

2017 ICPAN Conference Scholarship Report – Sydney Australia

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Tides of Change- Becoming the Wave Down Undah

As I Reminisce over my experience attending the 3rd biennial International conference I am reminded We as nurses are indeed the waves that change the tide of health care through Advocacy, Education and Research. Over 400 nurses attended the conference from around the world. It is noted close to a quarter of the attendees were from America and half of the Americans were from my home state of California. I am proud to see how many of us realize how important it is to network globally for the betterment of our patients and health care as a whole

We tested the current of this event by optional hospital tours and workshops. As luck would have it the hospital tours had reached capacity very quickly allowing surprising exploration of the other opportunities of learning.

Knowing I am attending the novice presenter program at the next ASPAN conference I chose the Master Class: The Second Victim presentation. Professors Stephen Gatt and Professor Andre Zundert utilized a situation where a systems failure had caused harm to a patient. After reviewing the consequences of this system failure to this patient and family, they shifted our focus to *The Second Victim* also damaged in this situation. The practitioner(s) caring for this patient are also a victim. We been taught y our careers to do no harm, to help heal yet situations happen and the collateral damage results in the doctors, nurses, care partners etc. to also be injured. The injury, although not physical harms the soul of the care provider to the very core. Sometimes this injury results in the practitioner leaving healthcare altogether or even taking one's own life. It was a different take on this situation I never thought upon until this presentation and I am so glad I got the opportunity.

The welcome reception following this half day was wonderful meeting people across the globe. The reception and all the breaks through out were all in the same room as the trade exhibitors and poster presentations. Breaks were formalized, and I think made sense, so we could refresh ourselves for the next presenters. ASPAN may want to think about this format. Lunch was also served here as well which allowed us to maximize our time to the different exhibitors

The official Conference opening ceremony began with an Aboriginal artist performing on his Didgeridoo. He was down to earth funny and engaging much like the people I met through out Australia. This was followed by the Inauguration of Australian College of Perianesthesia Nursing Fellows. The Fellows undergo a highly specialized training to assist the Anesthesiologist in caring for the perioperative patient in the operating room. Duties include preparing the anesthesia machine and intubating the patient with supervision.

Dr. Paula Foran Keynote address, She reminded us that patients entrust themselves into our care when they are at there most vulnerable and dependent. As our patient population advances so does the technology to care for them. The more technology the more nurses need to step up our art of care and empathy. We all have that Florence Nightingale in all of us. We need to continue to Care to learn about what we don't know. Dr Foran reminded us that PACU was invented by surgeons because patients going

directly to the wards after surgery were having complications and dying. PACU nurses have a huge teaching role to ensure, during handoff, the next care provider understands the patient they are receiving, the complications to watch for and advocate for proper patient placement for proper level of care. She invited us to embrace and appreciate our special skills and celebrate them together.

Our second presenters of the day discussed their experience and success in Cameroon Africa in teaching a recovery room course. Many of the participants in the class were not nurses but sent to the class to fulfill a need. I realize how blessed we are comparatively to the training and care we can give and must continue to strive to give better care and advocate globally for patient care and safety.

Our next presenter of the day discussed the importance of activating the patient and family for successful Enhanced recovery after surgery. Engaging the patient to work toward their successful recovery. Successful ERAS begins and the preop stage of surgery and continues well after the discharge to home.

I really was excited with the concurrent sessions as well. Topics were directly taken from the research poster presenters. Conferences talk about networking and sharing knowledge with each other. By giving the stage to each of the presenters in concurrent sessions, ICPAN was “walking the walk”. Fellow nurses sharing successful practices is what I feel going to the conferences is about. ASPAN should incorporate this more. I do love the “successful practices offering at the ASPAN conferences and have incorporated this practice in to our program with PANAC. I have noted the conference rooms are at capacity every time I have gone to successful practices at ASPAN. PANAC conferences, we have got nothing but positive feedback. I would encourage ASPAN to expand the speaker’s topic time and split the speaker fee between the two topics an hour. I also loved that all the abstracts for the posters was in the handout. And would suggest that ASPAN follow suit. As we are of an electronic age, having the abstracts available on line would work as well. I would also suggest adding a contact email for nurses to follow up with their presentations

On a side note, I was talking with a few of the nurses about Pod Casts at LDI. Utilizing the poster presentation could be excellent topics to start the Pod casts.

The Second full day of conference started we were reminded without airway management there can be no surgery. 600 deaths a year due to tracheal intubation in Australia before video laryngoscopy practice became the norm. this was followed by The Gathering of Nations where by we were assigned tables so to have nurses from all areas of the world to discuss topics such as patient flow education of staff, pain control and patient specific issue and discuss how in our corners of the world we handle the situations. We then shared to all tables by utilizing SHAKESPARE app program where one person at each table utilized their phone to share to the group on the big screen in the room. It was a wonderful experience and my only suggestion is to give each topic more time to discuss and respond or if time is of the essence, less topics to work on. I think we all realized as a global community we all have similar issue yet may have gotten insight how solve our issues better.

There was an optional boat cruise dinner which was an amazing experience as well. Cruising under the harbor bridge and pass the Sydney Opera house was so cool. I would Suggest ASPAN offer a similar optional event if possible.

Our last day started with DR Jan Odom-Foran reminding us that much like the Harbor Bridge in Sydney Harbor, we as nurses must bridge the gaps for patient care at home. Assisting the care givers at home with the knowledge to succeed on assisting their loved to recovery. As a nurse who works in all phase of care including Phase II, it solidified the work we are doing and how important it is to prepare patients and caregivers on their recovery at home. Giving them the tools to deal with pain constipation mobility etc. Will increase the patients' success in healing and decrease caregiver stress. I hope Dr Foran can present this topic again as it was truly amazing topic.

The Next topic was regarding Life box." For millions of people in low resource settings there is no such thing as a routine surgery. Surgery is urgent, lifesaving and often unsafe". Life box program prioritizes safety in surgery and anesthesia on a global scale. What we take for granted our realm of practice is not available in underdeveloped areas of the world still. The Life box is working to change that by having things like pulse oximeters available to anesthesia and surgery suites. It is the first time on hearing about this program. I think ASPAN should have Life box present at our conference and donate an exhibit table to them for our conference.

This was followed by concurrent sessions of the novice speakers presenting on topics of education, advocacy and innovation and research. Kudos to all the participants. It reminded me of growing our own. we always are on the lookout for new and exciting speakers. this program with the preconference and actual presenters shines a light to all potential new speakers

Our last session included our own Sue Fossum presenting on these challenging times where health care is creating opportunities to have a greater voice for healthcare changes and policy. The voice of nursing is much too often silent and we as nurses have an obligation and opportunity to make positive impacts on the nursing profession whether in the workplace, their community or for the nursing profession itself. After Attending ICPAN and meeting and exploring shared practices I see we can use our global nursing voice to provide a forum to improve safe and effective health practices and actions to improve global patient care

I would like to thank you again for this opportunity. It was an amazing experience and look forward to going to future conferences