LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION, TAKE 3: MOVING CLINICAL PRACTICE FORWARD

This was an apt title for the 3rd International practice development conference held at the Medina Grand Hotel, Melbourne in February, this year. The welcome address was presented by the Hon, Kay Patterson, Minister for Health and Aged Care who welcomed international speakers and delegates from Malaysia, Thailand, United Kingdom and New Zealand. The Senator, reflected on the European heritage of nursing as a courageous and respected profession and urged nurses to be proactive in developing leadership roles in practice and health care services into the future.

Professor Mary Fitzgerald, University of Newcastle provided the first keynote address ‘Clinical Practice Development for all Seasons’ in which she presented a model for clinical practice development that emphasised the multiple entry level points at which nurses enter into practice development activities.

Concurrent papers were lively and challenging and workshops were facilitated by: Professor Brendan McCormack (University of Ulster) and Dr Jenny Newton (Monash); Dr Kim Marley (RCN, London) and Ms Joan Yalden (Monash); Ms Jenny Oates & Ms Adrienne White (both from Monash); and Ms Meredith McIntyre & Ms Kaye McCauley (Monash University). The final keynote address for the day was given by Garrett Martin, his paper “Changing Organisational Culture, the role of a Consultant Nurse in Emergency Care” described his journey of establishing this position of practice development consultant, the first of its kind in Northern Ireland. This was an insightful paper detailing Garrett’s PhD in progress.

Reflections on the day were presented by Associate Professor Tracey Bucknall, Director of the Victorian Centre for Nursing Practice Research, University of Melbourne, who summarised on the action, movement and energy that had been generated throughout the day.

The Conference was followed by a 5 day Practice Development Summer School which was well attended and a great success.

International Midwives Day Celebrations at The School of Nursing

A gala evening celebrating international midwives day was held at Monash University’s School of Nursing on Monday May 5th in conjunction with the Australian College of Midwives Victorian Branch (ACOMOSVS). A lively group of 500 midwives attended, enjoying a speech by the VC and short reunion with old friends, collegiate discussion and making new connections.

Well known comedian Mark Mitchell added his unique brand of humour to the evening involving speakers as he addressed the important issues of women’s health experience and postnatal depression. Dr Marien Snel, explored the role of nurses in the prevention, detection and management of all forms of postnatal depression. Dr Jean-Marie Mather from Monash University’s Centre for Women’s Studies and Gender Research spoke of her research into the ways midwives use stories to assist women in understanding and incorporating their birthing experience.

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Johnson & Johnson Victorian midwife of the year award to Ms Gertruditte Rawlings.

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NEW APPOINTMENT TO HONOUR AUSTRALIAN ICON
Professor MARGARET O’CONNOR
The courage and dedication of World War II Nurse Sister Vivian Bullwinkel (Mrs Vivian Statham) will live on with the appointment of the inaugural Vivian Bullwinkel Professor of Palliative Care Nursing.

Professor O’Connor has recently been appointed to this innovative research and teaching position, which has been established by Monash University’s School of Nursing in collaboration with the Peninsula Hospice Service, the Royal District Nursing Service (RDNS) and Peninsula Health.

Professor O’Connor has herself had a long and distinguished career in the arena of palliative care with her current research efforts being directed towards services that have been developed to meet needs of palliative care settings as well as the ethical issues that arise at the end of life.

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WELCOME TO THE HONORABLE KAY PATTERSON
PRACTICE DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

CONFERENCE AT MONASH UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA

A recent nursing conference, organised by Monash University Malaysia in association with the Malaysian Nurses Association, which attracted some 200 participants, provided a comprehensive overview of the state of palliative care services in Malaysia; the challenges faced by healthcare providers, the role of families in the care of the terminally ill as well as issues on palliative care education in the country.

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