Caring for Older People: How Can We Do the Right Things Right?

Health care around the globe is facing extraordinary challenges due to demographic changes, changing patterns of diseases, budgetary restrictions and changing expectations of patients. Health care is increasingly becoming caring for older people and yet we know health care is often not fitting their needs. Nurses play increasingly important roles in efforts to tackle these challenges. They are key players in the provision of safe, high-quality and efficient health services. Their key role makes nurses increasingly subject of criticism and blaming by the media when quality care is not provided.

- Are nurses failing to deliver quality care?
- What education do they need?
- How can nurses live up to the expectations of the public?
- How can patient and public involvement contribute to the quality of nursing care?
To face these challenges and to ensure nurses’ contribution to quality care an essential step is the strengthening of evidence based practice and innovation\(^1\).

Nurse-sensitive patient outcomes represent the consequences or effects of nursing interventions and result in changes in patients' symptom experience, functional status, safety, psychological distress, and/or costs. How do we know when and to what extend nursing care impacts the older patients' desired health outcomes? What is the role of older patients in defining these outcomes? How do we develop and implement nursing interventions that do change older patient outcomes in a cost-effective way? How do nurses integrate technological innovations in strengthening their practice in care for older people? How do we educate nurses in delivering and monitoring evidence based interventions in caring for older people? How do we inform society on nurses’ contribution to quality care in an aging nation?

We invite practitioners, researchers, educators and policymakers to share their research and innovations with regard to caring for older people and more specific to nurse-sensitive patient outcomes in order to find answers to the questions raised above.

\(^1\) Strengthening nursing and midwifery services, European Strategic Directions towards health 2020, WHO regional office for Europe, 2013
The fourth ENC attracted a thousand attendants; the fifth aims at a similar number.
With its four previous editions the European Nursing Congress (ENC) has established itself as a major event for nurses, researchers, managers and policy makers from Europe and, increasingly, from all parts of the globe.

Initiated in 1992 to commemorate the 1892 ‘gathering of people interested in nursing’ by two Dutch pioneers in nursing Anna Reynvaan en damsel Jeltje de Bosch Kemper under the title Reassessing Nursing Care: a Challenge for Nurses in the 21st Century, the second (Empowerment of the Chronically ill, a Challenge for Nursing 1997) and third (Vulnerable Groups in Society: a Nursing Issue 2003) had growing numbers of participants. The 2010 ENC Older Persons, the Future of Care in Rotterdam attracted a thousand attendants.
1. **Patient and public involvement**
   The involvement of older people in nursing care, research and education.

2. **Multimorbidity and frailty**
   Multimorbidity is common in older people and has many implications for nursing. Frail people have characteristics like low physical activity, slowed performance, fatigue endurance or unintentional weight loss.

3. **Quality of care and patient safety**
   Patient safety is the cornerstone of high quality of care, and nurses are critical in the processes to prevent harm and adverse events.

4. **Patient systems and informal care**
   Patients cannot be cared for outside their context. Integrating and involving persons in the direct patient’s network is crucial to delivering tailored and effective care to patients, and therefore a major challenge for nurses.
5. **Essentials or fundamentals of care**
   Essentials or fundamentals of care focus at the basis upon which nursing care is delivered, and includes basic care like mobilization, washing and communication.

6. **Palliative care**
   Focus on providing patients relief from the symptoms, pain, physical stress, and mental stress of a life-threatening illness.

7. **Technology**
   Use of low and high technology in care for older persons, like disposable washing cloths, movement aids, ICT, robotics, domotics, telemetry, etc.

8. **Medication**
   Older people often suffer from comorbidity resulting in different therapies (polypharmacy), and in dementia care the use of psychoactive medications is highly prevalent.
9. **Education & Learning in nursing practice**  
Education is a key issue to prepare nurses for the future care for older people: what competences are needed on the different levels and can nursing leaders make the difference?

10. **Cultural issues**  
The influence of cultural differences in health and nursing care of older people.

11. **Workforce**  
Workforce issues become more and more important in care of older people: what minimum levels of expertise and number of staff are needed to provide high quality of care? What are smart and sustainable solutions for care in an aging society? T-shape professionals and future proof nurses.
12. **Management**

Management is of great influence on the position e.q. autonomy of nurses in the care for older people. Governance and influence of nurses on the management is becoming a big issue.

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13. **Leadership**

Leadership is an important issue for nurses to strengthen their position, to cooperate with others and to deliver the best nursing care.

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14. **Measurement issues**

Developing and using measuring instruments in caring for older people is important for establishing high-quality care and accountability. Are we measuring what we need to know?
General Information

Categories
Within these themes abstracts will be categorized as follows:

1. Prevention- societal care
2. Home care
3. Hospital care
4. Long-term care (intramural)
5. Mental health
6. Rehabilitation
7. Transitional care
**Science and innovation**

We welcome scientific and research-based abstracts as well as abstracts on practice-based innovations.

**Types of sessions**

**Symposia (90 minutes)**

Symposia are scientific sessions featuring a topic that is chaired by three to five speakers, preferably from different countries.

**Poster Presentations**

Poster presentations will be grouped by topic. Poster presenters are requested to be present at their poster site during the poster sessions. Poster sessions can focus on either scientific research or innovative projects in clinical practice, on any of the congress themes.

**Oral Presentations (20 minutes)**

Oral communications sessions feature presentations by four speakers on the topic of their choice. Oral communications can focus on either scientific research or innovative projects in clinical practice, management leadership and education.

The congress programme further includes keynote lectures, workshops, round-table discussions and debates.
The Programme Committee invites you to submit abstracts for oral presentations, poster presentations and symposia at the 5th European Nursing Congress.

The deadline for submission is **31 January 2016.**

*Later submissions will not be considered.*

All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their submission by e-mail within three months of submission, and no later than April 2016. The congress programme has 14 key themes and 7 categories, and focuses on both science and innovation.

All proposals must be submitted using the on-line submission system on the congress website: www.rotterdam2016.eu

**On-line submission procedure**

When submitting your abstract, please select the theme and category that best cover your presentation. To facilitate the review process, please pay careful attention and complete all application fields. Incomplete applications cannot be processed. The abstract should include:
Template science

- Title (max. 100 characters)
- Authors
- Affiliations
- Abstract body: background, introduction, aim including research question, materials and methods, results, conclusions (max. 400 words)

Template innovation

- Title (max. 100 characters)
- Authors
- Affiliations
- Abstract body: background, objective, innovation, experiences (max. 400 words)

Template symposia

- Title of the symposium (max. 100 characters)
- Authors
- Affiliations
- Abstract body: introduction, aim of the symposium (max. 200 words)
- Abstracts of the (min. 3 – max. 5) individual presentations (title, background, materials and methods, results, conclusion, max. 400 words per individual presentation)
Submission of abstracts is limited to two abstracts per presenting author. Should an individual participate in more than one session, the Programme Committee cannot guarantee that those presentations will be scheduled in non-conflicting time periods. It is assumed that the first author will be the presenter. By submitting an abstract, authors automatically authorise the congress organisers to publish the abstract.

**Review process**

The Programme Committee will review all abstracts submitted on time, within the specified format. For abstracts that focus on the theme of education, The Committee Education & Learning will advise the Programme Committee.

The organizers reserve the right to reject any abstract for failure to comply with submission guidelines mentioned above.

Abstracts will be selected based on the interest of the topics, the expected (near) future scientific breakthroughs and/or highlights and the achievements of the speakers in the field. Abstracts may be accepted in their original form, although in some cases, the Programme Committee may accept an abstract on the condition that the applicant agrees to make any modifications deemed necessary to improve the abstract.
**Notification of acceptance**

All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their submission by e-mail no later than April 2016. Further details will be sent end of June 2016, giving the time, type of session and place of accepted presentations. The abstracts will be definitely accepted once the applicant replies to this and officially confirms participation.

**Registration of presenting authors and chairs**

Please note that submitting an abstract for presentation does not constitute registration for the congress. Authors of accepted abstracts will receive € 50 reduction on the congress fee, on day tickets there is no reduction. Participants attending the congress are required to register and pay the registration fee. This includes all accepted presenting authors, co-authors and session chairs. All authors accepted for presentation must register before 1 June 2016 in order to confirm their presentation. Failure to do this could result in losing your presentation slot.

On-line registration will be open on the congress website at [www.rotterdam2016.eu](http://www.rotterdam2016.eu) from November 2015. Accommodation and transportation are the responsibility of the participant.
Agreement and disclosure
All authors are requested to disclose potential conflicts of interest. Potential conflicts of interest can involve: grants, honoraria, shares, paid positions on advisory boards, etc. By submitting an abstract, all proposed participants agree that:

• The abstract must comply with ethical guidelines for scientific research in general, and in particular for human and animal research
• The Programme Committee will not consider incomplete abstracts or any abstract including persons who are not eligible
• Each abstract submitter is committed to participate to the congress in case of acceptance
• In case the abstract is accepted, each presenter accepts the conditions of participation to the congress as defined by the organizers
• The Programme Committee may require changes in topics for the abstract before final acceptance
• The organizers may refuse any change to an abstract after it has been accepted by the Programme Committee and therefore may reject an abstract, which would no longer correspond to the approved abstract. Any change must have the prior approval of the Programme Committee and Committee Education & Learning
• In no event will the organizers be liable for the content of an abstract with respect to its participants or any other person or institution.

Questions? Please contact the organizing secretariat at:
EurVPK@leidscongresbureau.nl
Objectives
The Fifth European Nursing Congress aims to contribute to the improvement of caring for older people through international exchange of knowledge and strengthening the nursing profession through connecting science, innovation, education and practice.

Participants
The target groups are nurses and care givers, researchers, lecturers, nursing home doctors, management and managers of care institutions.

Supporters
European Nursing Congress Foundation is supported by:
• Rho Chi Chapter of the Honor Society of Nursing Sigma Theta Tau International
• Dutch Nurses Association, V&VN
• The European Academy Nursing Science EANS
• Fontys University of Applied Sciences
• Maastricht University
• Academic Collaborative Centre on Care for Older People

Location, registration and dates
The congress takes place in Congress center De Doelen in Rotterdam. The Leids Congres Bureau will undertake the participant registration.
The congress will last four days:
Tuesday 4 October : Registration, opening ceremony and reception
Wednesday 5 October : Sessions
Thursday 6 October : Sessions and social program
Friday 7 October : Sessions and conclusions

Working visits
Various organizations have shown an interest in inviting congress participants. During their stay, congress participants can pay visits to home care institutions, colleges, hospitals, mental health care institutions, nursing homes and the Dutch Nurses Association V&VN.

Entry fees
• Participant € 495,-
  (authors/full-time students € 445,-)
• Participant early registration before 1 May 2016 € 445,-
  (authors/full-time students € 395,-)
• Day ticket € 295,-
  (no discounts applicable)
• Social programme: P.M.
• Participation in professional events is free of charge
  (except possible charge for transport)
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Cecilia Anim
President Royal College of Nursing, London, United Kingdom

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Prof. Galina Perfilieva MD DSc
Programme Manager Human Resources for Health Programme, Division of Health Systems and Public Health, WHO Regional Office for Europe, Denmark

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Prof. Erik Scherder PhD
Head of the Department of Clinical Neuropsychology, VU University Amsterdam; Professor Center for Human Movement Sciences, University of Groningen, The Netherlands

Gerdi Verbeet
Chair Federation of Patients and Consumer Organisations in The Netherlands (NPCF) Utrecht, The Netherlands

Prof. Rudi Westendorp PhD
Professor of Medicine at Old Age, Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences University of Copenhagen, Denmark
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Dutch Nurses Association V&VN, Utrecht, The Netherlands

Nelleke Vogel MsN
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Prof. Marieke Schuurmans PhD
Professor of Nursing Science, University Medical Center Utrecht, The Netherlands, Chief Nursing Officer

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Adelaida Zabalegui PhD
CEO of Nursing Hospital Clínica de Barcelona, Spain
Bianca Buurman RN, PhD
Associate professor, department of Geriatrics, Amsterdam Medical Centre, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Roelof Ettema PhD
Researcher Chronically Ill and Methodology, University of Applied Sciences Utrecht, The Netherlands

Evelyn Finnema PhD
Lecturer Living, Welfare and Care on Elderly, NHL University of Applied Sciences, The Netherlands

Gaby Jacobs PhD
Lecturer Implementation and Evaluation of Evidence Based Practice in Nursing Practice, Fontys University of Applied Sciences, The Netherlands

Prof. Petrie Roodbol PhD
Professor of Nursing Science at the University Medical Centre and of the Hanze University of Applied Sciences Groningen, The Netherlands

Prof. Olaf Timmermans PhD
Lecturer Health and Wellbeing in the Delta, HZ university of Applied Sciences, University Antwerp, Centre for research and Innovation in Care, Belgium
Project Management

Johan Lambregts MsN
Bureau Lambregts, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

Supporters

Contact:
European Nursing Congress Foundation
PO Box 16065
2301 GB Leiden
The Netherlands
Telephone 00 31 71 514 8203
EurVPK@leidscongresbureau.nl
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