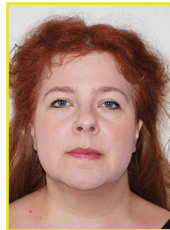




Sek Ying Chair



Elizabeth Papathanassoglou



EDITORIAL

Elizabeth Papathanassoglou, Sek Ying Chair

Connect: Critical care nurses sharing their vision, expertise and evidence in a world of increasing complexity and wonder

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce Sek Ying Chair (Chinese University of Hong Kong) and Elizabeth Papathanassoglou (University of Alberta, Canada), as the new editors of Connect. We also express our gratitude for the continuing support of Professor Paul Fulbrook, founding and honorary editor of Connect, who continues to guide our editorial team, along with pursuing critical care nurses' vision worldwide as the new president of WFCCN.

Since the launch of Connect, critical care nurses have witnessed unprecedented changes in practice, education and research. Critical care nursing roles continue to shift steadily, as we are now much more involved in research, inter-professional practice and evidence-informed care. National and global frameworks of critical care competencies have been formed to guide all levels of critical care nurses education, and nursing roles in critical care have extended with the inclusion of Advanced Practice Nurses in many countries.

Patient and family-centered care and engagement have become priorities internationally (Davidson et al., 2007). The concept of bundling has revolutionized care and has put emphasis on inter-professional teams and timing of interventions. The scientific community also started to realize the merits of non-pharmacologic aspects of care, such as early mobilization, positioning and sleep, and nurses have pioneered all these efforts by implementing evidence-based best practices. Furthermore, we came to realize what a profound impact critical illness can have on individuals and families, and we extended traditional critical care outcomes, which focused mainly on survival, to include measures of functional outcomes, quality of life and post-ICU symptomatology (Svenningsen et al., 2015).

However, problems remain and new challenges manifest. Big differences with regard to critical care practices, workforce, resources, training and nurses' professional satisfaction among countries continue to exist (Papathanassoglou et al., 2012) and the financial crisis has taken its toll on critical care worldwide. Health care equity remains an issue; whereas, the aging population increases workloads and complexity of care. Sepsis and multiple organ dysfunction, and patients' pain, distress and poor long term outcomes are persistent problems. Additionally, despite development of evidence-based guidelines, frequent failure to implement evidence-based practices remains a major problem. Moreover, low nurses' authority, autonomy and lack of training continue to hinder critical care nursing development in many countries.

Throughout these developments Connect has remained focused on clinical practice and patient outcomes. As editors of Connect, our vision is to stay true to the legacy of the journal while focusing our efforts on increasing the journal's momentum as a state-of-the-art publication. We therefore invite critical care practitioners internationally to share developments in practice, research and management, as well as

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conferences, continuing education and professional development efforts. We aspire for Connect to be a source of inspiration and a trigger for change and empowerment. Connect aims to create a nurturing environment that enables all critical care nurses as well as persons with a critical illness experience and their families to have a voice and to be able to inform and inspire the critical care community through making their perspectives, struggles and successes visible.

While looking forward to connect with colleagues, individuals and families in critical care, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to past and present members of the editorial and review boards, as well as to journal contributors, along with wishes for fulfilling and meaningful journeys.

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