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## **ICN recognizes outstanding Spanish nurse leader with nursing's top international award**

**Geneva, Switzerland, Durban, South Africa, 25 June 2009** - The International Council of Nurses (ICN) is proud to announce that Máximo A. González Jurado, is the 2009 recipient of the Christiane Reimann Prize, nursing's most prestigious international award. Dr González Jurado RN PhD is the President of the General Council of Colleges of Nursing of Spain and has dedicated more than 30 years to the development of nursing in his home country of Spain and other parts of the world. ICN awards the prize every four years in recognition of outstanding vision, leadership and commitment to the advancement of nursing knowledge.

"The enthusiastic and charismatic leadership of Dr González Jurado has encouraged nurses around the world to strive for health care excellence" commented ICN President, Hiroko Minami. "In his own country, his leadership is largely responsible for the development of the profession as an academic discipline. He has also increased the level of professional autonomy and the social prestige of the nurses and fought for improvements in their living and working conditions. His work internationally has impacted professional regulation which shapes the future of our profession particularly in Europe and in South America."

Dr González Jurado received his Doctorate from the Complutense University of Madrid, and was one of the first Spanish nurses to attain such qualifications. He is the founder of the School of Health Sciences attached to the university, the largest specialist teaching centre for postgraduate and continuous training in nursing science in Spain which undoubtedly will have a lasting impact. A university professor, Dr González Jurado created the Health and Society University Foundation and is a leader in nursing research. In 1999 he founded the first centre for nursing research in Spain, the Higher Institute for Health Care Research and Quality. Since 2000 he has directed the largest nursing research project undertaken in his country, titled Standardization of Nursing Intervention Terminology.

Throughout his career, the work of Dr González Jurado also has had an international focus. He serves as Vice-President of the European Federation of Nursing Regulators (FEPI) and as the Chairman of the Expert Drafting Group on the European Nursing Code of Ethics and Deontology. He is also the founder and President of Nurses for the World (Enfermeras para el Mundo), a non-governmental organization which has implemented more than 40 development cooperation projects in Senegal, Morocco, Ecuador, Peru, Guatemala, Bolivia and Mauritania.

The prize bears the name of ICN's first full time Executive Secretary, Christiane Reimann, and is funded by a trust reserve established through her will. The prize was presented to Dr González Jurado during the opening ceremony of the ICN 24th Quadrennial Congress in Durban, South Africa.

**Editor's Note**

The **International Council of Nurses (ICN)** is a federation of more than 130 national nurses associations representing the millions of nurses worldwide. Operated by nurses and leading nursing internationally since 1899, ICN works to ensure quality nursing care for all and sound health policies globally.

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