



Lead, represent, develop and support Australian critical care nurses

ACCCN's ANNUAL EDUCATION MEETING 13-14 MAY, 2021



From the ACCCN Board, National Events Committee and ACCCN staff we would like to extend a big thank you to Rachel Longhurst and Kate Yendall, the AEM 2021 conference convenors. Congratulations on successfully delivering a fantastic program! We appreciate your continued commitment to critical care nursing.

AEM HIGHLIGHTS

by Rachel Longhurst – Co-convenor, AEM 2021

*Kate Yendall is currently caravanning central Australia and enjoying some well-deserved downtime 😊

It was a huge honour to welcome ACCCN's first Annual Education Meeting (formerly known as the ICE conference) to the QT hotel in my home base of Canberra during May. This was ACCCN's first major event since the outbreak of COVID-19 and to bring two hundred critical care nurses together, representing most states, was no small feat.

Following a traditional welcome to Ngunnawal country by Auntie Violet, the opening address allowed a review of the year just gone. The theme of the conference was 'Ready to Act: Critical Care in Times of Change' and all our plenary speakers showcased their capacity to act. Adjunct Professor Alison McMillan shared her first 18 months as the country's Chief Nursing & Midwifery Officer; Lieutenant Commander Thomas Miller gave us insights into the valuable role the Australian Defence Force (ADF) has had both at home and overseas in the last eighteen months; and Dr Nhi Nguyen talked us through her time at the State Health Emergency Operations Centre (SHEOC) and the incredible work that was required in that space.



COVID was discussed in several excellent presentations. This included a review of current COVID treatments; looking at pandemic staffing guidelines; understanding staff education challenges; and hearing about patient care and program-based innovations that were required to be implemented. The interview audio of one COVID-19 survivor's story brought tears to the eyes of many who heard it. Nardine Johnson's presentation on the evolution of the PARTY program here in Canberra showed just how adaptive COVID required us to be and the rapid timeframe in which that transformation could be achieved. It was nothing short of inspiring to listen to people talk about the encounters

they faced, the fears they needed to conquer and the burdens that they carried as they made difficult decisions.

The 'ICE BOX' free paper sessions were well attended and showcased some of the innovative unit-based projects being undertaken around the country. All presenters are to be congratulated for having the courage to submit and present to their peers.

While we were mindful that COVID needed to be discussed in the program, this wasn't to be the sole focus of the conference. A number of thought provoking clinical case studies were presented on the management of toxins (including drugs, fungi and gas), and the management of the trauma patient. Modes of ventilation and CRRT were deliberated, an overview of cardiac advanced life support was provided, a session focusing on paediatric intensive care was included, and perspectives on ECMO were shared. And to lighten the mood there was jokes about porcupines, magic tricks performed, a gorgeous therapy dog to meet, and even a mystery for solving. Critical care is a team sport. Associate Professor Bernie Bisset from the University of Canberra was our local Keynote Speaker and added a superb allied health perspective to the holistic care of the critically ill patient. Bernie's passion for inspiratory muscle training and early mobilisation was both inspiring and infectious.

The wonderful Marg Nicholson from the ACT/NSW committee deserves a special shout out for being our busiest presenter. She facilitated workshops, gave us insights into COVID resuscitation and the required modifications, and participated aptly (in her role as an ICU Nurse Practitioner) in a panel discussion about where ICU responsibility begins and ends. Thanks so much Marg, your insights and experience are invaluable.



There were a variety of workshops available for attendees to add a practical component to their conference experience. These included clinically focused CRRT, CALS and tracheostomy workshops; simulation workshops for the educationally minded, all balanced with the increasingly important resilience and wellbeing workshop. Dr Sam Jakimowicz did an incredible job providing a forum for nurses to discuss their feelings, responses and coping strategies during a time of significantly increased stress within the profession.



No conference would be complete without a social events calendar. AEM welcome drinks at Ovolo Nishi set the tone for the conference and allowed for some long-awaited catch ups. The star event was, of course, the cocktail party at the beautiful National Museum of Australia. The Trevor Kennedy collection was open for viewing (that man liked his birds!), an endless supply of food & drink were served, the atmosphere was very social, and the mandatory Nutbush was danced to!

An event like this cannot go ahead without our sponsors. A massive thank you to all our sponsors, but especially to iSimulate as the official event partner, and to our supporting partners Fresenius Medical Care and

Stryker. The AEM really was a great opportunity to catch up with our local reps, check out new products and just enjoy the face-to-face contact that has been so limited in recent months.

We indeed saw critical care go through a time of change and the overall impression was that critical care health professionals were indeed ready to act. From our collective experience we are united and stronger. This was nicely summarised by our closing plenary - Michelle Spence, Nurse Unit Manager from ICU at Royal Melbourne; Dr Peter Collignon, Infectious Diseases expert from the Canberra Hospital and Australian National University; Professor Imogen Mitchell, Senior Intensive Care Specialist and Clinical Director of the ACT COVID response; and Lieutenant Commander Thomas Miller from the ADF.

Preparing for a conference is a huge undertaking. Preparing for a conference as the country works through a pandemic is something else altogether. To see the AEM go ahead and be so well attended was a huge sense of professional satisfaction. Kate and myself would sincerely like to thank Jane-Louise & Bek from ACCCN, the ACCCN National Events Committee, Renee and the team at Encanta, all our excellent chairs, and of course, everyone who attended. I hope all our attendees took something meaningful away – even if it was just a sense of unity and common purpose.



THANKS...

ACCCN appreciates the continued support of our valued partners, sponsors and exhibitors particularly during these challenging times.

Additionally, we extend our gratitude to the presenters who contributed their time to enable us to deliver a successful conference program.

And of course, a big thanks to all the delegates who joined us from near and far.

Don't forget the recorded AEM presentations are available to all delegates until 30th June, 2021. Check your wrap up email from Encanta for the link!



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AEM AWARDS & PRIZES:

AEM 2021 “ICE BOX” Free Paper Awards – winners in each category as follows:



Best in Category A (MacGyver) Presentation - Belinda Causby for ‘Successful implementation of an innovative nursing upskill education program to facilitate pandemic ICU surge capacity’.

Best in Category B (Quality Improvement) Presentation - Kimberly Brown for ‘COLD - The implementation of a safe handover process for critically ill patients in the ICU using a multidisciplinary approach’.

And the Emerging Clinical Leader award - Agatha Fryday & Bernadine O’Brien for ‘Developing an innovative system of patient-family centred, virtual visiting in the Intensive Care Unit during COVID: a collaboration of staff, patients, families and technology companies’.

AEM 2021 Prizes – congratulations to the following winners:

- Linda Talib - trade passport raffle
- Brittany Cotton – guess the chocolates
- Fiona Smith - guess the chocolates
- Kerri Wallace – join ACCCN and win
- Natalie Reid – join ACCCN and win
- Hannah Evans - join ACCCN and win

Welcome to all our new ACCCN members and congratulations to all the award and prize winners.



NSW/ACT Members’ Professional Development Grant recipient report:



by Amanda O'Donnell,

With a big thank you to ACCCN for the financial support I attended the inaugural ACCCN Annual Education Meeting (AEM) held at Canberra on 13th and 14th May 2021. It was a privilege to have so many critical care colleagues present with such a wide variety of engaging topics. It was very evident that as a group we have not been face-to-face for some time by the excited discussions creating an atmosphere of anticipation and eagerness to be there and share. The meeting certainly lived up to the expectations.

The two days were filled with such engaging speakers and quality presentations with not only a depth of knowledge but delivered with such passion and enthusiasm for their field it was infectious. Every session I attended I came away with new knowledge or validation in the fact that my unit is currently performing best practice. One session that stood out was the session, “I don’t feel well...” that discussed COVID resus (how much goes into writing and updating those ARC guidelines), special considerations for ALS (that magic trick will forever be the talk of the day and we’re all still wondering how Ben did that!) and of course the importance of post resus care for our staff. Something that 2020 has highlighted to all critical care nurses is that we are not superhuman and we need to support and care for each other. These two days signified a resilience and refocus for critical care nurses, 2020 will not defeat us but we will find our new normal & be stronger and better together.

SA/NT Members’ Professional Development Grant:

ACCCN SA/NT Members’ Professional Development Grant is now open for applications – For more details and to apply – <https://www.acccn.com.au/grants-awards/state-funding>

2021 EVENTS CALENDAR – Register Now!

 <p>Recognising and Responding to Clinical Deterioration in Acute Health Care</p> <p>Standard 8</p>	<p>Register Now</p> <p>TAS Study Day Recognising the Deteriorating Patient Friday 2nd July 2021 The Old Woolstore Apartment Hotel</p>	
	<p>ACCCN</p> <p>QLD Paediatric Critical Care Seminar KIDS ON THE MIND Friday 16th July 2021 Queensland Children's Hospital</p> <p>Children's Health Queensland Hospital and Health Service</p>	
<p>SA/NT CRITICAL CARE SEMINAR 'WHEN THE WAR IS OVER'</p> <p>FRIDAY 30TH JULY 2021 SAUMRI*, NORTH TERRACE, ADELAIDE</p> <p><small>*SOUTH AUSTRALIAN HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE</small></p>	 <p>ACCCN</p>	
<p>ACCCN</p> <p>A Change of Heart</p> <p>Deteriorating Cardiac Patient Adult and Paediatric Study Day Friday 19th November 2021 Hyatt Regency, Perth</p>		
 <p>VIC SYMPOSIUM ICU: 'BACK TO BASICS'</p>	<p>SAVE THE DATE</p> <p>Friday 29 October 2021 @ Oakes Melbourne on Market Hotel</p> <p>ACCCN</p>	<p>SAVE THE DATE</p>

SAVE THE DATE: ANZICS/ACCCN Intensive Care ASM 2022



HARBOURING EXCELLENCE IN INTENSIVE CARE AND BEYOND

ANZICS/ACCCN Intensive Care ASM
27-29 April 2022
 ICC Sydney
 New South Wales

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](#)

Call for EOI – ANZICS/ACCCN ASM 2022 Committee

Are you an ACCCN member? Are you interested in joining the ASM 2022 Conference Committee?

Please provide a brief expression of interest outlining why you would be suitable for this role and return along with your current CV to events@acccn.com.au

For more information – [click here](#)

Closing date: 5pm AEDT Wednesday 9 June, 2021

INDUSTRY NEWS & EVENTS



Upcoming lectures on Continulus – video recordings area also available on-demand 2 hours after each live lecture. ACCCN members that haven't yet registered for their Continulus subscription – [click here](#)

Intensive Care Outreach Nurse Implementation

Talk Summary: The intensive care outreach nurse (ICON) is known by many names. Essentially, this is an ICU nurse with exceptional assessment, communication, problem solving and bedside teaching skills whose primary role is to respond to and support the bedside nurses (and doctors) caring for the deteriorating patient. Much is known about the benefits of such roles, but little is described regarding how to set them up. This talk focuses on the latter using a case study of how the role was implemented in the UAE into 4 teaching hospitals concurrently.

Live webinar: Wednesday 9th June, 2021 @ 10pm AEST



Prof. Ged Williams

Fever in Critical Care

Talk Summary: There is no simple answer to the question of "should we treat fever and how?" Fever is a potent immune response that can be protective for some ICU patients, especially when therapeutic options are limited. Fever also comes at a significant metabolic cost, which critically ill patients may, or may not be able to tolerate. I will review the physiology of fever, discuss the costs, benefits of fever in adult critically ill populations, present available fever management strategies. While there is no simple answer, we can make more informed decisions about how and when to treat fever in critical illness.

Live webinar: Wednesday 23rd June, 2021 @ 7am AEST



Vininder Bains, RN



Critical Care Datathon | 17-18 July 2021

The Australian College of Critical Care Nurses is proud to once again support the Critical Care Datathon. This year, the 2021 Critical Care Datathon will be hosted as a concurrent event in Sydney, Melbourne and Singapore on the 17- 18 July, 2021.

Brought to you by the Australian and New Zealand

Intensive Care Society (ANZICS), in partnership with the Agency for Clinical Innovation (ACI), the University of Sydney, the National University of Singapore and the University of Melbourne, the Critical Care Datathon aims to bring together clinicians, data scientists, researchers and anyone interested in using data for health-related research to inform and improve outcomes.

Kick start your data science skills now and be a part of the 2021 Critical Care Datathon!

For more information, and to register your expression of interest in participating visit datathon.anzics.com.au

RESEARCH PARTICIPATION

The Australian College of Critical Care Nurses is supporting a study being undertaken by the University of Auckland exploring ICU Nurses' experiences of bullying, discrimination and sexual harassment in Australia and New Zealand. ICU Nurses participating in this study will contribute to a better understanding of these issues, and will help to develop policies and guidelines to support ICU nurses. Participation involves completing an online anonymous questionnaire.

The study is being led by Associate Professor Rachael Parke, Cardiothoracic and Vascular ICU, Auckland City Hospital, and is supported by the New Zealand and Australian Colleges of Critical Care Nurses and the Intensive Care Research Coordinators Interest Group.

[Click here for the letter of invitation](#) which includes more information about the study
[Click here for the online questionnaire](#)

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Associate Professor Rachael Parke via email R.parke@auckland.ac.nz or Dr Naomi Hammond on nhammond@georgeinstitute.org.au

Thank you for your time,
 Rachael and Naomi on behalf of the BDSH investigators.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Latrobe Regional Hospital – Registered Nurses, Enrolled Nurses & Midwives



Are you a Registered Nurse? Latrobe Regional Hospital Hiring Now!

Positions exist for suitably qualified Registered Nurses, Enrolled Nurses and Midwives in the LRH Operating Suites, General Medical Units, Surgical & Orthopedic Units, Critical Care, Women's, Children & Birthing, Rehabilitation Unit and Emergency Department.

About Latrobe Regional Hospital:

A leading Gippsland employer, Latrobe Regional Hospital is Gippsland's specialist referral and trauma centre located 150km east of Melbourne. We are a purpose-built teaching hospital caring for a population of more than 260,000 people. Our comprehensive range of services extends to emergency, intensive care, elective surgery, allied health, obstetrics, medical and radiation oncology at the Gippsland Cancer Care Centre, dialysis and aged care.

Want to know more?

For more information about this position please contact People and Culture on 5173 8635 or visit our e-Recruit website on <https://lrh.mercury.com.au/SearchResults.aspx>

LRH's Koori Health Liaison Officer is available to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent applicants on (03) 5173 8653.