



Kate Fitzpatrick, Rn
EAUN Chair

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without opposition by this group a real vote of confidence.

Q: Are you pleased with the current state of the EAUN? In your meeting, you mentioned some encouraging results from the past year, like a growing membership. Do you see any scope for improvement?

A: Absolutely. I have to acknowledge the previous chair, who's now become vice-chair, Bente Thoft Jensen. She really pioneered the organisation and developed international links. As a result, we've become very successful.

The downside is that we have a lot of extra demands on our time. I suppose you have to remember that most of us doing this have full-time jobs. The re-structuring and expansion of the board comes on foot of that. I'm hoping in time that what started off as quite a small, local and friendly organisation is going into quite a business.

Q: What are areas that really need attention at the moment?

A: What we really need to develop is the helping of our colleagues in non-English speaking countries. For instance, we've had great interest from nurses from Kosovo, Estonia, Cyprus, and Turkey, and I think that's one of the things we can focus on: encouraging people to become more competent in English.

We are also often approached by similar organisations, like the European Oncology Nursing Society and Europa UOMO, who are looking for representatives from the EAUN to assist them on projects or to have joint projects. So there's plenty of demand.

Q: You mentioned accreditation as a particular demand that's often voiced.

A: Yes, that's something that I'm very passionate about. I have previous experience in nurse education and accreditation, and I'm quite familiar with the quality assurance process that's involved in that. But

it's not something that can happen overnight, it's quite a complicated process.

Very much on the horizon is the European School of Urology Nursing. This is part of our education and accreditation plan. We've had good support from the ESU in this preliminary phase. The first steps will be baby steps, with some sort of gentle online module, and then in future this will develop into something more structured and advanced.

One of our challenges is that different countries allow nurses to do different things. So everybody comes to the table with a different practices, responsibilities and ideas. So it's quite difficult to meet everyone's needs.

It's quite obvious that on a global scale, the role of nurses has been changing. Nurses are prescribing in some countries now, and they're actually practitioners in other countries. Therefore it behooves us to provide a suitable educational resource.

Q: Congratulations on your election. It seemed to be unanimous?

A: It seemed to be, yes! There's a very strong community in urological nursing, and it's very nice to get together as we have today. Most of the time, our communications will go through e-mail, but to get this fraternity of European colleagues together allows us to strengthen our bonds. I consider being elected

EAUN Meeting: Scientific and social programme impresses

From 19-21 March the 12th International EAUN Meeting took place in Vienna, Austria. The meeting was very well attended with over 400 delegates from 38 countries worldwide. The three-day programme covered different fields in urology with an emphasis on oncology and research. Below is a compilation of some of the enthusiastic responses from the delegates.

Australian nurse reports on Vienna experiences



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I've been a member of EAUN for several years, but residing in Australia, I hadn't yet attended a meeting. This year I had the opportunity to attend the meeting in Vienna, and I was very excited at the prospect of meeting European urological nursing colleagues and hearing about their nursing experiences first-hand.

Vienna was a superb venue. It was hard to tear myself away from sightseeing to attend the meeting. But I did, and thoroughly enjoyed it. Amongst the meeting highlights for me was the workshop "Bridging evidence-based research and clinical nursing." This workshop provided a very good overview of some nursing research projects, followed by a presentation from Rn. Jane Hokanson Hawks in her role as Editor of Urologic Nursing. Jane's talk was full of practical information and tips about how to get nursing research published and even addressed the problem of how to overcome writer's block!

A lunch Symposium devoted to non-muscle-invasive bladder cancer, in particular the role of Hexvix guided fluorescence cystoscopy, was well attended and discussed the potential benefits and limitations of this technology. The State-of-the-art lecture "Effects of PCa on spouses and families" was a review of the findings of the impact of prostate cancer and its treatment on spouses.

It has been reported that female partners of men with prostate cancer tend to trade off sexual activity for their partner's survival, but they still report they may feel unattractive due to the lack of sexual attention. Men reported that they were unaware of the females' feelings as they did not complain. The lack of interventional studies for spouses of men with biochemical recurrence of their prostate cancer, or more advanced disease was acknowledged.



The winning Danish team defends their research plan: "Can postoperative nutritional therapy influence the convalescent period for patients"

One session I particularly enjoyed was the EAUN Nursing Research Competition. The questions and feedback from the multi-disciplinary panel reviewing the proposed nursing research projects was very comprehensive and probing and would be of benefit for any potential nurse researchers. Both projects had a great deal of merit and it would not have been an easy task to select the winner.

Another feature for me was meeting international urological nursing colleagues. Bente Thoft Jensen arranged a meeting between EAUN Chair Kate Fitzpatrick, Sue Osborne from New Zealand, Nora Love from USA, Bente and myself, and we had an informal discussion about activities in each of our urological nursing organisations and how to continue to continue to communicate and work together in the future. It was a terrific opportunity to network at this level and I was very pleased to have made some new friends!

Again, it was a wonderful few days in Vienna. I certainly hope to be able to attend future EAUN meetings. And I would like to extend an invitation to all EAUN members to attend an ANZUNS meeting Downunder!

Meeting the European colleagues in Vienna



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I was very excited to finally participate in the EAUN Meeting held in Vienna this year as this was my first opportunity. Regrettably, I missed last year's Meeting due to the volcanic ash ejected in Iceland in 2010.

Our UNAHK Chairman, Mr. Gilbert Lui and I arrived one day before the event began. Having checked in at the hotel, we went to the congress venue for registration right away. At the registration area, there was an advanced registration bar code system and the staff was very efficient. Therefore, I could spend more time to go sightseeing on my first day.

On the morning of 18 March 2011, we took the shuttle bus arranged by the EAUN to visit the AKH University Hospital Vienna and the Josephinum Museum. Although it was a cold and rainy day, I could strongly feel the warm welcome from the hospital's Nurse Manager. She showed us around the hospital like a professional tour guide. The urological wards are much more spacious compared to those in Hong Kong and there is a big window with nice view at the nursing station. I am sure it can greatly help nurses relieve their pressure. After the hospital visit, we went to the Medical University's Josephinum Museum which boasted an extensive collection of surgical equipment. Furthermore, there is a library in the museum which stores more than 400 ancient medical reference books. One more thing that surprised me was the large number of wax models in the museum for medical students' reference. It would be quite scary to have to stay there overnight!

The EAUN Meeting offered a variety of scientific

programmes which allowed participants to choose the most suitable programmes. I found the "The Importance of Patient Positioning and Safety on a Urological OR" and "TRUS Prostate Biopsy Guidelines" presented by Ms. Philippa Aslet to be very informative and useful. Indeed, the EAUN Meeting not only provided comprehensive and up-to-date scientific programmes, it also featured a "Poster & Oral Abstract Session" which I found very interesting. Each of the speakers had done a lot of research for their abstracts and their presentations were most impressive, particularly Mr. Lawrence Drudge-Coates's. He is a great speaker and his presentation was fascinating and interactive, so he absolutely deserved the best presentation award.

Furthermore, many sessions were webcasted online within several hours after the session. I think this is a great idea and it is a very useful tool as participants can review the content right away in case they miss some information during the session.



The Welcome reception, sponsored by Coloplast, offered a perfect occasion to catch up with colleagues and meet new friends

The welcome cocktail arranged by the EAUN was excellent, allowing every participant to build up a network with other participants from all over the world after the end of congress's first day.

This trip has really broadened my view and I am glad that I could see some of the nurses who I'd met during my Homerton attachment again at the EAUN Meeting. Actually, several of our UNAHK committee members also participated in this big event to learn how to improve our own congress. I highly recommend all of our urology nurses in HK & China to participate in the next EAUN Meeting held in Paris.

Taking part in the EAUN Meeting is great experience



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We have actively participated in the last three EAUN Congresses, contributing oral and poster presentations. In Barcelona, we successfully presented the integration of paediatric activity in a Division of Adult Urology and in Vienna we presented the second part of this interesting experience.

We started this experience, believing that standardisation and Evidence-Based Medicine should



The Quality of Life in urology stoma patients was very educational and fun at the same time

support the nurse and improve the service. Through the EAUN, we were introduced to the European nursing community, with its many events. This year, the three of us took the chance to upgrade our knowledge and to exchange opinions with colleagues from other countries in the beautiful Austrian capital, Vienna, the town of the legendary Habsburg princess Sissy.

As in all previous years, the congress was perfectly organised, and all lectures, workshops and other presentations were of a very high level. All speakers were highly competent and understandable. At Monday morning's symposium, we learned a lot about the psycho-social impact and lifestyle changes in patients affected with bladder dysfunction who perform intermittent catheterisation. This side is often forgotten in daily routine. After the Sunday afternoon workshop, we brought home some new nursing tools to instruct our patients with prostate cancer on the possible side effects during the therapy. Speaker Lawrence Drudge-Coates emphasised the key role for nursing in the assessment and monitoring the risk of bone metastasis, and he explained how to deal with the impact that skeletal complications have on the quality of life of our patients.

For all colleagues who would like to do research, but don't have enough experience in this field or maybe are only too shy to present their research, one of the most useful workshops, in my humble opinion, was performed by Ms. Jane Hokanson-Hawks. She explained from beginning to end how to do research, write up findings and how to prepare a good research abstract that can be accepted and presented for the occasion of a congress.

In the second part of her presentation, Hokanson-Hawks gave us some good advice, in great detail, on how to become research writers and how to get our research results published. She even offered her personal help to edit our written research. Collaboration with members of the Academy of Nursing Editors can give a great opportunity to improve our writing capability.

I have to mention, a training opportunity that the EAUN offers: I had the chance to practice my presentation and delivery skills with Mr. Paul Casella, speaking consultant, who let me in on some small secrets to give better presentations.

Taking part in the EAUN congress is great experience for us, and we hope that we will have this privilege in the future. I would like to use this chance to invite all colleagues in Europe and beyond to join us in making use of what the EAUN can offer us!