

# 2015

## EfCCNa Annual Report 2015



European federation of  
Critical Care Nursing  
associations –  
EfCCNa



European Federation of Critical Care Nursing associations

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# Introduction

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Welcome to this year's annual report and accounts of the federation for the 2015-16 calendar year. Since taking over as President there have been a number of exciting challenges. The new direction that we have taken over the last 12 months has involved a number of fundamental changes in the way we conduct our federation.

We revised and released a new strategy [Strategy 2020] where we scrutinized and revised our mission statements. Already we have been successfully meeting our objectives in representing critical care nurses and nursing in Europe; promoting co-operation and collaboration; promoting the art and science of science of critical care nursing; and establishing standards for education and practice.

These successes are highlighted in our achievements on the website (congresses; position statements; education competency tools). In the past year we set new goals and objectives to focus resources and efforts to accomplish more of our mission.

These included improving the recognition of critical care as a specialty in Europe; actively engaging in EU health care policy; strengthening our collaborations with other international groups; and seeking new ways of collaborating with industry in partnership. These new goals are being addressed by project groups of EfCCNa Council representatives 'working together'.

I am confident that we will be successful in these objectives and that we will provide a stronger and more visible federation that 'achieves more' for the future of critical care nursing in Europe.



Dr Bronagh Blackwood  
President

# Activities

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## ***Administrative details***

### *Board of Officers*

Bronagh Blackwood (President)  
Anne Kokko (Vice President)  
Colette Ram (Secretary)  
Drago Satosek (Treasurer)  
Eva Barkestad (Board member with responsibility for Congress)  
David Waters (Board member with responsibility for European Affairs)

## ***Council of Representatives***

Country, association members and representatives can be found at  
<http://www.efccna.org/about/member-associations>

## ***Meetings***

Two Council of Representative meetings were held in 2015: January prior to the Congress in Valencia, Spain and September in Krems, Austria. The Board of Officers conducted 9 Skype Meetings and three face-to-face meetings (two before each Council meeting and one in July 2015).

## ***Representation/members***

By the end of 2015 EfCCNa had 26 member associations from 23 different European countries representing 14,722 individual nurse members.

## ***Activity dissemination***

EfCCNa published two newsletters for member distribution highlighting its activities. These are available on the EfCCNa website <http://www.efccna.org/about/efccna-newsletters>. Additionally, the EfCCNa provided regular information dissemination via its Face Book page <https://www.facebook.com/EfCCNa?ref=bookmarks>.

## ***Ongoing projects in 2015***

*Commercial co-operation:* Elin Steffinak chair, Kaisa Jakobsson, Paul van den Heiden. Ongoing project: a key objective of this project is to promote collaboration with industry.

*EU engagement resource:* David Waters chair, Karin Klas, Iben Tousgaard, Frederique Paulus.  
Ongoing project: the main aim of this project is to develop a tool box resource that will help member associations to engage with EU political agencies

*Pain management standard development:* Andreas Schäfer chair, Victor Gomez, Julie Benbenishty, Aleksandra Gutysz-Wonjnicka, Sylvia Scelsi. This project will provide guidance on best practice in pain management in ICU.

## Our achievements

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The following are the EfCCNa's key achievements in 2015, measured against the objectives we set.

### *European Engagement*

EfCCNa, in its role to represent critical care nurses across Europe, works closely with an organisation called European Specialist Nurses Organisation [ESNO, [www.esno.org](http://www.esno.org)]. ESNO brings together all specialist nursing groups from across Europe and has currently 15 member organisations, including EfCCNa. ESNO plays a political and strategic role within the EU, through active engagement and dialogue with key policy makers and EU bodies, such as European Commission departments focusing on healthcare and workforce.

This year, EfCCNa participated in an ESNO Summit event which attracted many delegates including representatives from the European Commission and focused on issues surrounding specialist nursing competence and workforce mobility across the EU. Council members David Waters (BACCN) and Frederique Paulus (V&VNIC) represented EfCCNa at the Summit and gave a presentation to delegates concerning the development of competencies within EfCCNa [[http://www.efccna.org/images/stories/publication/competencies\\_cc.pdf](http://www.efccna.org/images/stories/publication/competencies_cc.pdf)]. For a full report of the event, to view the programme or the presentations delivered, click here [<http://www.esno.org/summit-2015.php>].

### *Successful Congress*

We hosted the 6<sup>th</sup> EfCCNa Congress in Valencia, Spain that attracted almost 400 nurses from Europe and beyond. We had some very interesting and thought provoking keynote addresses from Kay Mitchell from Biomedical



Research Unit, Southampton, England talking about the ICU research expeditions to the Everest; from Louise Rose from University Toronto, Canada talking about setting up critical care training programmes in Ethiopia; and from Mark van den Boogaard from Radboud University Medical Centre, Nijmegen, Netherlands talking about detecting and preventing delirium in ICU patients. Altogether at this congress we had 182 presentations from 28 countries. This was a great testament to the work that has been conducted by critical care nurses not only within Europe, but beyond.

### *Launch of the Critical Care Doctoral European Nurses (CC-DEN) group*



During the Congress, EfCCNa launched the CC-DEN group and hosted its first inaugural meeting. This brought together 40 doctoral nurses from across Europe who gave their support to establishing a group to facilitate networking and collaborating on research grants together for the benefits of patients. A Steering Committee was established and the CC-DEN website was developed [<http://www.efccna.org/nursing-research/cc-doctoral-european-nurses-group>].

The site hosts the CVs of those members to encourage active engagement. Already in 2015, CC-DEN members engaged in their first EU grant submission to the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowship 2016 award [COAST: Cognitive Outcomes After life Supportive Therapy, lead Bronagh Blackwood, N. Ireland], demonstrating the value of what the group can achieve.

### *EfCCNa Fellowship Award*

Past President Rosa Thorsteindottir from Iceland was awarded a lifelong Fellowship with EfCCNa. Fellowships are honorary titles bestowed on EfCCNa ambassadors who have made an outstanding contribution to the development of EfCCNa as an organization.

A founding member of EfCCNa and representative for Iceland, Rosa Thorsteindottir has inspired, motivated and cultivated the growth of the organization.

She joins nine other EfCCNa Fellows in the Hall of Fame on the website [<http://www.efccna.org/about/efccna-annual-reports>].



## Impact and value

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The work of the federation in research, education and facilitating exchange among countries continues to make a very positive impact on nursing practice.

In research for example, the 2012 EfCCNa Position Paper urged European ICU nurses to consider the development and use of weaning protocols in their practice [The Nurse's Role in Weaning from Mechanical Ventilation]. Publication of this statement prompted national associations to issue clinical guidelines for weaning.

For example, the Israeli Society for Cardiology and Intensive Care Nurses translated the EfCCNa position paper, and developed national guidelines for protocolized weaning from mechanical ventilation.



These have been distributed to all ICU nurses on their distribution lists and published in the Israeli nursing journal in Hebrew [Benbenishty J et al. Weaning from mechanical ventilation. Guidelines of the Israeli Society of Cardiac and ICU nurses. Israeli Nurse Journal 2013; 91: 30-32]. They are being introduced to all ICUs and currently are being used in the 4 main ICUs in Jerusalem.

The EfCCNa's funding of research awards demonstrates the value that we place on driving forward research that will lead to improvements in practice for the benefit of patients.

Last year saw the completion of two funded studies [Study of Variability of Care Provided during non-invasive Ventilation, PI: Marta Raurell from the Spanish association and Sleep Disturbances and Sedation Practice in the Intensive Care Unit PI: José Hofhuis from the Dutch association] and results have already been disseminated.

This year the recipient of the EfCCNa research award was Lorna Krone, a member of the Danish Association of Anesthesia, Intensive Care and Recovery Nurses (FSAIO) with her project titled Dandelion: Danish Delirium Study on Neuro-intensive Care Patients. The study will investigate delirium in patients with acute acquired brain injury and will finish in 2018.

In addition, building on its previous work from the published position statement on weaning, the EfCCNa supported a research study investigating the role of European nurses in weaning from mechanical ventilation. The outcome of this work will be used to plan future education and training projects led by EfCCNa.

Furthermore, in 2009 the EfCCNa commenced work on a large educational project to develop a Critical Care Nursing competency framework that could be utilized in practice to assess competence and facilitate continuing professional development.

### EfCCNa Critical Care Nursing Competency Tool



The motivation for pursuing this project came from member associations within EfCCNa, who reported the need for a competency assessment tool that could allow competence to be mapped, but also to articulate an acceptable level of clinical skill and knowledge for the critical care nursing workforce across Europe.

Use of the EfCCNa Competency Tool for European Critical Care Nurses 2013 has escalated and it has since been translated into German (2014), Finnish (2015) and Polish (2016) and published on the EfCCNa website.

In relation to sharing practice and our motto “*Working Together Achieving More*”, the Exchange programme continues to bring value to practice sharing. In total there have been 42 nurses that have participated and benefitted from this programme. During 2015, four nurses (three from Spain, one from Poland) visited two hospitals in Stockholm in Sweden for a five to six week period.

The EfCCNa Face Book page is achieving impact on widening our visibility with more than 1300 followers and more than 1000 hits per month. The Federation effectively utilises Face Book to promote EfCCNa activities and share developments within European critical care nursing. Specific posts have highlighted new research, online resources and conference opportunities.

## Future Plans

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The 2015 activities and successes provide an excellent platform to strengthen the EfCCNa’s strategic plans for 2016.

### *Strengthening research and education*

1. Establishment of the CC-DEN group has provided us with an excellent opportunity to engage in European research. Our future plans are to collaborate in submitting grants to the European Commission. Already two project submissions are underway:
  - a. Horizon 2020 - Research and Innovation Framework Programme [COMIC-NET: Communication of Symptoms in Intensive Care patients, lead Tone Rouston, Norway];
  - b. Erasmus+ Strategic Partnerships [MICE-ICU: Multicultural Care in European Intensive Care Units, lead Aleksandra Gutysz –Wojnicka, Poland]
2. An application for funding is being sought from the Northern Ireland Health and Social Care Research & Development Office to host a scientific meeting of the 2nd CC-DEN group for February 2017 [lead, Bronagh Blackwood].
3. EfCCNa will continue to provide funding for researchers in member associations for



European Research Awards.

4. The Organising and Scientific Committees will begin to plan the 7th EfCCNa Congress for 2017, with a view to increasing the number of delegates and commercial exhibitors.

### *Widening recruitment*

Our future plans are to identify and attract other European national associations to join us in our efforts of working together and achieving more. Negotiations are currently underway to increase recruitment with critical care nursing associations in Ireland and Macedonia.

## Finances

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In 2015, EfCCNa generated a total revenue of € 22.554,20.

Total Expenses amounted to € 16.740,76, which resulted in a positive balance of + € 5.813,44 for 2015.

