

# Sharing Innovative Research and Practice Development Initiatives in Critical Care Nursing

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The 13th World Federation of Critical Care Nurses (WFCCN) World Congress was held in association with the 10th Congress of the Serbian Society for Intensive Care, Anaesthesiology and Resuscitation (UINARS) in Belgrade, Serbia from 25 to 28 October, 2018. The congress was well-attended, with delegates from all over the world. A mixture of invited and free papers were presented, covering all aspects of critical care nursing. Keynote presentations were delivered by Gordana Dragosev (Serbia) and Sarah Livesay (United States). The congress presentations were in either English or Serbian and were of a very high standard. Members of the WFCCN were in attendance for its Council meeting, which was held during the congress, with most also giving papers. A wonderful social program was hosted by UINARS and delegates had many opportunities to explore the sights of Belgrade, including a local hospital visit. The congress was a great success, during which many friendships were renewed and new ones made.

In this issue, readers will have the opportunity to explore paper abstracts from the 13th WFCCN World Congress. There is a wealth of papers, with the majority reporting results of research studies and practice development initiatives. Many papers focus on improvement of technical aspects of care and monitoring, whereas, there is an increasing emphasis on patient-centered care and patient and family engagement. Results of a national initiative on patient-centered care in the United States are also presented. Many research

studies evaluate the effects of innovative nursing interventions on a variety of patients' outcomes, including ICU delirium, pressure ulcers, patient safety, and infections, as well as on nurses' and health care professionals' outcomes, such as competencies and multicultural care. Apart from intervention studies, there is also a great representation of descriptive, correlational, prospective, as well as, retrospective studies. Moreover, important results of systematic reviews and guideline initiatives are presented, as well as many state-of-the-art papers. Simulation applications in critical care nursing education and training also receive lots of interest. Improving sepsis outcomes, reducing nosocomial infections, such as ventilator-associated pneumonia and sepsis campaign strategies in various countries was another important focus of the Congress. Apart from patients' outcomes several studies focus on the critical care environment and critical care nurses' issues, including a WFCCN survey of challenges faced by critical care nurses in 104 countries. Overall, there is a great representation of quantitative study approaches with increasing references to patients' lived experience and qualitative methods.

Research foci as reflected in the work presented by Congress delegates, represent the advancements and successes of each country, and signify the progress of critical care nursing worldwide. Indeed, in the international scene we are experiencing an increasing number of interventional studies, including randomized

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controlled studies led by nurses, as well as a heightened emphasis on person and family engagement in critical care, along with an increased weight on recovery trajectories and quality of life post-ICU discharge (Gill et al., 2016; Johnson, Bush, Brandzel, & Wernli, 2016). Moreover, there is an increasing number of qualitative studies, employing a variety of qualitative approaches ranging from content analysis to phenomenology, hermeneutics, and ethnography (Charlesworth & Foëx, 2016). The WFCCN World Congress has become an important venue for sharing innovative research and practice development in critical care nursing, and for stimulating international collaboration in initiatives that make a difference for critical care patients, families, and healthcare professionals.

## References

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