Current Activities: Nurses Forum 2013

On the occasion of ISTH 2013 in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, nurses had unique opportunities to connect and further illuminate the ISTH mission and to strengthen international linkages to share knowledge and demonstrate its vital contribution through the dissemination of knowledge generated by research into clinical practice. The 2 day program with 32 presentations was well attended with standing room only noted during the majority of the discussions. Evaluation forms were provided and results reflect greater than 90% agreed the program met or exceeded expectations. Over 65% of respondents affirmed that the program will impact their clinical practices. Selected abstracts outlined below:

- Key Note Speaker-Dutch perspective of nursing practice in Haemostasis and Thrombosis
- Challenges to delivering care for women and bleeding disorders in developing countries
- Comparison of patient care in thrombosis: Inpatient vs. Outpatient settings
- Benchmarking services in Haemophilia & Thrombosis services
- Clinical Challenges in approaches to improving patient adherence with treatment regimens.
- Knowledge Translation: Putting Evidence into Practice
- Case Studies: sentinel case studies: how evidence is applied to our daily practice t

Research Opportunity

The ISTH Nurses Forum is committed to advancing the promotion of both original research conducted by nurses and the uptake of evidence into practice within the nursing profession. Abstracts submitted are nurse-initiated research and selected according to pre-determined criteria by ISTH. Examples from online submission include;

- Telemedicine: Physician supported rural (HTC) making a difference for patients
- Subcutaneous injection of enoxaparin in neonates
- Counseling for patients taking oral direct inhibitors as anticoagulant therapy
- Personalized prophylaxis in haemophilia A: how low can you go?
- Thromboprophylaxis: Analysis of hospital acquired thrombosis
- Haemophilia and Home Treatment: Optimizing skills by an e-learning program

In addition, a Professional Identity Questionnaire for nurses was distributed during program and nursing reception. The survey aims to address the current lack of data regarding the professional identify and clinical profile of nurses participating in ISTH Nurses Forums. The ISTH Nurses Forum is uniquely positioned to establish itself as the pre-eminent forum fostering international professional development for nurses working within the fields of thrombosis and haemostasis. In order to best achieve such a goal, an improved understanding of this group’s identity, function and scope of practice is needed in order to best support future planning of Forum agenda and research activities. Findings are currently in process.

Future ISTH Nurses Forums
1. Develop a new concurrent session to be held during the congress under the theme of Supportive Care. This concurrent session would be predominantly chaired by Nurses but would have a clear multi-disciplinary appeal. Likely research topics to be presented within this concurrent session include quality of life, educational interventions, program development and consumer engagement. Researchers and clinicians would have a new field to which abstracts could be submitted that best enables research focusing on supporting patient care to be showcased.

2. It is recognized that many nurses do not receive the necessary mentoring and support to engage in research that could be presented within a Supportive Care category within the main congress. One goal of the Nurses Forums would thus be to up-skill nurses to engage in such research activities as service evaluation, educational interventions, quality of life and consumer engagement research. In taking this approach, the long-term visibility of nursing within ISTH can be supported as we would be responsible for our own capacity building whilst simultaneously having a more visible platform on which to showcase our contribution to the field. The forum would also provide a vital platform on which multi-site studies could be developed.

Budget Considerations:
Convene the ISTH Nurses Forum in Milwaukee in 2014
- To establish and complete the nurses’ session agenda for ISTH 2015 in Toronto
- Continue work on proposed webinars in thrombosis and hemostasis
- Continue work on website
- Begin development of nursing educational sessions that will be piloted in Toronto.
- Coordinate a nursing research project that has a global perspective.

Reasoning/expected outcomes:
As a nursing group we are proceeding with goals we had established as a group since the first time we met in Sydney. We have continued to grow and our interest in nursing research has intensified. To that end we need to meet as a core group and thoroughly complete the projects we feel require completion by end of 2014. We expect all of the projects mentioned above to be completed at the Milwaukee meeting and fully implemented by end of 2014.

Budget:
- Airfare for 8 individuals to Milwaukee at approximately $500-1500 per person = $8,000-10,000 (will be less for US members)
- Lodging for 4 rooms at approximately $150-200/night x 4 nights = $3000-3200 (we will share rooms to keep costs down)
- Conference rooms – am hoping this is covered already for the conference but need to know any associated costs so they can be included in the total.

In summary, the Nurses Forum is embarking on an ambitious program to support nurses in translational research focusing on a framework of clinical challenges, adherence and knowledge translation to the patient/family, locally within their institution and to the medical community as a whole. The Nurses Forum provides a collaborative environment where knowledge and practice patterns are shared and systematic evaluation of each are supported to promote the significance and generalizability of initiatives.

Respectfully submitted,