



Lead, represent, develop and support Australian critical care nurses

Message from the CEO

Annual Education Meeting – Making a Splash in Critical Care

In October I had the pleasure of attending the Annual Education Meeting (AEM) at Sea World on the Gold Coast. This was the second AEM held since COVID-19 prevented us from attending large gatherings. In attending the AEM I was reminded of the value of face-to-face meetings. Attending the AEM sessions in person, being able to discuss topics informally with presenters and delegates proved to be an invaluable opportunity. The meeting was supported by a robust program encompassing workshops, panel discussions and clinical presentations. A complete write up of the AEM is included in this newsletter. For the last few years, we have all been busy looking after the needs of our community. While many of you are undoubtedly still busy in your clinical position, I encourage you all to take some time for your own continuing professional development to attend some face-to-face activities and connect with people and enjoy learning. I found going to the AEM a very rewarding experience and I hope you all can experience something similar.



ACCCN, Education and Advocacy for Critical Care Nurses

We recently surveyed members of ACCCN and our broader database to find out what activities survey respondents thought ACCCN should be involved in. The outcome was very clear, respondents value ACCCN for Education, Advocacy, and the Australian Critical Care Journal. The ACCCN National Board heard this message loud and clear and in response to this feedback ACCCN is investing in these areas.

In response to the need for education ACCCN has created a National Nurse Educator position commencing early in 2023. The National Nurse Educator will develop an educational plan for ACCCN and work to implement this plan. This position will also support the development of ACCCN position statements and credentialing of critical care courses. We are committed to enhancing ACCCN's ability to provide and support quality education for our critical care community and are looking forward to the National Nurse Educator commencing.

ACCCN is working hard to advocate for the needs of critical care nurses. We have been working with our partners to provide a combined document outlining the minimum staffing requirements for an intensive care unit. ACCCN has also recently set up a working group to revise the ACCCN Workforce Advisory standards. Previous versions of the Workforce Advisory Standards have been highly regarded within critical care networks for their evidence-based structure. A fresh version of these standards will be extremely valuable,

addressing the challenges of our times and supporting the contemporary needs of the Australian Intensive Care Nursing workforce.

ACCCN has also been working with our partners to assess the effectiveness of the intensive care community's response to the pandemic. There is a large set of multidisciplinary teams reviewing the effectiveness of the Australian Intensive Care response to the challenges posed by COVID 19. Undoubtedly this review will provide some valuable insights.

You might have also noticed an increased presence by ACCCN in the media. Critical Care Nursing staffing levels have become increasingly topical since COVID-19. ACCCN has been active in using this interest to promote the needs and profile of critical care nursing. We have also aided in an NSW parliamentary enquiry into required critical care staffing levels. Nursing staffing levels looks set to be a contentious election issue in NSW.

This year the ACCCN National Board signed a new contract with Elsevier to continue publishing the Australian Critical Care Journal. The journal has had outstanding international success with Elsevier, Dr Andrea Marshal (Editor in Chief) and the editorial team. ACCCN was delighted to review the contract which provided increased support for the time-consuming voluntary work conducted by the editorial team members. The Australian Critical Care Journal is one of the prized outputs of the ACCCN and one of the key sources of information valued by members and partners of the College.

New Website and Database

You may have noticed a fresh look to the new ACCCN website. ACCCN took advantage of the decrease in face-to-face activities during the pandemic to plan for and implement a new website and database. The transition to these new platforms, implemented to improve the member experience, occurred earlier this year with very little disruption to the provision of our services. The new database and website aim to improve the delivery of ACCCN's educational products and provide a more seamless transaction experience for members. We welcome any feedback you have regarding these updates.

National Staff Update

We are sad to say goodbye to Diane Barabash who managed ACCCN's social media, website, and database for several years. Di did the work of several people and was a joy to work with. Di was recently offered an exciting position by another employer, and we are sad to see her go but wish her all the best in her new challenge. Di's position has been filled by Emily Harington. Emily has significant experience in membership organisations, working with databases and social media. Emily is currently receiving training relating to ACCCN and we welcome her as a valuable addition to our team.

AGM

A reminder for those who have registered, the AGM is on today via Zoom at 6:00PM AEDT.

Rand Butcher
ACCCN CEO

Industry Updates

Winning team for this year's Datathon organised by IntelliHQ and ANZICS

ACCCN members Julia Pilowsky and Lizzie Barrett and their team of clinicians and data scientists (Nhi Nguyen from the Agency for Clinical Innovation (ACI) and data scientists Jae-Won Choi, eHealth NSW and Thomas Beltrame, Flinders University) pitched the winning idea at the recent National Healthcare Datathon held by IntelliHQ and the Australia and New Zealand Intensive Care Society (ANZICS). The event brought together clinicians and data scientists to use healthcare data to solve real world clinical problems. During the datathon, each team is given access to real patient data from a variety of sources, including the NSW Health and the ANZICS Adult Patient Database. Teams must come up with data-driven solutions to a chosen problem, and pitch their ideas to a panel of judges at the regional hub. Julia and Lizzie's team demonstrated



the potential of Natural Language Processing (NLP) in healthcare and were winners of the regional event and went on to win the national pitch.

Julia and Lizzie's team initially planned to develop an algorithm to better predict which critically ill patients were more likely to develop a pressure injury during their stay in the intensive care unit (ICU). However, after exploring the data from the NSW Health ICU electronic medical record (eRIC) they discovered that only 12% of patients had their pressure injury risk assessment completed at any point during their ICU admission.

Julia's previous work using a Natural Language Processing (NLP) algorithm offered the solution. NLP is a method of enabling computers to understand natural written or verbal language. It uses artificial intelligence to decode written or verbal language. The team presented the idea of an NLP algorithm capable of determining a patient's pressure injury risk based on progress notes documented by clinicians.

Julia explained the potential positive for using this approach, "We imagine the algorithm could be embedded locally within each ICU's electronic medical record and provide high quality data on pressure injuries in the unit. The algorithm could also be generalised to other under-researched topics that are difficult to obtain complete data on, for example delirium or agitation. We also anticipate the algorithm could be used to automatically complete the vast array of tick-box fields present in the clinical information system by using information from progress notes, thereby reducing the documentation burden for clinicians. Ever since discovering the power of NLP in my PhD, I have been looking for ways to implement it in real-world healthcare computer systems to enable researchers and clinicians to access the wealth of information locked behind text-based data. With the support our team has received from winning the datathon we hope to develop and implement an algorithm to do just that".

Annual Education Meeting – ‘Making a Splash in Critical Care’



Making a
Splash
in Critical Care

Annual Education Meeting
20 & 21 October 2022
Sea World, Gold Coast
Australia



The 2022 AEM lived up to its theme **"Making a Splash in Critical Care"**. We had two days of excellent speakers in both adult and paediatric streams delivering on a broad range of topics related to critical care. The program began with the very topical workforce focused Opening Plenary session. Our keynote speaker, Professor Ged Williams, provided some valuable insights into the current and future conundrums. It was not all doom and gloom though, because as Ged pointed out, we have been here before and with creative thinking and persistence we will work towards a solution again.



The breadth of the program saw delegates frequently swapping between rooms to capture presentations of interest or attend one of ten workshops. The industry sponsors and exhibitors were located adjacent to the conference rooms and the area was buzzing with activity in the breaks.



The weather cleared enough for the delegates to enjoy an evening at Sea World as part of the social program. The Party Night began with a splash – literally. A private dolphin show impressed everyone, including our delegates from Papua New Guinea (PNG). Then there were multinational food offerings and fierce competition for Sea World soft toys from the game booths. It seemed everyone went home with a least one toy, many had more. Georgie Carroll closed the meeting with all the delegates enjoying her humour, wit, and character.





Eleven critical care nurses representing the PNG Critical Care Nursing Society (PNCCNS) attended the AEM on the Gold Coast. Members may recall that Ged Williams and Rose Jaspers had previously visited PNG on behalf of ACCCN to explore how best we could help critical care nursing in PNG and attendance at the AEM was one of the recommendations.

While in Australia, the PNG team also attended a study day with Griffith University and Gold Coast University Hospital representatives and explored future potential options for staff observer exchange programs and in-country courses and training opportunities.

The ACCCN has established a Global Health Advisory Panel and an EOI for panel membership will be sent out to members shortly. An early goal for the GHAP will be to build on the ACCCN/PNGCCNS relationship to improve patient and nursing outcomes.

The Australian College of Critical Care Nurses would like to acknowledge and thank the AEM 2022 Convenors, **Michelle Foster and Chloe Hall**, and the AEM 2022 committee for their hard work in planning a very successful conference. Well done!

Congratulations also to all the free paper presenters at the AEM.



Congratulations to the “ICE BOX” abstract award winners!

Best “MacGyver” presentation

Elizabeth Willis & Natalie McLean - Use of an Escape Room Scenario to consolidate Crisis Resource Management principles for Intensive Care Outreach Nurses.
\$500 - Sponsored by Air Liquide

Best Nursing Scholarship presentation

Belinda Causby - Up-skill training and preparedness of non-critical care registered nurses deployed to intensive care during the Covid-19 pandemic – A scoping review.
\$500 - Sponsored by YNA

Best Quality Improvement presentation

Benjamin Mackie - Training Transformation: Making a splash in nurse education in the Australian Defence Force.
\$500 - Sponsored by ACCCN



On behalf of everyone at ACCCN, we would like to thank all of our sponsors below for another successful AEM.



VIC Critical Care Neurological Trauma Day



Registrations for the Victorian Critical Care Seminar – Neurological and Trauma Day – are now open!

The VIC ACCCN committee would like to invite you to their **Neurological and Trauma Day**, on Friday 10th February 2023, which will explore critical care topics across these two complex areas with assessment, monitoring and management considerations.

The neurological section of the program will address the management of stroke patients, neurological assessments, and neurological intervention, as well as current evidence-based approaches to preserving brain oxygenation. Trauma topics include the management of burns, trauma patients (adult and paediatric) and a paramedic perspective of trauma patients. This seminar will be complimented by industry sponsors and exhibitors focusing on neurological and trauma applications.

Early Bird prices are now available. Scan the QR Code above or [CLICK HERE](#) to [register](#) and view the [Preliminary Program](#).

ACT Seminar Day – Deterioration in Critical Care



Registrations for the ACT Seminar Day – Deterioration in Critical Care – are now open!

The NSW/ACT committee would like to invite you to their seminar day Deterioration in Critical Care. The seminar will discuss the current issues and challenges surrounding deterioration in critical care, with a lens on both clinical (patient) deterioration and workforce deterioration challenges.

Register now to access Early Bird prices. To view the [Preliminary Program](#) and [register](#) simply scan the QR Code above or [CLICK HERE](#).

ANZICS/ACCCN Intensive Care ASM 2023



REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

We are pleased to advise that **registration** for the **2023 ANZICS/ACCCN Annual Scientific Meeting**, is now open.

The ASM will take place **29 - 31 March 2023** at the Adelaide Convention Centre. Critical care straddles 'the edge'; the edge of life and death, the extremes of physiological and emotional endurance and the boundaries of science, innovation and technology. The ASM, held on the picturesque edge of the Southern Ocean, and over three days will explore and celebrate the theme of "**ICU on the Edge**".

The program will include **keynote speakers** in the forefront of the specialty of Intensive Care. The ASM provides an ideal opportunity to network with professionals, make new contacts and establish important relationships with leading intensive care professionals.

Visit the **ASM Website** for further information regarding **registration**, the **Premilitary ASM Program & Social Program** and other general event information.

Early Bird prices are now available, so block-out your calendar and **register now**.

Research Projects Invitation to participate

Wellbeing, work engagement and managing burnout for critical care healthcare professionals

This is a multi-phase research project led by Professor Diane Chamberlain. This is phase 3, a pilot Randomised Control Trial aims to determine the feasibility and acceptability of two evidence-based models of individual interventions to relieve burnout, in critical care health professionals.

Preliminary findings from this study will be used to inform a larger trial.

[Find out more and register your interest](#)

The motivations of critical care nurses and the challenges they encounter in their roles

Our research project aims to explore the motivations and challenges encountered by critical care nurses in their roles. We are interested to find out what motivates nurses to work in critical care. Also, we wish to understand the challenges that critical care nurses experience in their role. We aim to recruit Registered Nurses who are currently working in critical care to be interviewed for their perspectives and about their experiences (a Zoom based interview for approximately 30-60 minutes).

Findings from this study will assist understanding in relation to the needs and interests of critical care nurses.

[Find out more and register your interest](#)

Are you involved in research?

All ACCCN members currently involved in research projects relevant to critical care nursing are eligible to promote their project through the ACCCN. For more information [CLICK HERE](#).

ACCCN Membership

ACCCN members receive an extensive array of benefits that provide financial, educational, and professional opportunities. [Join Now](#) to stay connected or [visit our website](#) for more information.



Membership with ACCCN

ACCCN offers a range of member benefits. These include discounted registration for courses and events, access to the Australian Critical Care journal online, a premium subscription to Continulus online along with opportunities to apply for grants and funding assistance for professional development, education and research.

Join now and stay connected!

For further information please email member@accn.com.au

Employment Opportunities



Associate Nurse Manager – Intensive Care Unit
Monash Health: Casey Hospital
Employment Type: Full Time Ongoing
Ref: 56506
Closing Date: 9 December 2022

Monash Health has an Associate Nurse Unit Manager - ICU position available with the Casey Hospital.

- Excellent opportunity to work in a tertiary ICU
- Work-life balance with a 24/7 rotating roster
- Mentorship and support to grow your leadership career in Critical Care

Casey Hospital Intensive Care Unit is a 12 bed general Medical/Surgical unit specialising in Urology, Obstetrics and post-operative surgical care.

As an experienced Associate Nurse Manager, you will have demonstrated skills in management, people leadership and Critical Care Nursing. You will also have skills in managing the day-to-day operations, staffing and patient care of a hospital ward or similar. With your caring, passionate and engaging manner, you will play a key role in leading by example to ensure our ICU is run efficiently within a patient centred and family friendly environment. Using your excellent communication skills, you will work closely with a varied team of Health professionals across Monash Health with the sole purpose of delivering exceptional critical care at all times.

[To view the full position description and to APPLY NOW, click here](#)

Associate Nurse Manager – Intensive Care Unit
Monash Health: Monash Medical Centre
Employment Type: Part Time Ongoing
Ref: 56604
Closing Date: 12 December 2022



Monash Health has an Associate Nurse Unit Manager - ICU position available with the Monash Medical Centre.

- Excellent opportunity to work in a tertiary ICU
- Work-life balance with a 24/7 rotating roster
- Mentorship and support to grow your leadership career in Critical Care

Monash Adult ICU is a 26 bed tertiary referral centre. We specialise in Cardiothoracic, Neurosurgery, neurology, obstetrics, general medicine and surgery. We have over 1900 admissions per year and 600 of these are elective surgery and 1300 unplanned/emergency admissions. We have a strong patient focus and are committed to working with new team members to enable you career progression. We have a strong education focus.

As an experienced Associate Nurse Manager, you will have demonstrated skills in management, people leadership and Critical Care Nursing. You will also have skills in managing the day-to-day operations, staffing and patient care of a hospital ward or similar. With your caring, passionate, and engaging manner, you will play a key role in leading by example to ensure our ICU is run efficiently within a patient centred and family friendly environment. Using your excellent communication skills, you will work closely with a varied team of Health professionals across Monash Health with the sole purpose of delivering exceptional critical care at all times.

[To view the full position description and to APPLY NOW, click here](#)

Registered Nurse – Cardiac Care Unit
Monash Health: Casey Hospital
Employment Type: Full Time Ongoing, Part Time Ongoing
Ref: 56672
Closing Date: 15 December 2022



Monash Health has multiple Full Time Ongoing and Part Time Ongoing opportunities available within the Cardiac Care Unit in the Casey Hospital.

- Excellent opportunity to work in a tertiary ICU
- Work-life balance with a 24/7 rotating roster
- Mentorship and support to grow your leadership career in Critical Care

We are seeking suitably qualified nurses who are passionate about and have demonstrated experience in CCU to become a valuable part of our cardiac care team. Yours is a pivotal front-line role providing care within a dynamic fast paced setting. You are committed to providing evidence based, patient and family centred care and you are motivated to seek all opportunities to further upskill and master your CCU expertise.

We have a strong education focus with exposure to the expertise of our team across our Cardiac Care units and a commitment to supporting new team members progress their individual interest areas.

To view the full position description and to APPLY NOW, [click here](#)
