

ICN 25TH QUADRENNIAL CONGRESS
18-23 May 2013 Melbourne, Australia



Equity and Access to Health Care

Call for abstracts



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MELBOURNE
AUSTRALIA**Equity and Access to Health Care**

The ICN 25th Quadrennial Congress will bring together evidence, experience and innovations highlighting the critical importance of equity and access to health care for communities and individuals, demonstrating how nurses are key to ensuring equal access and quality of health care for all. The Congress will provide a global platform for the dissemination of nursing knowledge and leadership across specialities, cultures and countries via the ICN scientific programme, featuring keynote and main session invited speakers as well as a wide range of concurrent sessions including dynamic papers accepted through our highly competitive abstract selection process.



Our inspiring plenary sessions will be dedicated to exploring the Congress theme, through particular focus on gender equity, the global epidemic of non-communicable diseases and the tension between personal and societal responsibility for health. Featured main sessions will offer the most recent expertise on wellness and prevention, the nursing workforce and workplace, ethics/human rights, clinical care and patient safety. Concurrent sessions, symposia and posters will address these issues plus developments in nursing education, disasters and conflict, care systems and access, eHealth, regulation and the history of nursing. The Congress will also be the venue for ICN Network meetings.

To share your ideas and expertise you are invited to submit an abstract for a concurrent session, a symposium or a poster. The abstract submission guidelines and online submission system will be available on the Congress website www.icn2013.ch as of 16 April 2012.

The Council of National Representatives, ICN's global governing body, will convene from 16-19 May 2013, just prior to the ICN Congress. Congress participants who are members of ICN member associations will be able to observe global nursing leaders identify the profession's priorities and future directions.

Further information and regular updates on the Congress programme will be posted on the Congress website at www.icn2013.ch

The main objectives of the Congress are:

1. To advance and improve equity and access to health care.
2. To demonstrate the nursing contribution to the health of individuals, families and communities.
3. To provide opportunities for an in-depth exchange of experience and expertise within and beyond the international nursing community.

ICN Networks

ICN Networks will hold 80 minute sessions, focusing on their specific areas of interest. Updates on the programme for these sessions will be available on the Congress website and through a series of media announcements. Areas of particular interest include:

- Disaster Response Network
- HIV/AIDS Network
- Leadership for Change Network
- Nurse Practitioner/Advanced Practice Nursing Network
- Nursing Education Network
- Regulation Network
- Remote and Rural Nursing Network
- Research Network
- Socio-economic Welfare Network
- Student Nurse Network
- Telenursing Network



General information

Enjoying yourself in Melbourne, Australia Voted many times over as one of the world's most liveable cities, Melbourne (the capital of the State of Victoria) is celebrated for its friendly locals, efficient services, fine wine and dining, and world-class facilities. Melbourne's climate is temperate and variable with no great extremes and one of the lowest rainfall levels in Australia.

But it is within Melbourne's hidden back streets that the city really comes to life. Here you will experience the city's contagious passion for coffee at chic cafés, and gain a unique insight into local culture by visiting independent art galleries. Cosmopolitan Melbourne is a city on show and has everything you need to make your visit a fantastic experience from both a business and leisure perspective.

For more information about Melbourne please visit the official site for Melbourne: www.visitmelbourne.com

Continuing education credits Congress participants will be able to earn international continuing nursing education credits (ICNECs) at this Congress.

Congress fee The early registration fee structure will be announced in June 2012 on the Congress website www.icn2013.ch. The early registration deadline for abstract presenters is 11 January 2013.

Exhibition A commercial and professional exhibition will run concurrently with the Congress. Industry, publishers and organisations will showcase their products and services and present the most recent health care information.

Pre-and post conference tours Special pre and post Congress tours will be arranged. Tours will be announced on the website in September 2012.

Professional visits Congress participants will have the opportunity to learn about nursing practice and health care in Australia. Royal College of Nursing, Australia (RCNA) will be making special arrangements for professional visits. Further details will be posted on the Congress website.

Refund/Cancellation Registered participants who are unable to attend the Congress will have their paid fees refunded, less a processing fee of €70, provided written notice of cancellation is received by ICN before 14 March 2013. No fee refund will be given after this date. All refunds will be processed after the Congress. Full details concerning changes and cancellations will be published on the ICN 2013 website when registration goes live on 14 September 2012.

Visas It is advisable that you check about visa and entry requirements before making any travel arrangements. Detailed information can be obtained at www.immi.gov.au/. We advise you to proceed early with any visa request and preferably to have your visa processes finalised by the early registration deadline.

Website update This first announcement and Call for Abstracts contains as much information as is known at the present time. However, the Congress website will be continuously updated with the latest Congress news. Check in at www.icn2013.ch.

Working languages The working languages of the Congress are English, Spanish and French. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided for all plenary sessions, as well as a selection of other sessions.

Call for abstracts

To share your ideas, research and expertise on how to provide quality care, improve populations' equity and access to health care or contribute to further advance nursing knowledge and practice, you are invited to submit an abstract. Abstracts must address one of the sub-themes listed below and demonstrate a direct link to the Congress theme of *Equity and Access to Health Care*.

Abstract themes:

1. Care systems and access, quality and economics

• How are care systems evolving to meet changing needs? • What happens at the interface between the health and social sectors? • How is access measured and achieved? • What have been some of the challenges and opportunities for the nursing workforce and models of care in the current economic climate?

2. Direct care, patient safety

• What innovations in clinical practice support better patient outcomes? • What is the link between the practice environment and patient safety? • What is quality health care and how is it measured?

3. Equity/ethics/human rights

• What ethical dilemmas exist in ensuring access, quality and health? • What is equity and how is it introduced/maintained in health systems? • What measures need to be taken to protect the health rights of vulnerable patient populations? • What is the impact of our rapidly advancing technology on nursing ethics?

4. Health and well being

• Across the continuum of care what are the trends in health and well being? • How can we effectively promote and improve the health and well being of individuals and populations? • How can we promote health and well being for example in chronic and acute care and primary care settings? • What are the strategies to address the growing trend in non-communicable diseases? • How can we support health ageing and provide equity and access to health care?

5. History

• How does knowledge of the past help us prepare for the future? • What lessons have we learned? • What national and global trends do we see in nursing?

6. Leadership - management

• What competencies are needed by our nurse managers? • Are they different from the abilities of leaders? • Are there innovative models of education and development available to meet future needs? • How can we prepare future generations for leadership?

7. Nursing education and the learning environment

• In light of the global shortage of employed nurses, how will a sufficient student pool be attracted to the profession? • What are the reasons behind the high student attrition rates and how must they be addressed? • Where will we find the faculty necessary to educate future generations of nurses? • How do we better address the gap from education to practice? • What innovations do we see in the learning environment?

8 The nursing workforce and workplace

• What are the priority workforce and workplace issues that affect access to care? • What skill mix is required for quality care? • What is the impact of positive practice environments? • How does the global international labour market affect equity and access to health care?

9. Pandemics/disasters/conflict

• What is the impact of climate change on public health? • What is the role of nurses in disaster preparedness and relief efforts? • How do we screen and deploy disaster nurses effectively? • What protective measures are required by relief workers? • What are the risks and protective measures for nurses in times of conflict?

10. Regulation

• What is the role of professional regulation in ensuring equity and access to health care? • How can accreditation systems benefit the patient? • What will be the impact of national/regional observatories? • What impact has recent legislation had on equity and access in the health sector? • What has been the impact of globalisation and trade agreements on regulation? • Who are the stakeholders in regulation and how best can we collaborate with in the profession and among professions?

11. Technology supporting equity and access

• How does technology and informatics support equity and access to health services and quality care? • What innovations have advanced health care delivery and improved patient outcomes? • How does informatics and technology impact on nursing practice?

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Instructions for the submission of abstracts

The deadline for the receipt of abstracts is midnight CET 14 September 2012

1. The abstract text must be no more than 250 words or 2,500 characters (including title and authors' information) and highlight the main points the presenter/s wish to communicate. Additional words will be automatically cut by the system.
2. Abstracts are to be submitted via the Internet at www.icn2013.ch
3. Those whose abstracts are accepted must register for the Congress and pay the early registration fee by midnight CET 11 January 2013. Accepted abstracts will be eliminated from the programme on 14 February 2013 if registration and fee payment have not been received.
4. The abstract can be submitted in **ONLY ONE** of the following categories:
 - Concurrent session:** A paper 15 minutes in length.
 - Symposium:** An 80 minute session with a minimum of **three speakers** presenting on a single theme from different perspectives. Speakers presenting a symposium must submit a **single joint abstract**.
 - Poster:** A visual presentation for display on a poster board.
5. Abstracts can be submitted in English, French or Spanish.
6. Only fully completed presenter profiles and abstract submissions (marked as final) will be reviewed.
7. A person who is not a member of an ICN member organisation may only submit an abstract as a joint author/presenter with a person who is member of an ICN member organisation.
8. A maximum of six co-authors may submit a joint abstract.
9. Applicants will be notified by 1 December 2012 if their abstract has been accepted.
10. All decisions on abstract acceptance are final. Once the decision has been rendered on an abstract, no further correspondence will be undertaken on the selection process.

Factors that will be considered during selection are:

- Interest to an international audience.
- Relevance to both the Congress theme and one abstract sub-theme.
- Scientific and/or professional merit.
- Contribution to knowledge, practice, policies or programmes of nursing and/or health.
- Clarity of abstract.

Key dates

16 April 2012	Online submission of abstracts opens
14 September 2012	Online submission of abstracts closes (midnight CET)
14 September 2012	Registration opens
1 December 2012	Applicants notified of abstract acceptance
11 January 2013	Deadline for registration of abstract presenters
14 February 2013	Early bird registration closes (midnight CET)

Congress website: www.icn2013.ch

Congress Secretariat

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The International Council of Nurses (ICN) is a federation of more than 130 national nurses associations representing the millions of nurses worldwide. Operated by nurses and leading nursing internationally, ICN works to ensure quality nursing care for all and sound health policies globally.

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Established in 1949, Royal College of Nursing, Australia (RCNA) is Australia's peak professional nursing organisation and is the Australian member of the International Council of Nurses (ICN). RCNA is a national membership organisation open to nurses and nursing students in all areas of the profession. RCNA's mission is to benefit the health of the Australian community through research, promotion and recognition of professional excellence in nursing. RCNA was one of the first ICN member organisations to pursue and achieve ICN's collaboration model. RCNA's collaborative partner is the nurses union, the Australian Nursing Federation (ANF).

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