



# NEWSLETTER

Number 1, 2008

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

### Dear Fellows and Scholars of EANS

This is our first 'Newsletter' and it is a great pleasure to launch it. The goal of the board is to publish two newsletters per year. In order to do so we need the help of all of you. Please do not hesitate to send material you may want to share with the fellows and scholars of EANS.

Our organization is growing with regard to fellows and scholars and thus the opportunities for collaboration within Europe increase. That is also one of the most important goals of EANS. We as nurse researchers need to collaborate and set up research together to strengthen the external validity and to understand more about the impact of the health care system, its organization and the financial system in relation to people's health and care.

The activities of EANS are developing. The Summer School 2008 took place at Dublin City University and we are grateful to them and in particular to Anne Matthews for all the work. The Summer School was a success and more than 90 students participated from about 25 European countries. Anne Matthews has provided us with a brief report from the event - see page 4

The next Summer School will be in Turku, Finland. Please have a look at the EANS website under 'Summer School' and page 3 in this letter. The dates are 22nd of June - 3rd of July 2009 and I do want to encourage all fellows to support your doctoral students to apply for becoming an EANS Summer School participant. It is an extraordinary experience and provides the doctoral students of the much needed European outlook.

The Summer School 2010 will take place in Witten, Germany. Unfortunately the Marie Curie grant is not available at the time which means that students have to obtain grants by themselves. We will continue to try to obtain alternative financial support.

The scholars meeting took place during the Summer School 2008. More than 20 scholars participated. I had the opportunity to meet with them. Certainly it is a powerful group and they are moving strongly towards collaboration across Europe. Through the scholars meeting they have the opportunity to foster strong research programmes and to use each other for feedback and improving their research programmes.

You will find more information about the meeting on the website. I am sure they want suggestions and contributions for the next scholars meeting in Turku 2009. It is fair to say that the scholars meeting have developed immensely and the potentials for strengthen nursing research in Europe thus become even greater.

A few years ago we decided to move the scientific meetings away from the summer school. This was mainly because the Summer School took so much of our energy and we wanted to put energy also into research collaboration among our fellows and scholars throughout Europe. Helena Leino Kilpi and her group have worked hard on getting us together and create a platform for research collaboration. Slowly some areas of possible collaboration are emerging. The next scientific meeting will take place in Klaipeda, Lithuania, and be preceded by a conference among the Baltic nurses. The conference will be 23rd of January 2009 and the information can be found at EANS website under 'Scientific meeting'.

In this issue we also have a contribution from one of our board members, Theo Achtenberg, writing about implementation research. In my view that is one of our great challenges for the future. Research about how to best ensure that valid research findings are used in every day practice is timely and important. Also congratulations to Walter Sermeus who successfully got grants from EU for collaborative work.

I do look forward to meet many of you, fellows and scholars, in Klaipeda and in Turku. Please participate in creating a newsletter that means sharing and contributing. If you want to share material or thoughts please e-mail it to me.

*Sincerely*

*Professor Ingalill Rahm Hallberg,  
President of EANS  
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## FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

It has been a busy year for EANS. We had a very successful Scientific Meeting in Leuven and our most vibrant Summer School yet – with nearly 100 doctoral participants, a high level scholars meeting and a lively gala dinner courtesy of the good people at Dublin City University. Next year we move East with our Scientific Meeting in Klaipeda, Lithuania and our Summer School in Turku, Finland.

Following a paper presented by Theo van Achterberg at the 2008 AGM in Leuven, we agreed to revise our membership arrangements. Applicants no longer elect to apply to be a Fellow or a Scholar but now apply through a single application form. The membership committee will appraise the application and make a recommendation as to which type of membership is suitable for the applicant. The criteria for each type of membership have been made very clear and posted onto the website. This should help to reduce the potential for disappointment when applicants for Fellowship are turned down. EANS retains its rigorous membership criteria, particularly for those gaining Fellowship, in order to ensure our members are

at the highest standard of nursing science research in Europe. We also agreed to implement a system of renewal. From 2008, Fellows will be asked to reapply every five years and Scholars every three. For nurses who became Scholars after attending the summer school programme, we would expect that they will have completed their PhD before the first period of renewal.

One area of uncertainty for EANS is the survival of the Summer School in its present form. Our Marie Curie funding runs out in 2009. This funding has allowed many nurses from less affluent countries in Europe to attend. At the worst, we will revert to the pre-funded days, when applicants or their Universities had to fund themselves. This will disadvantage many from Eastern Europe and the Board are actively seeking other funding sources. If any Fellows or Scholars are able to access funding for the Summer School the Board would be willing to discuss this with them.

*David Richards, Secretary, EANS*

## ONGOING RESEARCH

### Implementation: the next challenge

As nurses are more and more successful at building the evidence base for their interventions, successful transfer and implementation of these interventions is the next challenge. Regrettably, numerous examples from daily nursing practice illustrate how the implementation of evidence in practice is often not accomplished. Studies on hand hygiene practices, for instance, consistently demonstrate that hospital workers are compliant to hand hygiene prescriptions in less than 50% of all relevant occasions. The overall low compliance rates are a serious threat to patient safety and are truly puzzling in the light of the well established evidence in this area. Hand hygiene is just one example, but similar difficulties have been reported with many other issues in (preventive) care.

In June of this year, researchers and policy makers facing implementation difficulties met at the Knowledge Translation 2008 Forum for the Future in Banff, Canada. The forum dealt with rather fundamental questions such as 1) what is the global progress in this area, 2) how can the use theories facilitate knowledge transfer, 3) which research methods can stimulate use of outcomes and 4) what are future directions for research?

The meeting was a lively demonstration of a developing policy and research domain. Activities of

participants varied from sometimes abstract efforts at developing conceptual frameworks, to highly practical clinical research on the implementation of specific guidelines and hands on attempts at supporting professionals in every day care. Most of all however, the meeting underlined the need for more scientific work.

To some extent, the nursing discipline can use the work of others. However, this will not make the need for 'nursing implementation science' less urgent. Whereas most of the evidence on effective implementation in health care relates to physicians, nurses differ from physicians in many ways (e.g. they deliver another type of care, they typically work in teams, are more often employed than self-employed). Nursing implementation science implies the thorough evaluation of both implementation determinants and implementation strategies with in nursing settings. Naturally, implementation issues cannot be ignored by EANS. Instead, we could and should explore European collaboration around this theme and help the uptake of evidence from our research in many areas.

*Theo van Achterberg, Department of Nursing Science Radboud University Nijmegen Medical Center, The Netherlands*

## RN4CAST: Nurse Forecasting: Human Resources Planning in Nursing

Knowledge lies at the heart of the European Union's Lisbon Strategy to become the "most dynamic competitive knowledge-based economy in the world". The 'knowledge triangle' - research, education and innovation - is a core factor in European efforts to meet the ambitious Lisbon goals. Numerous programmes, initiatives and support measures are carried out at EU level in support of knowledge. The Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) bundles all research-related EU initiatives together under a common roof playing a crucial role in reaching the goals of growth, competitiveness and employment.

In September 2007, a second call for health was launched. The EU received more than 900 applications of which 167 projects will finally be funded. In the area of optimizing the delivery of health care, the RN4CAST project was submitted and granted for funding.

Current human resources planning models in nursing are unreliable and ineffective as they consider volumes, but ignore effects on quality in patient care. The project RN4CAST aims innovative forecasting methods by addressing not only volumes, but quality of nursing staff as well as quality of patient care. RN4CAST is a consortium of 15 partners that will quantify in 11 European countries - Belgium, Finland, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Netherlands, UK - important unmeasured factors in forecasting models including how features of hospital work environments and qualifications of the nurse workforce impact on nurse recruitment, retention, productivity and patient outcomes. Three partners outside Europe - China, South Africa, and Botswana - provide additional perspectives. Innovative elements of the project include unique measures of workplace dynamics and patient outcomes.

Nurse workforce planning initiatives at national and European levels will be reviewed and newly collected data added to enhance accuracy for nurse workforce management. Data collection focuses on general hospitals, which employ the majority of nurses, account for the largest number of medical errors and comprise the largest share of national health expenditures. Each European partner will conduct a study of 20 to 50 hospitals yielding information on more than 350 hospitals including surveys from over 15,000 nurses and outcomes of tens of thousands of patients. European partners were selected by geographic distribution, membership duration in the EU, research expertise and availability of patient discharge data. University of Pennsylvania, USA, will contribute specialized research expertise derived from previous international research. RN4CAST will be the largest nurse workforce study ever conducted in Europe, will add to accuracy of forecasting models and generate new approaches to more effective management of nursing resources in Europe.

The project will be coordinated by Dr. Walter Sermeus, Catholic University Leuven, Belgium and EANS-fellow. The study was prepared during the scientific EANS-meeting of January 27th in Barcelona. Many EANS-colleagues from several European countries are as country principal investigators involved in this study.

The project will start on January 1, 2009 until December 31, 2011. The overall budget of the project is 2,99 Million Euro. More info: [www.RN4CAST.eu](http://www.RN4CAST.eu)

*Professor Walter Sermeus, Centre of Health Services and Nursing Research, Catholic University Leuven, Belgium.*

## SUMMER SCHOOL 2009



The Summer School 2009 will be held in Turku, Finland during 22<sup>nd</sup> of June – 3<sup>rd</sup> of July 2009.

The Department of Nursing Science, University of Turku, Finland organises the 2009 EANS Summer School. Planning of the event has started with full speed. We have recruited most of the faculty of the department and also many of our doctoral and masters students to work for the summer school in many different ways. EANS Summer School organisation is a great opportunity for many doctoral students and also

younger faculty members to learn about organising a two week happening. We have formed smaller groups that each have their own responsibility. We all want to make the time in Turku as good as possible both scientifically and socially.

Our organisation consists of five committees: program committee (with a sub-group of scholars-program committee), financial committee, poster-committee, social program committee, public relations committee and management team consisting of all the leaders of different committees. All groups have already started their work. Program committee has started to formulate the schedule and locate possible lecturers, social program committee has tested their first ideas for social events. The hotel where everyone is staying has been chosen. We have started to count the money, but not spent any yet. Public-relations committee has started with first official invitation letters, web-site

planning, and email-lists. Poster-committee has made reservations for poster-stands, class-rooms have been reserved etc. etc.

We are very enthusiastic and looking forward to seeing both old and new students and all the teachers and EANS friends in Turku. We hope for sunny days and lively discussions about nursing science in Summer

School 2009 in Turku. You are all heartily welcome. For more information see <http://www.med.utu.fi/hoitotiede/en/eans2009/>

*Professor Sanna Salanterä and Professor Helena Leino-Kilpi,  
Department of Nursing Science, University of Turku, Finland*

## RAPPORT FROM THE EANS SUMMER SCHOOL 2008



The School of Nursing, Dublin City University, Ireland, hosted this year's EANS summer school for doctoral studies.

We were delighted to welcome doctoral students, EANS Fellows, Scholars and other teachers to our campus. After much planning, our first year students arrived to DCU on 22 June and settled into campus accommodation.

First thing Monday morning 23 June, thirty-five eager faces greeted us for the start of their busy but very rewarding two weeks.

That evening at a reception EANS Fellow and Deputy President of DCU Professor Anne Scott and Dr Pamela Gallagher, Director of Research at the School of Nursing welcomed all our guests to Dublin and DCU and wished them a fruitful time with us. Friendships were already being forged among the students and soccer World Cup rivalry began in earnest.

Joy Conlon, a lecturer at the School of Nursing DCU, took over as social event organiser for her peers and their activities included a literary pub crawl and a trip to the Book of Kells at Trinity College Dublin. This socialising was matched by hard work during the day and in the evenings as students prepared and presented in their PhD topics and their country healthcare systems.

On Sunday 30 June, second and third year students arrived and there was a very lively atmosphere in the School of Nursing as people were reacquainted.

On Monday 1 July Professor Anne Scott and Professor Ingalill Rahm Hallberg, President of EANS, welcomed everyone to the EANS summer school. Then the work continued with teaching sessions, workshops and student presentations and discussions.

That evening at a reception DCU's University Theme Leader for Internationalisation, Interculturalism and Social Professor Ronnie Munck again welcomed everyone to DCU highlighting how important the summer school was DCU and for European populations and their health. Many EANS Scholars joined us on Monday for their 3 day working programme which was fruitful and engaging.

Throughout the two weeks many distinguished nursing and multidisciplinary academics came to teach on the summer school and they all found this to be a rewarding experience, based on the students' enthusiasm and drive.

On Thursday 3 July, we all made our way to for the EANS dinner, where each year presented their experiences of the summer school and 3rd years received their certificates of completion. It was a great celebration, with singing, dancing and merriment.

It was with sadness that we said goodbye to all our visitors on Friday 4 July and our School seemed empty without them.

It was a pleasure for the School of Nursing DCU to host this event and we have made lasting friends and met brilliant collaborators with whom we look forward to long connections in the years ahead.

There are too many people to thank for making the summer school a success; Professor Dave Richards provided endless support and help and the many Board members, Fellows and Scholars who contributed made it an unforgettable experience for us. Administrative and academic colleagues at the School made it a whole School effort, and in particular Coreen Malone kept everything running smoothly.

*Dr Anne Matthews, School of Nursing, Dublin City University, Ireland*

# THE EANS SCHOLARS ANNUAL SUMMER MEETING 2008



Some of the Scholars and the President of EANS lining up before attending the gala dinner

This year in Dublin, 27 out of 68 Scholars meet up for the three day annual summer meeting.

The sixth summer meeting contained a mixture of research master classes, and individual presentations of some of the scholars' research. Fellows and scholars also spent time together discussing different academic & research career pathways. New collaborative work groups were additionally formed, adding further to the two already existing groups initiated the year before in York.

I would like to take the opportunity to express my thanks to the participants but also to the Scholars from Dublin – Anne Matthews & Tracy Harrington - for making the Dublin summer meeting to the best meeting yet.

On the final day, at the formal meeting, it was announced that the Executive Board of EANS had approved our suggestion to form a Scholars Committee.

The Scholars Committee will lead the development of the Scholar group in general and the committee will from now on be in charge of organising our Summer Meetings. At the moment the election committee are finalising the result of the mail ballot having taken place during the later part of August.

I wish the new committee members all the best with the planning of the summer meeting 2009, and I am looking forward to meeting up with both old and new Scholars of EANS in Turku (30<sup>th</sup> June-2<sup>nd</sup> July 2009).

*Gunilla Borglin, EANS Scholar*



## MORE FROM THE SUMMER SCHOOL

Education, training, and learning is an ongoing activity for all nurse scientists. Participation in the EANS summer schools was something different: a life event in our PhD study!

Two months after finishing the third year of the EANS summer school program for doctoral students, we look back with great satisfaction. We filled our rucksack with lifetime friendships, awareness of international developments and increased self confidence as a result.

Thanks to the Marie Curie funding, we were the first PhD group with 33 students from 19 different European countries. The summer schools were great opportunities for sharing knowledge and experiences from different backgrounds and certainly different cultures, yet always with a shared nursing perspective.

In preparing for the third years' speech at the EANS gala dinner, we asked each third year student to write down what the experience of EANS meant to them. After a hard night of content analyses on the data, these were some of our findings...

The main things people wrote about referred to the challenges related to the summer school, to new ways of thinking, to developing networks, but most of all to long lasting friendships.

These were some of the quotes:

'I received education from the most enthusiastic and skilful teachers';

'I improved my experience on presenting my own study to others';

'I found partnership and collaboration for research, and networks for the future';

'I will always remember what a nice time it was to do concept analysis in a group: every group member understood things in a different way';

'To me EANS is the most important period of my professional life';

We came to EANS with many questions, and what was most surprising was that the solution was often very close, but needed to be explained by a colleague from a different culture, or a different background.

All this inspired us to proceed in building up our European network, probably as a scholar, someday hopefully as a fellow.

EANS board and EANS teachers: THANK YOU.

On behalf of the EANS third years students 2008,

*Richard Adams (UK)*

*Anna Michalek (PL)*

*Jeroen Hendriks, Betsie van Gaal & Sivera Berben (NL)*



## NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

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