



COMMONWEALTH NURSES FEDERATION

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CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

The CNF is pleased to announce the 'Call for Abstracts' for the 2nd Commonwealth Nurses Conference: *Nurses and midwives - agents of change*, to be held in London UK 8-9 March 2014. The 21st CNF Biennial Meeting will also be held in London on 7th March 2014. For more information go to the CNF website: <http://www.commonwealthnurses.org>.



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO NURSES SECURE ONCOLOGY CENTRE



TTRNA President, Mrs Valerie Alleyne-Rawlins, with Ministry of Health Systems Adviser, Mr Stewart Smith, at the opening of the TTRNA Oncology Conference where the announcement to establish the Oncology Centre was made.

The Trinidad and Tobago Registered Nurses Association, at their Oncology Conference held 22 March 2013, secured a commitment from the Trinidad and Tobago Government that they would proceed with the construction of a promised oncology centre which would provide radiation therapy services, chemotherapy, CT and MRI diagnostic imaging among other services.

MENTAL HEALTH NURSING FORUM

15 May 2013 Melbourne Australia



The Commonwealth Nurses Federation, in partnership with the Australian Nursing Federation and the Australian College of Mental Health Nurses, facilitated a Mental Health Nursing Forum in Melbourne Australia on Wednesday 15 May. Support for the Forum was also provided by Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health Services Canada and the Commonwealth Foundation.

The purpose of the forum was for nurses to prepare and submit recommendations to go to the Commonwealth Health Ministers prior to the Ministers' consideration of the Global Mental Health Action Plan 2013-2020 at the 66th World Health Assembly 20-25 May. The Forum was held in conjunction with the International Council of Nurses 25th Quadrennial Congress which provided a unique opportunity for nurses to discuss the provision of mental health care, the role of nurses in mental health, mental health nurse education and training requirements, and to provide the outcome of those deliberations to Commonwealth Health Ministers to inform their consideration of the WHA Mental Health Action Plan 2013-2020.

Fifty five nurses from across the Commonwealth attended the Forum. An additional forty nurses sent their apologies and asked to be forwarded the recommendations of the Forum. Recommendations from the Forum covered the areas of:

- * Policy
- * Legislation
- * Standards
- * Funding
- * Education and training
- * Workforce and career paths
- * Reducing stigma and discrimination.

The report and recommendations are available on the CNF website: <http://www.commonwealthnurses.org>. Comments are welcome.

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), one out of every four persons across the world will experience mental health problems and require mental health care during their lifetime. The WHO noted huge inequities in the distribution of skilled human resources for mental health across the world and considers the shortages of psychiatrists, psychiatric nurses, psychologists and social workers to be one of the main barriers to providing mental health treatment and care. Nurses have a critical role to play in health education, early intervention, providing treatment and care, and overcoming the stigma associated with mental health.

CNF members are encouraged to take the recommendations to their Health Ministers to be incorporated into the national mental health action plans which countries will now be developing following endorsement of the WHO Global Mental Health Action Plan at the 66th World Health Assembly.



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JUDITH SHAMIAN NEW ICN PRESIDENT



The CNF offers its congratulations to Dr Judith Shamian and the Canadian Nurses Association on Dr Shamian's election to the Presidency of the International Council of Nurses at the ICN 2013 Congress in Melbourne Australia in May. The CNF is particularly pleased to see Canada with the presidency of the ICN. Canada is a Commonwealth country and has recently re-joined the CNF. The CNF would like to see the CNF and the ICN to working more closely together and Dr Shamian's election should provide this opportunity.

CNF MEMBERS ELECTED TO ICN BOARD



Paul Pace
(Malta)



Bagooaduth Kallooa
(Mauritius)



Ioannis Leontiou
(Cyprus)

The CNF would like to congratulate CNF members from Malta, Mauritius and Cyprus who were recently elected to the Board of the International Council of Nurses at the 2013 ICN Congress in Melbourne Australia in May. Mr Paul Pace is President of the Malta Union of Midwives and Nurses; Mr Bagooaduth Kallooa is President of the Mauritius Nursing Association; and Mr Ioannis Leontiou is President of the Cyprus Nurses and Midwives Association. Mr Bagooaduth Kallooa has also been elected as ICN 2nd Vice President. Malta, Mauritius and Cyprus are long-time members of the CNF and very supportive of CNF activities. The CNF wishes them well for their term on the ICN Board.

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BAHAMAS NURSES CELEBRATE IND

The Nurses Association of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas (NACB) had a lot to celebrate on International Nurses Day May 2013. Amongst the activities for the week was the handing over of their CNF developed website and a workshop for Executive Committee members to learn how to manage the website themselves. The NACB is a very proactive nurses association with a strong commitment to providing relevant and responsive services to their members.



One of the Nurses Week activities was a very rewarding two-day leadership workshop held on Grand Bahama Island for 35 senior Bahamian nurses, including the Chief Nurse and the Principal Nursing Officer. The workshop covered the areas of: leadership models and theories; advocacy and lobbying; working in teams; and working with the media; and was a mix of formal presentations, group work and self-reflection. The workshop was evaluated highly with nurses commenting that: *The workshop dared to be different. Sessions were very informative, lively and provocative; extremely well put together and coordinated. The workshop was the most impressive ever.*



A patient safety workshop was also held on the island of Eleuthera for 15 nurses working on the island. The workshop covered a safe patient; a safe workplace; a safe profession; and a safe nurse. Holding the workshops on the 'family' islands is a commitment of the NACB to take education and training to where their members work and live.

