



# Celebrating 40 Years of Advocating for Critical Care Nursing: Adapting to a Changing Landscape

07 - 08 October 2025: The Winter Gardens, Blackpool

#BACCNConf2025

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## BACCN Annual Conference 2025: Delegate Feedback

Your presence at the BACCN Conference 2025 and your invaluable feedback are deeply appreciated. Your insights are not just important; they are fundamental to our continuous efforts to enhance and shape the future direction of our events.

We were genuinely heartened by the overwhelmingly positive reception for the quality and relevance of our keynote and concurrent sessions, which many found both informative and deeply engaging. The exceptional networking opportunities, fostering vital connections and a vibrant sense of community, consistently emerged as a highlight. Furthermore, the overall organisation, including the Welcome Reception and Conference Dinner, received broad approval.

Nevertheless, your constructive feedback has also clearly illuminated crucial areas where we are unequivocally committed to elevating your experience at future conferences:

**Venue & Location Experience:** We acknowledge the varied sentiments regarding Blackpool as our host city. While we understand that some delegates raised concerns about the surrounding area, our decision to bring the conference to Blackpool was a conscious one, driven by our commitment to actively support local economies and communities – a significant value for BACCN. Extensive exploration of other regional options revealed that they could not meet our specific requirements for event space and overall cost-effectiveness. Our unwavering commitment is to ensure the BACCN Conference remains both accessible and sustainable. By strategically selecting a venue like the Winter Gardens that aligned with our operational needs and budget, we have proudly maintained delegate fees at their 2019 level. This delicate balance between fostering local economies and sustaining affordable conference costs is vital for our community. For future events, we will proactively ensure that clear information on personal safety measures and specific venue safety provisions is provided to all attendees.

**Catering & Exhibition Engagement:** We recognise that the catering, particularly at the Conference Dinner, was below our usual standards. Concerns regarding service speed, food quality, and the critical need for more diverse and inclusive dietary options have been noted. We are committed to collaborating closely with our caterers for all future events to significantly elevate the culinary experience, guaranteeing timely service and a broader, more transparent array of choices. Please be assured that your detailed comments on all catering aspects are being conveyed directly to the dinner venue's catering company.

Regarding feedback on the absence of dedicated tables and chairs within the exhibition, we understand this can be inconvenient. However, this design choice is specifically implemented to actively encourage and facilitate delegate engagement with the exhibition space. Our experience clearly shows that extensive seating in these areas can inadvertently prevent the majority of delegates from exploring the exhibition, thereby significantly reducing the exposure our valued sponsors and exhibitors receive. Without their crucial

financial support, delivering a conference of this high calibre would not be possible, and in return for their contribution, they depend on interaction with our delegates - an interaction directly fostered by this layout.

**Digital Platform & Poster Presentation:** Our use of a digital platform and digital poster displays represents a conscious and significant step towards reducing paper consumption, reflecting our genuine commitment to promoting and achieving maximum sustainability. We acknowledge the challenges some delegates encountered with our event app and the digital display of poster sessions. Issues relating to app usability, connectivity, and the clarity of digital poster presentations, unfortunately, detracted from their full potential. Our team will be thoroughly reviewing all digital platforms, with a focus on improving app functionality and user-friendliness, enhancing Wi-Fi provision across venues, and exploring more effective and interactive methods for showcasing valuable research.

**Programme Content & Timings:** Your suggestions for a greater variety of clinical sessions, more advanced topics, and improved spacing between sessions are well received. For the upcoming BACCN Conference, we wish to emphasise that the richness and quality of our program are profoundly shaped by you, our critical care community. Most of our sessions, including workshops directly related to clinical care and more advanced topics, are built upon abstracts submitted by dedicated individuals. We eagerly rely on your willingness to share your valuable work, research, and insights through this medium. Your contributions are essential for us to craft a full, comprehensive, and cutting-edge agenda that remains highly relevant, practitioner-led, and truly reflective of the latest advancements and challenges in critical care.

**Valuing Face-to-Face Interaction & Future Formats:** We profoundly value the unique energy and unparalleled networking opportunities inherent in face-to-face sessions. While delegates have expressed interest in a more hybrid approach or access to live recordings for later viewing, it's important to note that implementing these options introduces a considerable additional cost to the conference. We are carefully evaluating these possibilities, weighing them against our commitment to maintaining affordable delegate fees, and will continue to seek solutions that enhance accessibility without compromising the conference's financial sustainability.

**Making Conferences Accessible:** In our ongoing commitment to fostering professional development and inclusivity, we are proud to confirm that BACCN, through various grant initiatives, supported nearly 100 individuals in attending the conference in Blackpool. These valuable grants are a core benefit of membership and are available to all BACCN members, from early career professionals to our long-standing, experienced colleagues. We encourage everyone to explore BACCN membership to access such enriching opportunities.

Your insights are truly invaluable, and they will directly inform our meticulous planning for the BACCN Conference 2026 in Belfast and all subsequent events. We are dedicated to continuously evolving and delivering a conference that genuinely meets and exceeds the needs and expectations of our vital critical care nursing community.

Thank you once again for your participation and for helping us shape an even better future for the BACCN Conference.