

Editor's message

In the spring issue, I had asked that nurses share their ideas or suggestions that their emergency departments have tried in order to deal with overcrowding and bed blocking. For this issue, I thought that I would share one idea that my hospital had initiated a few months ago. This is "early morning bed rounds". While the original concept is that the nurse managers and physicians meet each morning to review the bed status within the hospital, we took the idea one step further. Our daily bed rounds consist of the Bed Utilization Manager, the Emergency Department Clinical Leader and the charge nurses from the inpatient nursing units, Transitional Care Unit, the CCU/ICU and the Surgical Suite. Our belief is that the charge nurses are responsible for the operations of the unit, therefore it is more appropriate that they attend these meetings. The group meets at 0830 hours each morning to review the admissions and the "overnights" in emergency, the number of day surgeries, the number of available beds, the actual and potential discharges from each of the nursing units, and the number of available CCU/ICU beds and the number of patients who can "come out" of the unit.

Initially, there was some resistance to the idea of the rounds because it would take the charge nurses away from a busy nursing unit. However, the rounds last 20 to 30 minutes max. This time has become invaluable to the charge nurse group as it allows them an opportunity to plan their day as members of a larger group. For those days when beds are at a premium, the group reviews their options and

develops a game plan that will maximize the available beds and staff. When the hospital is full, the Bed Utilization Manager may call another meeting for early afternoon to update all units and to consider the plan for the evening and night.


While we have not been able to quantify these meetings, the group agrees that the communication has significantly improved among the staff, and that everyone receives the same message. It also provides a plan that can be communicated to the physicians. Overall, it has improved patient flow from the emergency department because admitted patients are prioritized for available beds.

Recently, the palliative care nurse and the emergency discharge planning nurse have begun to attend the meetings. The palliative care nurse reviews those patients who are currently in hospital, which patients may be discharged and patients waiting to come into hospital. The discharge planning nurse provides consultation to the charge nurses about difficult to discharge patients or patients waiting in the ED who have multiple care needs.

Both staff provide valuable information and support to the meetings.

As we all know, there is not one solution to the overcrowding issue in the ED. However, this is one idea in which the problem of overcrowding becomes a hospital issue and not just an issue for the emergency department. This idea actively involves hospital staff to

develop and implement a patient flow plan for the day.

What ideas or suggestions has your emergency department implemented to improve patient flow? Please share your comments, ideas and suggestions with other emergency nurses. 

Valerie Eden

Letter to the editor...

" Just saw the spring issue of outlook and I wanted to pass on my compliments... it looks great. The "tidbits and trivia" bad shift checklist is pretty funny. Kudos to you and the editorial board and other executives!

Jody Smith, Membership and Services Co-ordinator, Registered Nurses Association of Ontario

The NENA Research Committee - Database of Nursing Research

The NENA research committee is in the process of starting a database of emergency nursing research across the country. It is our hope that such a tool will serve as a resource for nurses across the country, helping us to share information and learn from each other.

- If you know of some important research that has been done or is going on, drop us a line and let us know!
- If you have read any studies which apply to emergency nursing practice, let us know or write us a summary of the work that we can put in **Outlook** or on the website.
- If you or someone you know is currently engaged in a project, we would love to hear about the work, and would be happy to post an abstract!


Please send information to: Clay Gillrie – Chair, NENA research committee, cgillrie@telus.net or clay_gillrie@bcit.ca, 160 52A St., Tsawwassen, BC V4M-3P6, (604) 948-2981 

New additions to the editorial staff

As editor for **Outlook**, I am pleased to announce that there are two new section editors. They are Carole Rush who has agreed to be the *Trauma Corner* section editor. Carole can be reached at the following e-mail address: Carole.Rush@CalgaryHealthRegion.ca.

The *Trauma Corner* will continue to feature articles on trauma, but will also feature stories on injury prevention.

The second new addition is Judy Skanderup who is section editor for *Ideas@Work: Pediatrics*. Judy is currently a NENA board member representing Alberta. She can be reached at e-mail: sskander@eidnet.org.

Please e-mail any of the section editors or me for ideas, submissions or for help with an idea or article. 



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Outlook is the official publication of the National Emergency Nurses' Affiliation. Articles, news items and illustrations relating to emergency nursing are welcome.

Outlook is published two times per year. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of NENA, or of the editor. NENA reserves the right to edit information submitted for publication. The use by any means of an article, or part thereof, published in **Outlook**, is an infringement of copyright law. Requests for written consent prior to reprinting of any article, or part thereof, should be addressed to the editor.

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President's message


Historically, the national conference has been held every two years. This was due in part to the fact that the national association was young and there were fewer members. Not all of the provincial associations believed that they could mount such an endeavour. However, over the years there has been a steady growth in membership such that even provincial regional conferences are attracting emergency nurses from across the country. It has become evident that there is a strong interest by the membership for a national conference.

With that in mind, the provincial directors and the executive of NENA have determined that the yearly conference will be a national conference which emergency nurses can attend to network, learn and share experiences. This is yet another step that shows

emergency nursing is evolving and growing stronger with each passing year.

This was confirmed by the positive response that PEIENA had to their regional conference – there were more than 150 registered participants. There was nursing representation from across Canada. The conference theme was the “nuts and bolts of emergency nursing”. Topics addressed such diverse concerns as SARS, infection control and drug awareness. Nursing roles such as forensic nursing and psychiatric assessment nurse were also discussed. During breaks, groups of nurses could be seen talking and discovering that their issues were not so different no matter where they worked. The hospitality displayed by the host committee was outstanding. All conference participants enjoyed their stay on the “Island”.



Next spring, the national conference will be in Kelowna, BC on May 14 and 15, 2005. On behalf of the host committee, NENA board of directors and executive, I want to take the opportunity to extend an invitation to you to join us for the conference next year. 

Carla Policchio

Meet the president-elect

Looking back on my 31-year nursing career, I have done so very much: I was a medicine, respiratory, cardiac step-down and CC nurse while I was but a baby nurse. I went on to work as a lab nurse, doing venipuncture and ECGs. I have been an office nurse for two family physicians, as well as a camp nurse for the Easter Seal Society. I have done home nursing for the VON and have taught coronary care nursing for a community college. I have been fortunate to have an incredibly broad base in my nursing skills, knowledge and practice. However, all of these were small stepping stones to what became my true professional love. I am an emergency nurse, and I am very proud of that. I have been a practising nurse for 31 years and 23 of those years have been as a full-time emergency nurse. I am an


emergency staff nurse by choice because I love it and I am good at it!

I have been married to Robert for nearly 32 years. We have two grown children, Steven (28) and Amber (20) and we have two grandchildren Dylan (5) and Kathleen (13 months).

Emergency nursing is not only my profession, but also my passion. I have been an ENAO and NENA member for many years. I have served the Emergency Nurses of Ontario (ENAO) for several years as District Coordinator for District C and, for the last three years, I have been president of ENAO.

My vision for Ontario has been “Recruitment through Retention”. I believe every emergency nurse is an ambassador for both their national and provincial professional organizations and

thus, every emergency nurse is responsible for retention and recruitment of members to their professional organizations.

I am honoured to have been acclaimed to the position of NENA president-elect. I thank you for your trust and support. I look forward to my continuing years of dedication and service to and for Canada's emergency nurses. 

Jan Spivey



**Help to celebrate Emergency Nurses Week,
October 10-16, 2004. This year's theme is
*Emergency Nurses a tradition of excellence.***

Memories from PEI - The Nuts and Bolts of Emergency Nursing



Some memories from the recent NENA conference in Charlottetown, clockwise from top right: Conference chair Celie Walsh-Gallison; Carla Policicchio makes her opening remarks; Clifford Lee, mayor of Charlottetown welcomes delegates; CNA president Rob Calnan presents the plenary speech; Debbie Cotton, Carla Policicchio and Celie Walsh-Gallison enjoy a traditional PEI lobster dinner; a typical scene in PEI; the War Memorial and Province House, the birthplace of confederation; Irene Osinchuk and Lisa Powell in front of the Confederation Bridge linking PEI and New Brunswick; the official opening of the conference.



Bursaries and awards

At the spring AGM, seven educational bursaries were awarded to the following emergency nurses. Congratulations!

Manitoba: Irene Osinchuk, Winnipeg;
Ontario: Angela MacDonald, Kingston, Edward Sellars, Oshawa, Yvonne Baur, Windsor; **Saskatchewan:** Mari Elena Guerrero-O'Neill, Regina;
NFLD and Labrador: Margaret Colbourne, Corner Brooke; **BOD bursary:** Anne Cessford, BC.

This year, only one **Award of Excellence for Nursing Practice** was granted. The recipient of this award is Pauline Sampson from Nova Scotia. Congratulations Pauline!

The Marg Smith Bursary for Pediatric Nursing Education

For the first time this year, the Marg Smith bursary award for pediatric nursing was awarded to Kathy



Woloshyn, Manitoba. This bursary was named for Marg Smith, a former board member. At the AGM, we were blessed to have Marg's husband Bob, photo below left, present for this presentation. Bob told the audience that Marg valued learning and that she held a special place for children throughout her career.



Kathy Woloshyn, left, has been nursing since 1982. The majority of her career has been spent in pediatric emergency nursing. She has been a staff


nurse, a nurse manager and an educator. Since 2002, Kathy has been an instructor in the Specialty Programs at Health Sciences Centre in Winnipeg. As an instructor, Kathy has participated in the development and implementation of course curriculum with a focus on pediatric emergency. She is an instructor for a web-based advanced pediatric/neonatal assessment course and she is also responsible for orientation and the ongoing development of emergency nurses. Kathy has also served on various hospital, provincial and national committees.

Congratulations Kathy for being the first recipient of this bursary! 

NENA 2003-2004 financial report

INCOME	Actual	Budget	Variance
Fundraising	\$11,244.20	\$4,000.00	\$7,244.20
Grants	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Indirect Fees: ENPC	\$17,890.00	\$21,300.00	(\$3,410.00)
Indirect Fees: TNCC	\$47,950.00	\$50,700.00	(\$2,750.00)
Indirect Fees: CATN	\$600.00	\$1,200.00	(\$600.00)
Interest Income	\$306.78	\$300.00	\$6.78
Member Fees	\$28,100.00	\$30,140.00	(\$2,040.00)
Advertising	\$2,840.00	\$3,000.00	(\$160.00)
Misc. Income	\$4,105.30	\$5,500.00	(\$1,394.70)
TOTAL INCOME :	\$113,036.28	\$116,140.00	(\$3,103.72)
EXPENSES:	Actual	Budget	Variance
Awards	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Advertising	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
Bank Charges	\$358.66	\$200.00	(\$158.66)
Board Meetings	\$11,447.47	\$22,000.00	\$10,552.53
Bursaries	\$0.00	\$5,250.00	\$5,250.00
CNA Fees	\$0.00	\$240.00	\$240.00
Committee Meetings	\$31,989.20	\$24,500.00	(\$7,489.20)
Gifts	\$100.00	\$200.00	\$100.00
Interest Paid	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Legal	\$30.00	\$150.00	\$120.00
Office Expense	\$9,337.97	\$12,050.00	\$2,712.03
Programs	\$75.00	\$7,000.00	\$6,925.00
Promotions	\$0.00	\$1,080.00	\$1,080.00
Public Relations	\$16,637.10	\$13,000.00	(\$3,637.10)
Reimbursements: ENPC	\$5,000.00	\$6,900.00	\$1,900.00
Reimbursements: TNCC	\$14,500.00	\$16,700.00	\$2,200.00
Reimbursements: CATN	\$200.00	\$400.00	\$200.00
Misc	\$750.00	\$0.00	(\$750.00)
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$90,425.40	\$110,170.00	\$19,744.60
INCOME/LOSS POSITION:		\$22,610.88	

Website news

The new website went officially "online" July 1, 2004. To access the entire site, you must be a NENA member, which means you must be a member of your provincial emergency nursing association. All you have to do is go to the site and follow the links to the registration page. An e-mail will be sent to you acknowledging that you have registered for membership and that you must pay your membership fee. An e-mail will also be sent to your provincial association membership person. Once the membership person has received your membership fee, you will receive a second e-mail that will provide you with a password. That's all it takes! 

Partnerships, National NENA Conference

May 13-15, 2005, Kelowna, BC. For further information, contact Clay Gillrie: clay_gillrie@bcit.ca

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

NENA National Conference – May 13-15, 2005

Kelowna, British Columbia

Partnerships

Emergency Nurses Working Hand in Hand with CARE (Clinical, Administration, Research, and Education)

The National Emergency Nurses' Affiliation, Inc. (NENA) is proud to announce a Call for Abstracts for our National Conference in May, 2005. The NENA National Conference will be held in Kelowna, British Columbia, at the Coast Capri Hotel. The theme of the conference is **Partnerships**, with a focus on clinical practice, administration, education and research. The goal is for clinicians to share important insights, or "pearls" that derive directly from their practice or research.

We invite the submission of abstracts for poster presentations, individual podium presentations, workshops, and symposia. All submissions will undergo peer review as a part of the abstract selection process. The **deadline for submission is November 15, 2004**. Presenters will be notified by January 1, 2005.

If an abstract is selected for presentation at the conference, the presenter will be required to submit his or her slides in advance for the conference syllabus. Any commercial sponsorship must be disclosed, in writing, upon submission of the abstract.

Abstract instructions

1. Please submit the abstract in English.
2. The abstract should be typed.
3. There is a 500-word maximum.
4. The abstract should include: title; purpose; summary of the content; implications for practice; and main focus (i.e., education, clinical practice, research, and/or administration). *This information will be used in the conference brochure to describe your paper/poster presentation, workshop, or symposia.*
5. The abstract should include a cover page which identifies: the title of the abstract, the author's name(s), credentials, present position, address for correspondence, e-mail address, and home/work phone numbers.
6. Electronic submission is required.

We hope NENA members, as well as other interested parties, will utilize this forum to present their important clinical insights and in doing so, help advance the care of patients. Our intent is to encourage all interested NENA members to participate in the sharing of information and the scientific and clinical discourse that is so vital to any specialty practice group.

Please submit your 500-word abstract, by November 1, 2004, to the abstract review committee:

Clay Gillrie
Conference Chair
ENGBC President
Telephone: 604-948-2981 (home) or 604-451-7078 (work)
cgillrie@bcit.ca or cgillrie@telus.net

✧ The executive and board of NENA thank departing board members Anne Cessford (past-president), Troy Sebastian (Alberta), Celie Walsh- Gallison (PEI) and Debbie Cotton (Nova Scotia) for their contribution to the continuing growth and development of emergency nursing in Canada.

✧ The executive and board of NENA welcome new members Judy Skanderup (AB), Cynthia Bryantor (PEI) and Linda Jackson (Nova Scotia).


✧ To the conference planning group of PEIENA for a job well done! The conference was excellent and the hospitality was wonderful.

*"Bouquets" is dedicated to celebrating the achievements of NENA members. If you would like to send a bouquet to a NENA member, contact the communication officer, Valerie Eden, 34 Bow Street, Dartmouth, NS, B2Y 4P6
(H) 902 461-1897; (W) 902 465-8340; fax: 902 465-8435; e-mail: valeden@hfx.eastlink.ca.*

NTC name change

During the May 2004 board of directors meeting, the NTC committee recommended that its name be changed to National Course Administration Committee (NCAC) to reflect more accurately the mandate of the committee, which is to administer, deliver and evaluate TNCC, ENPC and CATN and all NENA sponsored courses such as Peds CTAS and adult CTAS.

NCAC needs new members

If you would like to become a member of this committee, you must be a NENA member, an Instructor Trainer in either ENPC/TNCC or a course director in CATN II and have current emergency nursing experience in either practice, education, administration or research. If you meet these criteria, please e-mail Karen Latoszek: Klatosze@cha.ab.ca 

NENA's "Win a trip to the national conference" contest rules

NENA Inc. will biannually sponsor a NENA member's attendance at the national conference/AGM, for an article published in **Outlook**. The winner will be chosen by lottery.

1. The contest will be advertised in **Outlook**.
2. Provincial representatives are encouraged to promote the contest among their membership.
3. Articles must be submitted directly from the author. Provincial newsletters forwarded to the communication officer for selection of items to include in **Outlook** will not be considered in the lottery. Please refer to the submission guidelines included with this issue.
4. Primary author's name will be entered into the draw (in the event of multiple authors).
5. Names will be entered into the draw beginning with the winter 2003 edition of **Outlook** and ending with the winter edition of 2005.
6. The communication officer will maintain a record of names entered into the lottery.
7. The NENA president will randomly draw the name of the winner.
8. The NENA president (or delegate) will notify the winner and will communicate with the winner to ensure conference registration, hotel booking at the convention rate, and travel arrangements are made at the most economical rate to the maximum value of \$2,000.00.
9. The draw will occur in January prior to the national NENA conference to allow the winner to arrange his or her time off to attend. In addition, this allows time to obtain the best fares and booking of a hotel room at conference rates.
10. The winner of the lottery will have three weeks in which to accept his or her prize. In the event the winner is unable to claim his or her prize, a second name will be drawn. The prize is non-transferable.
11. The winner will make his or her own travel arrangements.
12. The winner's name will be published in **Outlook**.
13. The winner must be a NENA member at the time of submission.
14. NENA board of directors and **Outlook** section editors are exempt.
15. Articles are published at the discretion of the communication officer.
16. NENA board of directors has approved the contest rules.

The next National Emergency Nurses Conference is in British Columbia in 2005. 