



NZANN International Relations Statement Council of International Neonatal Nurses (COINN)

Over the past decade, many neonatal nurses from around the world have expressed an interest in forming Council of International Neonatal Nurses (COINN). Neonatal nurses from the National Association of Neonatal Nurses (NANN) of the United States, the National Neonatal Association (NNA) of the United Kingdom, Australian Neonatal Nurses Association (ANNA), and New Zealand Association of Neonatal Nurses (NZANN) have worked together to address common care and professional issues. These groups have sponsored five International Neonatal Nursing conferences with the last in May 2004 in Ottawa, Canada. At the Ottawa conference a Steering Committee was formed. Members of that committee are: Ruth Davidge, South Africa, Priscilla Frappier, USA, Carole Kenner, USA-Chair, Michael McIlhone, New Zealand, Catherine McPherson, Canada, Shahirose Premji, Canada, Joanne Smith, United Kingdom, and Kaye Spence, Australia. The next International conference is planned for India in September 2007, where the first face-to-face COINN Executive board meeting will be held.

COINN's mission, vision, and core values are: **Mission:** As recognized global leaders in neonatal nursing care we are committed to fostering excellence in neonatal nursing, promoting the development of neonatal nursing as a recognized global specialty, high standards of neonatal care, enhancing quality of care for our patients and families, decreasing health disparities, and improving healthcare outcomes. **Vision Statement:** COINN represents global unity for neonatal nursing. The Council speaks with one strong voice to facilitate the growth of neonatal nursing and improve healthcare outcomes for our patients and families worldwide. The role of the Council is advocate, policy maker, quality evaluator, collaborator with healthcare, corporate, and lay groups, educator of health professionals, legislators, and lay public, and leader in global neonatal nursing.

We appreciate and support cultural differences and work towards health promotion with the context of cultural norms and values. We value technology as a support of our work but not to the exclusion of the human touch. We believe in the blend of the art and science of nursing to promote neonatal healthcare outcomes. We believe in the holistic aspect of care to incorporate all aspects of health promotion and disease prevention.

We support the development of neonatal nursing on a global level as a recognized specialty that is dedicated to infants and their families. To this end we foster collaboration with existing national neonatal or other nursing organizations that share similar values and beliefs.

COINN's core values are:

- Excellence in quality neonatal care, practice, and education
- Neonatal nursing as a global specialty
- Family-centered care
- Culturally sensitive care
- Respect for differences
- Compassion
- Healthy work environments
- Standards of Care, Practice, and Education

The council is the voice of the international community on neonatal nursing care issues. It allows nurses from all over the world to work together on common problems, sharing the world's expertise and disseminating important information to areas that have little or no access. This council provides international nurses the opportunity to influence health policy, not only for neonatal nursing and their clients; but also for nurses involved in the care of children around the globe.

We believe that the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Council of Nurses (ICN) can serve as the vehicle to organize neonatal nursing groups along with other nurses who are willing to serve as contacts in their parts of the world, to address global neonatal care and professional issues.

To date over 40 countries are represented with Liberia being the latest added. Informally COINN has assisted some countries to develop professional standards and practice standards for neonatal nurses as well as forming a Neonatal Association in Kenya, and Canada.

In May 2005, COINN officially gained affiliate status of the International Council of Nurses. One of the first specialist nursing groups to do so.

Next Steps

Currently COINN is working on developing an International Education Standards Policy, NZANN are actively involved in this with CONNA, the College of Neonatal Nurses Australia. COINN is also seeking out long term corporate sponsorships.

More Information on COINN and its links are available via its website www.coinnurses.org

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