

Exploring New Horizons, Empowering Global Practice

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A DECADE HAS PASSED since the goal emerged to expand global professional connections across our specialty practice. The path to establishing a formal professional specialty organization began by holding an inaugural international perianesthesia nursing conference in 2011. Ten years and four successful biennial international conferences later, the International Collaboration of PeriAnaesthesia Nurses, Inc (ICPAN) will host its 2019 conference in beautiful Cancun, Mexico (Figure 1). Over the past 10 years, a steady progression has occurred in the collective aim to facilitate sharing of perianesthesia nursing expertise; advance science to underpin safe and effective clinical practice; and give voice to our specialty practice through promotion of collaborative team-based initiatives that improve surgical safety for all populations worldwide.

Since nonprofit incorporation was accomplished in 2015, ICPAN has pursued a mission to facilitate international nurse networking and sharing of practice standards, encourage collaborative research and evidence-based practice, and advance participation, expertise, and voice in global safe surgery initiatives. Through engagement and support of established perianesthesia nursing organizations from 11 countries (Table 1), ICPAN currently represents the interests of over 18,000 organizational nurse members globally. In 2016, ICPAN became a member of the World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists' (WFSA) Safe Anaesthesia For Everybody-Today "SAFE-T" Campaign.¹

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Empowering Practice

During a conference planning meeting held in Cancun last year, we had an opportunity to visit three local hospitals to tour the facilities and meet with perioperative nursing team members and nurse leaders. Our discussions identified the need for specialty education for Mexican colleagues to further empower their command of perioperative and perianesthesia nursing practice. With the assistance of a professional conference organizer's Spanish translation services, I established contact with President Miguel Angel López González of the Federación de Enfermería Quirúrgica de la República Mexicana (perioperative nurses), and President George Williams Chale of the Asociación Mexicana de Estudiantes de Enfermería (student nurses). These colleagues will participate in the ICPAN 2019 conference, with further invitations extended to national nursing association representatives, nurse academics, local hospital staff, and the Mexican Society of Anesthetists. The plan to host a preconference education event with no fee for Mexican nurses to attend will provide insight into surgical care trends and discuss the role of the perianesthesia nurse at all levels of practice. This professional outreach is fundamental to ICPAN's core mission.

New Horizons

Past ICPAN conferences featured a delegate forum in which guided conversations were held in geographically diverse delegate groups. This has illuminated common practice areas of concern and identified gaps in the nursing literature requiring scientific exploration. The forum data collected allowed for a retrospective review with identification of several themes. Poole² reported "Although there appears to be consensus among forum attendees on perianesthesia nurse competencies, there remains a need for standardization and proliferation."^(p 761) A descriptive cross-sectional study, led by Dr. Karuna Dahlberg



Figure 1. ICPAN 2019 conference. This figure is available in color online at www.jopan.org

(Sweden), is underway to map the nurse working in the postanesthesia care unit (PACU). The first of its kind, this study aims to describe the education, competence, and role of nurses working in the PACU by sampling 11 countries having an established perianesthesia specialty nursing organization. The results of this inquiry will be presented at the ICPAN 2019 conference

and can inform future didactic and nurse mentorship program development. A complementary therapy audit is also underway. This global assessment of perianesthesia nurse complementary therapy use in the clinical setting is being led by ERAS PACU Nurse Hanneke van Kooten (the Netherlands). The results will be reported in Cancun.

Table 1. ICPAN Member Organizations in 2019

ICPAN Member Country	Professional Organization
Australia	Australian College of PeriAnaesthesia Nurses
Canada	National Association of PeriAnesthesia Nurses of Canada
Denmark	The Danish Association of Anaesthesia, Intensive Care and Recovery Nurses
Finland	Finnish Association of Nurse Anaesthetists
Greece	Hellenic Perianesthesia Nursing Organisation
Ireland	Irish Anaesthetic and Recovery Nurses Association
The Netherlands-Belgium	Beroepsvereniging Recovery Verpleegkundigen
New Zealand	Perioperative Nurses College of the New Zealand Nurses Organisation
Sweden	Swedish Association of Nurse Anesthetists and Intensive Care Nurses
United Kingdom	British Anaesthetic and Recovery Nurses Association
United States of America	American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses

ICPAN, International Collaboration of PeriAnaesthesia Nurses, Inc.

Preview of ICPAN 2019

The fifth international perianesthesia nursing conference will be held at the Cancun International Convention Center located in the Hotel Zone. The conference theme, “Bienvenidos: Exploring New Horizons, Empowering Global Practice” bids a warm welcome to nurses who are sure to experience a unique, culturally diverse professional and social networking opportunity. The ICPAN conference combines dissemination of new research with best practice knowledge sharing that can be applied to improve clinical outcomes across the broader perianesthesia practice domain.³ The host city offers beautiful beaches, great dining options, ancient Mayan culture, underwater museums, and various optional guided tours to be explored. For more information about ICPAN 2019 conference, visit www.icpanconference.com.

Keynote Speakers

The ICPAN 2019 scientific program features numerous oral and poster presentations, with innovative nurse experts joining us from Brazil, England, and Sweden to deliver the 2019 keynote presentations. Ligia Fahl Fonseca, PhD, MSN, BSN, has been an undergraduate and graduate nursing educator for over 30 years and a Coordinator of the Research and Study Group on Thirst at Londrina State University (LSU) in Brazil. Dr. Fonseca received her master's degree from Case Western Reserve University and PhD from the University of São Paulo. She has directed the perioperative specialization course and currently serves as the Perioperative Residency Program Coordinator at LSU. Recognizing that thirst in the perioperative period is a prevalent, much forgotten, and highly distressful symptom experienced by patients, the research group produced high-level evidence and generated the Perioperative Thirst Management Model with reliable tools to implement in clinical practice. Dr. Fonseca's keynote address is titled, “Rescuing your patient from the desert: an innovative approach to perioperative thirst management.”⁴

Theo Fotis, PhD, MSc, BSN, RN, is a Principal Lecturer at the University of Brighton School of Health Sciences in England. He is an active researcher in the area of digital health. In 2015,

Dr. Fotis coined the term “Digital Nursing” to define a future workforce of health care innovators with special knowledge and skills needed to use digital technologies for the patient's benefit. He was recently named a Top 50 Healthcare IT leader by the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society Europe and is currently leading a Digital Health Living Lab, where citizens, health professionals, and industry are working side by side on health innovation through co-creation. Dr. Fotis' keynote address is titled, “Harnessing the Future, Now!”⁴

Ulrica Nilsson, PhD, RNA, a registered nurse since 1980, became a specialist nurse in anesthesia in 1985, and defended her PhD thesis in medicine in 2003. She is a former associate professor in Perioperative Nursing and Professor in Nursing at Örebro University in Sweden. In September 2018, she was appointed professor of nursing at Karolinska Institute, Sweden.

Dr. Nilsson's perioperative nursing research focuses on postoperative recovery with the aim of assessing a patient's postdischarge experience through the development and evaluation of pediatric and adult patient-reported outcome measures. Further aims include the development of effective procedures and technical solutions for postoperative follow-up that ensure patient safety and self-care, improve the quality of postoperative recovery, and achieve more cost-effective postoperative care. Dr. Nilsson's keynote address is titled, “Postoperative recovery: what it is and how to improve it.”⁴

Social Networking

The conference opens with a festive Delegate Reception held with the Exhibitors. The Fiesta Dinner party provides another opportunity to have fun and meet new people while honoring the Mexican tradition of Día de Muertos, celebrated this year between 31st October and 2nd November. On this holiday, Mexicans remember and honor their departed loved ones. Colorful calaveras de azúcar (sugar skulls) are the holiday's iconic symbol and are sure to make an appearance. Join colleagues and bring your guests for dinner and dancing to celebrate and honor our growing global perianesthesia nursing connections.

Into the Future

The ICPAN biennial conference, and the teamwork needed to guide and grow this evolving nonprofit organization, will continue. Key initiatives moving forward include interprofessional outreach and partnering, nonprofit resource development, establishment of international practice standards

modeled after the WFSA exemplar,¹ and educational content development to increase knowledge sharing and promote safe peri-anesthesia practice. ICPAN will also promote more collaborative research, publishing, evidence translation, and peer mentoring. For now, make your plans to attend the 2019 global conference and learn in paradise ... *Nos vemos en Cancun!*

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