



# News for Regulators

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## 24<sup>th</sup> ICN Quadrennial Congress

The Congress in Durban was an outstanding success with more than 5,000 nurses from 134 countries attending. This was the first year that the regulation topics were integrated into the main congress agenda and feedback about this change has been positive.

## New ICN President

Rosemary Bryant was elected as the 26th ICN President. Rosemary, who is the Commonwealth Chief Nurse and Midwifery Officer for Australia, served as Second Vice President of the International Council of Nurses from 2005 to 2009. She was formerly Executive Director of Royal College of Nursing, Australia, a position she held for eight years. Her academic interests revolve around the regulation of health professionals, having had practical experience as a member of three nurse regulatory bodies.

## Access Presentations

You can download many of the session presentations from the Congress through the following link:

<http://www.icn.ch/congress2009/presentations.htm>.

## Regulators Forum

24 and 25 November 2009, Lisbon, Portugal  
This Forum is held annually and co-hosted with ICM. Participation is by invitation only sent to the national regulator (competent authority) who may send two participants to attend the meeting.

On even years this Forum is associated with the TRIAD meeting and is held in Geneva. On odd years it is associated with the Credentialing Forum meeting which rotates round the NNA member countries involved in the Credentialing Forum.

The purpose of the Regulators Forum is to:

- focus on important issues relevant to national competent authorities (national regulator)
- provide an opportunity for ICN and ICM to update members on developments
- offer an opportunity for competent authorities to share best practice and develop potential solutions to shared challenges.

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## **ICN Observatory on Licensure and Registration**

1-3 December 2009, Lisbon, Portugal  
The ICN Observatory will hold its 5th meeting in Lisbon in December this year. The meeting will be chaired by the ICN President, Rosemary Bryant. ICM are invited to nominate a representative as an observer.

The Observatory is required to report regularly to the ICN Board on key issues in registration and licensure. The Observatory provided a report to the Council of National Representatives meeting in Durban in June 2009

## **ICM Regulation Standing Committee**

The ICM Board commenced establishment of a Regulation Standing Committee at the ICM Triennial Congress in Glasgow in May 2008. Sally Pairman (NZ) and Louise Silverton (UK) were appointed co-chairs; Karen Guilliland was designated the Board liaison. An initial meeting was held during the Congress and in the months that followed members of the ICM Board recommended suitable representatives from each region to comprise the membership of the standing committee. To date all regions are represented other than second representatives from Europe (for Northern), Africa (for West) and the Americas.

Subsequently the ICM Executive decided to establish a Regulation Taskforce to develop global standards for regulation. These standards are to be completed by January 2011. Sally Pairman and Louise Silverton agreed to co-chair the Regulation Taskforce as there was obvious overlap with the work plan of the Regulation Standing Committee. As the ICM Executive envisaged that there would be one person from each region on the taskforce, and taking account of the limited number of nominations for the Regulation Standing Committee, the co-Chairs felt that members of the Regulation Standing committee should be members of the Regulation Taskforce.

## **Progress**

The proposal for the Project to develop Global Standards for Midwifery Regulation is in its final stages of development. In summary the project comprises three stages:

- Stage one: gather information: draft framework; draft standards (complete by May 2010)
- Stage two: stock take & mapping (concurrent with stage one and completed by May 2010)
- Stage three: consultation on draft standards (completed by December 2010)

It is likely that stages one and two will be undertaken by consultants. Stage three may be managed by Taskforce.

The project proposal, including budget has been approved by the ICM Executive. ICM is currently in the process of engaging consultants for stages one and two.

## **The Role and Identity of the regulator: Project Update**

In 2007, ICN commenced a research study titled *The Role and identity of the regulator: An International comparative study*. The project deliverables include:

- Develop a global database of regulators
- Create an archive of legislation
- Undertake a comparative analysis across key regulatory dimensions
- Identify examples of best practice associated with the key dimensions
- Provide a lexicon of key terms

Contact information sheets have now been developed for 172 jurisdictions around the world and full nursing legislation has been obtained from approximately 110 jurisdictions. ICN invited regulatory bodies to nominate examples of best practice in the areas of regulatory governance, discipline and education and any other area of regulation. A selection of these best practice examples will be published on the ICN website. The final project report may be downloaded from the ICN

website:

[http://www.icn.ch/Role\\_Identity\\_Regulator.pdf](http://www.icn.ch/Role_Identity_Regulator.pdf)

### **Whistle blowing nurses**

In April 2009, there was much media attention given to a registered nurse in the UK who was found guilty of misconduct following a fitness to practise hearing. She was struck off the register by the Nursing and Midwifery Council for secretly filming for the BBC to reveal the neglect of elderly patients at a hospital. The NMC's comment may be found at:

<http://www.nmc-uk.org/aArticle.aspx?ArticleID=3668>. In June 2009, the NMC announced that it is starting work to improve its advice and information on whistle-blowing for nurses and midwives. <http://www.nmc-uk.org/aArticle.aspx?ArticleID=3733>

The American Nurses Association (ANA), is joining with the Texas Nurses Association (TNA) to strongly criticize the recent indictment and prosecution of two registered nurses in Winkler County, Texas, for reporting to the Texas Medical Board their concerns about a physician's standard of practice at the Winkler County Memorial Hospital in Kermit, Texas. ANA and TNA are gravely concerned about the chilling effect the county's actions could have on future nurse "whistle blowers" who advocate for their patients in the nation's hospitals. An initial hearing on the nurses' motions to dismiss the case was held on 15 July in the Winkler County Courthouse but no rulings were made on any of the motions.

<http://nursingworld.org/FunctionalMenuCategories/MediaResources/PressReleases/2009-PR/Wrongful-Prosecution-of-Winkler-County-Nurses.aspx>

### **ICN Regulation Network**

The Network Meeting held in Durban was well attended with approximately 80 participants. The following speakers were invited to deliver short presentations on the current challenges facing regulation in their region: Shwu-Feng Tsay, (Taiwan); Karen Cook, (Australia); Jean Barry

(Canada); Silvana Malvarez, (Central and Latin America); and Isabella Mbai, (Africa). A stimulating discussion followed these presentations, with many similar issues and challenges being shared from regulators around the world.

### **Launch of the ICN Nursing Education Network**

The ICN Nursing Education Network launch and inaugural meeting was held in Durban during the ICN Quadrennial Congress. It has been established to promote excellence in nursing education to prepare a diverse 21<sup>st</sup> century nursing workforce. The Steering Committee members are: Virginia Adams, (USA) Chair; Nomthandazo S. Gwele (South Africa); Arja Holopainen (Finland); Kathleen McCourt, (UK); Toshiko Ibe (Japan); Marta Elena Serrano Mendez (El Salvador); and Jane Mills (Australia).

### **New Publications from ICN**

ICN Framework of Competencies for Nurse Specialists identifies those competencies for registered nurses working in specialist clinical roles. This may be accessed at: [http://www.icn.ch/ICN\\_Nurse\\_Specialist.pdf](http://www.icn.ch/ICN_Nurse_Specialist.pdf)

ICN Fact Sheet: Nursing and Social Care Interface (2009) available at: [http://www.icn.ch/matters\\_nursing\\_social\\_care\\_interface.htm](http://www.icn.ch/matters_nursing_social_care_interface.htm)

ICN and STTI have released a free resource entitled *Coaching in Nursing Workbook*. This is a hands-on guide that can be used to teach nurses coaching principles and skills in order to develop individual professional competencies and improve nurse staffing retention. [www.icn.ch/coachingworkbook.htm](http://www.icn.ch/coachingworkbook.htm).

### **A new CEO for the NMC (UK)**

The NMC has announced the appointment of Professor Dickon Weir-Hughes as its new Chief Executive and Registrar. Professor Weir-Hughes is currently Executive Director of Nursing at Barking,

Havering and Redbridge University Hospitals NHS Trust/Professor of Nursing at London South Bank University. He will succeed Kathy George CBE RRC as Chief Executive and Registrar on Monday 2 November 2009. <http://www.nmc-uk.org/aArticle.aspx?ArticleID=3800>

### **Australian health legislation reform**

Under the draft [Health Practitioner Regulation National Law](#), released in Australia in June, a midwife cannot be registered unless she has insurance. This means that homebirths will become illegal under tough new laws that prevent women using midwives to have children outside hospitals. The move is set to drive homebirths underground, with expectant mothers and their babies at risk. <http://www.news.com.au/story/0,27574,25658609-36398,00.html> However, also announced was the introduction of legislation that will give nurses and midwives access to the Medical Benefits Schedule (MBS) and Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) for the first time. These changes will provide all Australians with greater choice about their healthcare via improved access to the skilled services of our nurses and midwives. <http://www.alp.org.au/media/0609/msheag240.php>

### **‘Shaping the Future’: The Regulation of Health Professionals**

18 & 19 February 2010, Geneva, Switzerland

The World Health Professions Alliance and the World Confederation for Physical Therapy are pleased to announce the second World Health Professions Conference on Regulation (WHPCR). The aim of the WHPCR 2010 will be to shape the future of health professional regulation within the context of the redesign of global health systems and evolving roles, always keeping in mind that public protection is the primary objective of health professional regulation.

The objectives for WHPCR 2010 are to:

- Debate the future control and direction of health professional regulation within

the context of changing scopes of practice

- Examine the regulatory & professional issues related to the international migration of health professionals
- Critically evaluate the relationship between health professional education, regulation and standards of practice

If you are interested in attending the WHPCR 2010, please visit: [www.whpa.org/whpccr2010](http://www.whpa.org/whpccr2010) for information on registration and hotel booking. For more information please contact: [whpa@wma.net](mailto:whpa@wma.net)

### **Personnel security measures**

Insiders' is the term used to refer to staff or contractors who try to use their legitimate access to your organisation's assets for unauthorised purposes. This includes many forms of criminal activity, from minor theft through to terrorism. Personnel security is the term used to describe the policies and procedures put in place to try to minimise the risk. Robust personnel security helps your organisation employ reliable people, minimise the chances of staff becoming unreliable once they have been employed, detect suspicious behaviour, and resolve security concerns once they emerge.

<http://www.cpni.gov.uk/ProtectingYourAssets/personnelsecurity-268.aspx>

### **Disclosure of Criminal Records in Overseas Jurisdictions**

The Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure (CPNI, UK) commissioned research into the availability of criminal records information in a number of countries including members of the European Union and EEA Member States, as well as a number of countries within the wider European area and certain selected countries outside this region. The information contained in the report was compiled during December 2008 – January 2009. The report may be accessed at:

<http://www.cpni.gov.uk/ProtectingYourAssets/overseas.aspx>