

Report on attending BACCN 37th Annual Conference & 1st Joint BACCN/IACCN Conference

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Deborah Dawson

After the past two years, headlined for critical care by CoViD, it was a delight to once again attend a conference in person and to talk face to face to colleagues. CoViD, thankfully, was not the headline at this conference, but the ability for nurses at all levels to Break down Barriers and achieve innovation and excellence in critical care nursing, where ever that might be. The key note talks on both days took this message to heart alongside the various themed streams including veterinary, critical care outreach, research, paediatric and simulation.

Over the two days we heard from five keynote speakers, the first, Christine Sheehan, told us of her journey to advanced practice and her thoughts on practice in the future, underlining to need for quality provision as well as a sufficiently large workforce. Helen Ballantyne followed on with a fascinating talk about her work as an intensive care veterinary nurse as well as her journey into 'human' nursing. Helen introduced me to the concept of 'One Health' that recognizes that the health of humans, animals, plants and ecosystems are interdependent, with examples such as infections that cause disease across species and the healthy relationships between the natural world, animals and humans. Jos Latour end day one with the key message of how and why to Keep People Integrated, with a particular emphasis on effective communication with families.

On day two we heard from Rachel Kenna the CNO in Ireland; Rachel provided us with some hope that the DH is listening and willing to address some of the key concerns within nursing; again not only numbers but quality and broad opportunity. The conference was closed by a vibrant reflection of nursing worldwide, and it's challenges by Annette Kennedy the President Emeritus International Council of Nurses (ICN). There were many excellent messages within these keynotes that I will take back to my workplace.

In-between the keynotes there were many sessions too many to report, however some of my favourites were a case study discussing the effective use of point of care ultrasound in the deteriorating adult patient, embedding Professional Nurse Advocates (PNA's) in everyday practice, a swallow screening workshop and the effectiveness of a new graduate programme in critical care. The ability to pull up any poster, at any time, was a big winner for me. I guess this has the down side on perhaps not attending the live presentation, but it did give those authors a much wider audience overall and for delegates the chance to both search and browse the many different presentations.

I would like to thank BACCN for the generous funding which provided me with the opportunity to attend the conference, present my papers and meet up with many old and meet new. Looking forward to Nottingham!

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