



5th N-ECCO Network Meeting

Dublin welcomed 230 nurses to the 5th NECCO Network Meeting, which took place on Thursday the February 24, 2011. The meeting was a huge success this year, not least in the significant increase in delegates from last year's meeting in Prague, which was attended by 160 nursing delegates.

The Nurses Network Meeting was run over one day with a blend of both medical and nursing colleagues from across Europe. Daan Hommes, ECCO President and Janneke Van der Woude, Education Officer of the Governing Board, opened the meeting with inspirational words to the delegates, encouraging delegate participation and to share their knowledge with their colleagues in their own countries. The chairs of this session, Lisa Younge (UK) and Yvonne Bailey (Ireland) welcomed the delegates to the meeting, in Irish and English language.

The one-day Nurses Meeting was split into two sessions, entitled "IBD modern day management" and "Taking control of IBD. The session on IBD modern day management, commenced with the new guidelines for vaccinations, an interesting and challenging topic for all caring for patients with IBD. This session was followed by Rina Assulin (Israel), who provided a valuable guide on the issues surrounding patients travelling with IBD. The presentations on anaemia in IBD by Rami Eliakim (Israel) and on managing ileoanal pouches by Lisa Allison (UK) followed after coffee break, which is the best way of delegates networking. James Lindsay (UK) completed the formal presentation morning, and provided not only a comprehensive talk on novel therapies in the management of IBD, but also spoke about novel ways on managing our patients - such as virtual biological meetings, whereby the patients' cases are reviewed in their absence.

For the 2nd year running, we have had the three best abstracts, present their work orally. There were 10 posters submitted for N-ECCO this year, showing again an increase from last year. These N-ECCO posters are a great opportunity for nurses to present the good work, which they are doing in many countries to help improve IBD patient care.

The 2nd session of the day, chaired by Marian O'Connor (UK) and Rina Assulin (Israel), commenced with Karin Broer-Fienieg (The Netherlands) presenting on the psychosocial issues for patients with IBD, and reminding us of the role of the IBD nurses to do simple things such as listening and providing information. It was highlighted by the delegates that knowing which local psychological services are available for your patients is also key as many nurses can otherwise feel overwhelmed in dealing with these patients alone. Julie Duncan (UK) presented on continence management in IBD, an issue that many patients feel unable to discuss, mainly because of embarrassment. Julie reminded the delegates that, as nurses, we can ask and also support these patients; and she showed us that there are simple practical steps that we can take to advise these patients to help them in managing their incontinence better. Dr Simon Gabe (UK) provided us with an excellent session on nutrition in IBD, helping to dispel some of the myths attached to food with respect to IBD.

Lisa Younge, as the outgoing N-ECCO Chair, presented the delegates with an update on the work of N-ECCO over the past five years, reminding us of N-ECCO aims and progress in this short time. Lisa Younge then handed over the chairpersonship of N-ECCO to Marian O'Connor (UK). Subsequently, the Nurses Network meeting finished with a fantastic session from Janette Gaarenstroom (The Netherlands), which looked at an audit of nurses' roles in supporting patients. Janette reminded us





that as nurses roles advance, we mustn't forget our basics, which is supporting and listening to patients!

The N-ECCO Steering Committee is very grateful to all delegates for completing the evaluation of the N-ECCO Nurses Network Meeting: 51% (119/230) of those that attended the meeting completed the evaluation forms, with the majority 59% respondents being current N-ECCO Members. The N-ECCO National Representatives have succeeded in their role, with an impressive 51% of respondents stating that they were informed of the meeting by their N-ECCO Nursing Rep – thank you to all the Reps for your hard work! The feedback on the network meeting was extremely positive with 93% of those who responded stating that the day was relevant to their practice and 93% also rating their overall satisfaction with the meeting, as good/outstanding.



In terms of the content of the speakers' presentations and lecturer clarity, an average of 60% rated these as good and 30% as outstanding. Some suggested improvement referred to the registration for the meeting and the number of available syllabus copies. (These copies were printed on the basis of the registration number for this meeting – as of the online registration deadline and already included 70 additional copies.)

There were many suggested topics for next year's meeting, providing the committee with an excellent proposal for developing a great meeting for 2012 in Barcelona. As for Barcelona 2012, the N-ECCO Steering Committee is already working on the next Nurses Network Meeting & N-ECCO School..

There are abundant opportunities for nurses to collaborate on work, audit or guidelines for practice. So, I would encourage you to think about this and to contact your N-ECCO National Rep with your ideas.

Marian O'Connor

