ICN 25th Quadrennial Congress
18-23 May 2013 Melbourne, Australia

Equity and Access to Health Care

The ICN 25th Quadrennial Congress will bring together evidence, experience and innovations highlighting the critical importance of equity and access to health care for communities and individuals, demonstrating how nurses are key to ensuring equal access and quality of health care for all. The Congress will provide a global platform for the dissemination of nursing knowledge and leadership across specialities, cultures and countries via the ICN scientific programme, featuring keynote and main session invited speakers as well as a wide range of concurrent sessions including dynamic papers accepted through our highly competitive abstract selection process.

Our inspiring plenary sessions will be dedicated to exploring the Congress theme, through particular focus on gender equity, the global epidemic of non-communicable diseases and the tension between personal and societal responsibility for health. Featured main sessions will offer the most recent expertise on wellness and prevention, the nursing workforce and workplace, ethics/human rights, clinical care and patient safety. Concurrent sessions, symposia and posters will address these issues plus developments in nursing education, disasters and conflict, care systems and access, eHealth, regulation and the history of nursing. The Congress will also be the venue for ICN Network meetings.

To share your ideas and expertise you are invited to submit an abstract for a concurrent session, a symposium or a poster. The abstract submission guidelines and online submission system will be available on the Congress website www.icn2013.ch as of 16 April 2012.

The Council of National Representatives, ICN's global governing body, will convene from 16-19 May 2013, just prior to the ICN Congress. Congress participants who are members of ICN member associations will be able to observe global nursing leaders identify the profession's priorities and future directions.

Further information and regular updates on the Congress programme will be posted on the Congress website at www.icn2013.ch

The main objectives of the Congress are:

1. To advance and improve equity and access to health care.
2. To demonstrate the nursing contribution to the health of individuals, families and communities.
3. To provide opportunities for an in-depth exchange of experience and expertise within and beyond the international nursing community.

ICN Networks
ICN Networks will hold 80 minute sessions, focusing on their specific areas of interest. Updates on the programme for these sessions will be available on the Congress website and through a series of media announcements. Areas of particular interest include:
- Disaster Response Network
- HIV/AIDS Network
- Leadership for Change Network
- Nurse Practitioner/Advanced Practice Nursing Network
- Nursing Education Network
- Regulation Network
- Remote and Rural Nursing Network
- Research Network
- Socio-economic Welfare Network
- Student Nurse Network
- Telenursing Network