



Lead, represent, develop and support Australian critical care nurses

## Meet the ACCCN Board

### Alison Hodak, ACCCN National President



“You never lose your passion for Intensive Care Nursing”. With over 15 years in intensive care this is something that always rings true for Alison. Passionate for all things critical care, with a prime focus on workforce, wellbeing and governance, she has worked across many ICU’s in South Australia, both as a critical care nurse and as an Organ Donor Coordinator. Alison recently accepted the position of Director of Clinical Programs for the Organ and Tissue Authority.

Alison joined ACCCN over a decade ago, first attending the events and education opportunities. She soon joined the State Committee in South Australia, leading the Hot Topic evenings. Alison then became the State President and joined the National Board, contributing to the organisation of multiple ASM and ICE (now AEM) conferences. Alison also held the National Treasurer’s role, from which she recently stepped into the National President’s role. Alison continues to represent ACCCN on several taskforce and guideline development groups. In her role as

National President and Chair of the ACCCN Board, Alison drives strategic direction and advocates for critical care nurses, whilst collaborating with stakeholders.

## Event Recap

### Tasmania

On July 2<sup>nd</sup> Hobart hosted the **Deteriorating Patient Study Day** at The Old Woolstore. It was a well-attended event with over 70 delegates, including acute care ward and intensive care nurses.

The opportunity to engage in a face-to-face meeting was a welcome change considering the challenges we have faced over the past 16 months.

The program included a range of topics around the deteriorating patient including ‘the breathless patient’, sepsis, haemodynamic management, deranged neurology and delirium. We also incorporated some clinical skill stations into the mix and delegates really enjoyed having the opportunity to work in small groups and gain some hands-on experience in an interactive space. The day concluded with an interactive





session focusing on the Rapid Response Team and the importance of communication. Delegates were able to share their stories and discuss some of the challenges and possible solutions within the Rapid Response System.

Overall the day was a success and we had five new members join on the day! Congratulations to Elie Payne for winning the lucky door prize kindly donated by Elsevier.



I would like to acknowledge and thank my fellow Tasmanian Branch members for their presentations and assistance in organising this event – Anita Booker, Meredith Eberle, Ellen Burke, Jenny Pyefinch, Melanie Greenwood, Trudy Segger and Heather Crowden.

*By Cindy Weatherburn, TAS Branch President*

## Queensland

A big thank you to the Children's Hospital Queensland (CHQ) for co-hosting the ACCCN seminar '**Kids on the Mind**' on the 16<sup>th</sup> of July in Brisbane. Despite some COVID challenges we were able to mask up and socially distance to still enjoy a fabulous full day of paediatric education on the complexities and challenges of caring for children with neurological injuries.

This was the second annual event hosting by a Queensland Health PICU with a thought-provoking program made up of speakers representing the health care team from across the four paediatric critical care units in Queensland. The day provided a rare opportunity to come together to share knowledge, research work and personal experiences caring for the young population of Queensland. A diverse range of topics addressed neurological injury and treatments not just resulting from trauma, but also metabolic causes. We look forward to the next event at the Gold Coast in 2022, so stay tuned for date and program announcements.



A special thanks to Lorretta Loretta Scaini and Deb Pegg (Nurse Educators, CHQ, Paediatric Intensive Care Unit) for compiling a very interesting and clinically relevant program. We would also like to acknowledge and thank the industry partners that attended and sponsored this event: BD Bard, Baxter Healthcare, LMT Surgical

*By Petra Strube and Lauren Morgan, Queensland Committee*



## Welcome Eva Charitou

Hi everyone! I'm Eva Charitou and I am very excited to have joined ACCCN and will be part of the team as the SA/NT ALS coordinator!

My nursing background is cardiothoracic/ cardiac nursing. I have worked at the old Royal Adelaide Hospital (RAH) in the Cardiothoracic ward and that's when my love affair with the heart began. I went on to do my postgraduate diploma in critical care (cardiac). I also worked in Melbourne at the Alfred Hospital for a while in their acute cardiothoracic/ cardiology ward where I was lucky to be exposed to and work with ventricular assist devices (VADs) as well as heart transplant patients. However, since Adelaide is my home, I found myself returning and working at the RAH in Cardiothoracic ICU (CTICU) for about 2 and a half years. Currently, I am teaching at the University of South Australia in the clinical simulation labs, as well as doing tutoring for undergraduate nursing topics. I recently completed my Masters course and plan to continue working in the education sector which is something I am very passionate about. I look forward to working with all of you!



## ANZICS/ACCCN Intensive Care ASM 2022



We are pleased to confirm that the next ANZICS/ACCCN Intensive Care ASM will be held from **27-29 April 2022** at the **International Convention Centre, Sydney**.

The Annual Scientific Meeting will be the preeminent critical care conference in Australasia for the calendar year and will be an important platform that will allow doctors, nurses and allied health practitioners to meaningfully connect and discuss new developments and research in the field of intensive and critical care

The theme of the meeting is **“Harbouring Excellence in Intensive Care and Beyond”** and will focus upon the excellence and innovation achieved in the intensive care sector throughout Australia, New Zealand and the world.

For further information please visit the [ASM website](#).



## 2021 Upcoming Events



**WEBINAR**

ACCCN End-of-Life Advisory Panel Webinar  
**'A National Position Statement on Adult End-of-Life in Critical Care'**  
 Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2021  
 6:00pm – 7:00pm

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**T O P I C**

VIC Hot Topic – Webinar  
**'Global pandemic nursing: The lived experience'**  
 Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2021  
 7:00pm – 10:00pm

Photo credit: @lisa.kelly



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QLD Critical Care Seminar  
**MANAGEMENT OF COMPLEX RESPIRATORY FAILURE IN ICU**  
 Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2021  
 Griffith University – Nathan Campus  
 REGISTRATION NOW OPEN



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***In Case U missed it:***  
***Innovations and Inspiration***

VIC Critical Care Seminar  
 Friday 29 October 2021  
 Oakes on Market, Melbourne



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***A Change of Heart***

Deteriorating Cardiac Patient  
 Adult and Paediatric Study Day  
 Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2021  
 Hyatt Regency, Perth



**SAVE THE DATE!**

SA/NT Spring Symposium  
**Advanced Ventilation**  
 Friday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2021  
 8:00am – 12:00nn  
 Rydges Hotel, Adelaide



Continulus is a video-learning platform bringing you fortnightly lectures with leading critical care researchers and educators from around the world. All lectures for ACCCN members are FREE and come with a certificate and CPD - <https://www.continulus.com/acccn>

Upcoming lectures on Continulus:



### Burnout and wellness in Critical Care Clinicians

Jun Jin, PhD, RN

Live webinar: Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2021 @ 2am AEST

1 CREDITS

### ECG Interpretation for Critical Care Nurses

Brenda Morgan, RN

Live webinar: Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021 @ 10pm AEST



1 CREDIT



1 CREDITS

### Ward rounds and family involvement

Claire Kydonaki, RN

Live webinar: Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2021 @ 10pm AEST



As a Registered Nurses, you are being invited to take part in a **free online CPD programme** which aims to help to improve the healthcare outcomes for people with Intellectual Disability (ID) and Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

To find out more, and start your learning journey [click here](#).

### About the free CPD programme:

The learning site is separated into different learning levels and covers six domains (modules) of content including relevant to caring for people with ID and/or ASD: care imperatives; communication to individuals with ASD and/or ID; understanding communication from individuals with ASD and/or ID; environments of care; supporting positive behaviour; making things go well; and introduction to the NDIS

### Any Questions?

If you have any queries about the learning site and CPD programme, please contact Senior Project Officer, Amy Pracilio at Southern Cross University [amy.pracilio@scu.edu.au](mailto:amy.pracilio@scu.edu.au).

Research associated with this learning site has been approved by Human Research Ethics Committee at Southern Cross University. The approval number is 2021/046.

*If you have concerns about the **ethical conduct** of this research or the researchers, write to the following:*

*The Ethics Complaints Officer*

*Southern Cross University*

*PO Box 157*

*Lismore NSW 2480*

*Email: [ethics.lismore@scu.edu.au](mailto:ethics.lismore@scu.edu.au)*

*All information is confidential and will be handled as soon as possible.*