

Trip report

17th European Doctoral Conference in Nursing Science, Maastricht Netherlands and visit to a local critical care unit, 21st -23rd June 2018: Nadeem Khan Professional Development Nurse and a PhD student

I work as a professional development nurse in critical care and a part time PhD student. My main interest is workforce development within the critical care areas. I strongly believe that by improving working conditions and workforce stability we could overcome the challenges of 21st century critical care nursing. This is why I chose to explore this area further through my PhD study looking at factors that influence nurses' intentions to leave adult critical care areas.

An important part of this project is visiting critical care units further afield, share the findings with stakeholders who may implement the recommendations of my research and explore how their critical care areas are run with a special focus on workforce development and stability. With this in mind, I always look for opportunities to visit local critical care areas whenever I go to attend conferences.

I attended the 17th European Doctoral Conference in Nursing Science at Maastricht University Netherlands on 22nd -23rd June 2018. This conference is organised by current PhD students with the support of their mentors. Up-to-date and completed research findings are presented at the conference about how to improve nursing care. The key note speech by Professor Tiny Jaarsma about connecting the dots, collaboration in nursing sciences was inspiring. Professor Jaarsma talked about the challenges of collaborative research but at the same time highlighted the importance of working together to improve patient care through research worldwide especially across Europe.

There were other important presentations on a variety of subjects including elderly care in acute hospitals as well as improving care in the community to reduce pressures on the acute settings. I also noticed that there was limited representation from the UK especially England. I was the only participant from England. I am looking at how to improve UK and England representation in the future as this could be a great opportunity to learn from others whilst spreading the word about our NHS and research activity.

An important part of my trip was to visit the critical care unit of a local hospital. I was welcomed by a senior registrar and manager of the 26 bedded adult critical care unit. A presentation

was done about all aspects of critical care nursing. I had the opportunity to ask questions specifically about how they manage their workforce but also managed to discuss other aspects eg drug administration's etc. There were definitely some learning points and good practices that I will further explore and discuss with local nurse leaders as well on national forums which may improve things here in the UK. I had the opportunity to observe the unit's day to day nursing practices while I was shown around.

I also had the opportunity to see the resus room for trauma patients, mobile ICU unit and the outreach services and noticed some good practices which may improve nursing care for trauma patients coming to A+E and deteriorating patients in the ward prior to ICU admissions. Overall it was a great learning experience which I will use to improve things here in the UK. Thank you BACCN for sponsoring this visit, this wouldn't have been possible without your support so thank you.
