the physicians have finished talking to the parents. Many times, it is nurses that contact the parents weeks or months after the death to follow up on

## Contents

### Esta es mi unidad: la Unidad de cuidado intensivo pediátrico del Sanatorio de Alta Complejidad Sagrado Corazón [This is my unit: the paediatric intensive care unit, Sanatorio de Alta Complejidad Sagrado Corazón]

*Silvina Echazarreta, Sonia Mendez*.....86

### The neonatal surgical intensive care unit: a Bifocal Clinical Practice Model approach

*Nicola Ramacciati, Beniamino Addey*.....91

### The impact of steroids on hearing after bacterial meningitis

*Lauren Sorce*.....95

### Parents' memories of having a child die in the PICU

*Diane Yorke*.....97

### Book review: Ting and I: A Memoir of Love, Courage and Devotion

*Patricia Burns*.....103

**Connect: The World of Critical Care Nursing** is the official journal of the **World Federation of Critical Care Nurses** and is published in association with the **European federation of Critical Care Nursing associations** and the **Latin American Federation of Intensive Care Nurses**.

the family's well-being. Our skill with caring practices enables us to help families work through the grief process. Many times, family members will remember it was the nurses who sat with them, held their hand, hugged them, and made sure they carried away some small thing by which to remember their child.

This issue of **Connect The World of Critical Care Nursing** is dedicated to nurses who have chosen to care for critically ill children and their families. These authors demonstrate a dedication to creating the environment that makes optimal the best possible outcome. This issue commemorates the global dedication that paediatric critical care nurses make to their patients and families every day. It also recognises the distinctive contributions made by nurses to caring for children and families.

#### EDITOR

Paul Fulbrook (Australia), paul.fulbrook@acu.edu.au

#### ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Birte Baktoft (Denmark), bba@rc.aaa.dk

Ged Williams (Australia), Ged.Williams@health.qld.gov.au

Karl Oyri (Norway), karl.oyri@deltadigital.no

Laura Alberta (Argentina), lauramalbert@yahoo.com

Patricia Moloney-Harmon (USA), pmoloney@lifebridgehealth.org

Sek Ying Chair (Hong Kong), sychair@cuhk.edu.hk

#### INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY BOARDS

##### Africa

Juan Scribante (South Africa), scribantej@medicine.wits.ac.za

##### Asia-Pacific

**CHAIR:** Sek Ying Chair (Hong Kong), sychair@cuhk.edu.hk

David Chan (Hong Kong), dchan123@netvigator.com

Dongoak Debbie Kim (South Korea), dokim@dju.ac.kr

Eve Sison (Phillipines), evesison2000@yahoo.com

##### Europe

**CHAIR:** Birte Baktoft (Denmark), birte.baktoft@mail.dk

Amparo Bernat Adell (Spain), a.bernat.a@telefonica.net

Aysel Badir (Turkey), abadir@ku.edu.tr

Elio Drigo (Italy), edrigo@aniarti.it

Elizabeth Papatthanasoglou (Greece), elipapa@nurs.uoa.gr

Jos Latour (Netherlands), jos.latour@planet.nl

Rósa Þórsteinsdóttir (Iceland), rosa.th@simnet.is

##### Latin America

**CHAIR:** Laura Alberto (Argentina), lauramalbert@yahoo.com

Berta Gamarra (Venezuela), sharol35@yahoo.com

Elina Siviero (Venezuela), elisiviero@hotmail.com

Mariela Mejias (Venezuela), mmjias@vc.edu.ve

Nelly Alconz (Bolivia), nelly\_hazel@yahoo.com

Paola Maria Chauca (Perú), pchauca@hotmail.com

Patricia Morales (Perú), symbolo2001@yahoo.es

Wilson Cañon (Colombia), wilcamo32@yahoo.com

##### Proof editor

Christine Atkinson, christine.atkinson@aapt.net.au

##### Layout

Jamie Fulbrook, jamie@jnewmedia.com

##### Publisher

Connect: The World of Critical Care Nursing is published

by Paul Fulbrook and Jamie Fulbrook.

**Disclaimer** - All rights reserved; no part of this publication may be reproduced, electrical, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise without prior written permission from the publisher. The publishers, editor and editorial board wish to make it clear that the data, opinions and statements appearing in the articles herein are those of the contributor(s) concerned; such opinions are not necessarily shared by the editor or the editorial board. Accordingly, the publishers, editors and editorial board and their respective employees, officers and agents accept no liability for the consequences of any such inaccurate or misleading data, opinions or statements.