



# COMMONWEALTH NURSES AND MIDWIVES FEDERATION

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## CPD LIBRARY LAUNCHED AT ECSACON CONFERENCE

The 13<sup>th</sup> Scientific Conference of the East, Central and Southern Africa College of Nursing (ECSACON) was held in Harare, Zimbabwe 1-3 September 2014. 600 nurses and midwives from across the ECSA region attended. The theme of the conference was: *Increasing access to quality nursing and midwifery care - nurses and midwives taking the leading role*. The conference was hosted by the Zimbabwe Nurses Association and the Zimbabwe Ministry of Health and Child Care.



There were over 50 parallel presentations supported by high quality plenary presentations from national, regional and international speakers. All sessions were well attended and delegates were enthusiastic about the exposure to new information and learning and the opportunity to network with colleagues and share experiences. A highlight of the conference was the launch of the ECSACON website and the CPD Library funded by the African Regulatory Collaborative. The CPD Library will provide free access to peer reviewed continuing professional development modules supporting nurses and midwives to meet mandatory CPD requirements for re-licensure recently introduced into many countries across the region.

<http://www.ecsacon.org>.



At the 5<sup>th</sup> ECSACON Quadrennial meeting which followed the conference, two highly respected nurse leaders were elected to office: Ms Susan Otieno from Kenya as President of ECSACON and Mr Gustav Moyo from Tanzania as Vice President. South Sudan was voted in to membership of ECSACON.



## UPDATE ON EBOLA

Sierra Leone continues to struggle to contain the Ebola crisis along with neighbouring countries, Liberia and Guinea. Mr Senesie Margao, President of the Sierra Leone Nurses Association (SLNA) reports that, to date, 73 nurses have died as a result of Ebola. The Sierra Leone Ministry of Health and Sanitation provided funding to SLNA to conduct multidisciplinary infection prevention and control education to health workers in all districts of Sierra Leone. Mr Margao reports that, since the training, new infections of health workers have reduced however still more training is required. A particular problem is the ongoing scarcity of personal protective equipment as supplies cannot keep up with demand.



The latest WHO report advises that Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) transmission remains persistent and widespread in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone. All but one administrative district in Liberia and all administrative districts in Sierra Leone have now reported at least one confirmed or probable case of EVD since the outbreak began. Transmission remains intense in the capital cities of the three most affected countries and case numbers continue to be under-reported. Cases in Sierra Leone stand at 3706 with 1259 deaths; 1540 cases in Guinea with 904 deaths; and 4665 cases in Liberia with 2705 deaths. The WHO has developed a 'road map' for both affected and unaffected countries to contain and respond to the EVD outbreak which covers such areas as: a human resource strategy; security; rapid access to a recognised Ebola diagnostic laboratory; personal protective equipment and other essential supplies; social mobilisation and community engagement; infrastructure and transport; information management and data analysis; and technical guidance. The 'road map' can be accessed from the URL below: <http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/131596/1/EbolaResponseRoadmap.pdf>.



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## CNMF PRESIDENTS MEET AT ECSACON CONFERENCE

CNMF Presidents who attended the ECSACON Conference in Harare in September took the opportunity to meet for dinner at the home of the CNMF Treasurer, Mrs Angela Neuhaus. The Presidents were joined by the President of the International Council of Nurses, Dr Judith Shamian and the outgoing President of ECSACON, Mrs Maleshoane Monethi-Seeiso.



Back row: Mr Glan Tebogo Tshenyego (Botswana); Mrs Maleshoane Monethi-Seeiso (ECSACON); Mr Jeremiah Mainah (Kenya). Middle row: Mr Paul Mageza Mashauri (Tanzania and CNMF ECSA Region Board Member); Ms Janet Obuni (Uganda); Mrs Angela Neuhaus (CNMF Honorary Treasurer). Front row: Ms Jill Iliffe (CNMF Executive Secretary); Dr Judith Shamian (ICN President); Mrs Regina Smith (Zimbabwe); and Ms Dorothy Matebeni (South Africa).

## UGANDA FINALISES SCOPES OF PRACTICE

The nursing and midwifery leadership in Uganda have been successful in receiving Year 2 and Year 3 ARC grants to develop scopes of practice for nurses and midwives. In ARC Year 2, they developed a survey tool and in ARC Year 3, the survey was administered, the responses analysed and the data used to develop the scopes of practice. The nursing and midwifery leadership met for two days in September to finalise the scopes of practice.



## ARC ANNOUNCES YEAR 4 GRANTS



The African Regulatory Collaborative (ARC) announced the guidelines for its Year 4 grants at the recent ECSACON conference. The focus of grants of up to US\$ 10,000 is to strengthen nursing and midwifery regulation to support the provision of paediatric HIV services. Grant applications must be submitted by 31 October 2014. Some of the possible areas for work include revising scopes of practice to regulate specific nursing and midwifery activities in relation to paediatric HIV service provision; pre-service, in-service and continuing professional development in the area of paediatric HIV service provision; and regulatory revision to facilitate task sharing activities for paediatric HIV. Since the ARC initiative commenced in 2011, 22 grants have been awarded to countries in the ECSA region. For further information go to <http://www.africanregulatorycollaborative.org>

## SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME FOR FIRST YEAR OF LESOTHO CPD



The Lesotho Nursing Council has just analysed the first year of the implementation of their national CPD program with outstanding results. 91.83% of registered nurses who submitted logbooks achieved the required number of CPD points for relicensure and 82.57% of nursing assistants. The LNC anticipates that the lessons learned from the first year implementation of mandatory CPD will go toward improvement of the system in subsequent years.

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