

# Highlights of NENA 2015 Conference: Prepare for the Unexpected

The 2015 Conference had a total of 254 delegates during the two-and-a-half-day event, with an additional 62 delegates attending the preconference CAMAN or Wound Management workshops.

The opening ceremonies of the conference were Thursday evening with the Board of Directors and guests being piped in, (#0850) by the Alberta Paramedic Guard of Honour. The Piper Andrew Fairservice was followed by the Honour Guard: Blaine Barody, Gerry Murphy, Gerry Gunderson and Eric Armsworthy.

There were greetings, including a video message from the national Minister of Health, Hon. Rona Ambrose. (#0855). Greetings from CNA were conveyed by Janet Calnan NENA President, NENA-AB President Shelley Pidruchney and Dr. Raj Sherman, former Liberal MLA and Emergency Physician. The evening keynote address was given by Detective Guy Pilon from the Edmonton Police Service on current street drugs.

The annual general meeting was followed by refreshments, appetizers and an entertaining game of *Family Feud* which numerous teams of conference attendants played, with boisterous audience participation. (#0881-0882)

Friday and Saturday saw a total of 38 workshops and keynote sessions. The speakers were all very well received with the evaluations showing 93% of participants felt the workshops were above average or excellent.

Our exhibitors and vendors received many delegates at nutrition breaks and lunches. A huge thank you to Stryker and Hill-Rom—these vendors loaned stretchers used during the skills lab breakout sessions. Moving the stretchers back and forth prior to the breaks was a great example of how easy this equipment is to move around obstacles and people. The moves went well for the most part although our pregnant resuscitation doll did get a bit hot (burst into flames)! The stretcher was saved (#0855), so Sharron could relax and breathe. Evaluations showed both exhibitors and delegates enjoyed the exhibit hall and would like

more time to talk with the representatives. These comments have been forwarded to the 2016 conference team.

On Friday, seven poster presentations (#0904-0916) were on display and delegates were encouraged to drop by to speak with the presenters. This was a fairly new addition to the conference layout and NENA hopes to expand the poster session at future conferences. NENA welcomes and encourages participation from emergency nurses at future conferences.

A scavenger hunt at West Edmonton Mall was held as a social event and although it got off to a slow start, had 75 participants. Each person received a bag, map, coupon book and a list of questions and places they needed to find. There was a lot of shopping (hopefully delegates used the coupons in their book) (#0924) and socializing.

On Sunday, the final day of the conference, there were three excellent keynotes that included a very sincere presentation

by Patrice Gordon on her personal experience with Ebola in Africa and at home in B.C. It was fabulously interesting and very touching.

Navkiran Tiwana and her team of volunteer student nurses did an excellent job of helping with last-minute registrations, requests from speakers and the organization, and running the registration desk. This also helped relieve the NENA Board of Directors and the conference committee so they could take care of other duties.

The conference committee were extremely pleased with Conference 2015—Prepare for the Unexpected, and wish to thank everyone for their assistance and attendance. You made this conference a great success and we look forward to NENA Conference 2016 in Montreal.

**Respectfully submitted,  
Sharron Lyons, Conference Chair  
Pat Mercer-Deadman, Conference  
Co-Chair**

