Support to the Nigerian Critical Care Nurses: The WFCCN Connection

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The National Association of Nurse Intensivists of Nigeria (NANIN) is Collaborating with other health care organizations and relevant agencies to develop the guidelines for professional practice.

Focused on upgrading of critical care training in Nigerian universities and maintenance of high standard of critical care services.

A recent WFCCN international survey on the most important issues facing critical care nursing across 65 countries, Priority areas identified include staffing levels, working conditions, access to quality educational programs, wages, formal practice guidelines/competencies and team work.

With the WFCCN Connection, Nigerian Critical Care Nurses are going places, and the Standard of Care has improved tremendously in most ICUs.
The World Federation of Critical Care Nurses (WFCCN; www.wfccn.org), an international organization representing 500,000 nurses explored issues impacting the underserved during the 11th Congress of the World Federation of Societies of Intensive and Critical Care Medicine.

The World Health Organization estimates more than 50 countries face critical shortages of healthcare workers, adding to a total global deficit of more than 2 million.

As critical care is one of the fastest growing hospital specialties, addressing these issues in underserved areas becomes crucial.

**Background**
Nursing is probably the only profession with formal Intensive Care training in Nigeria. All the other healthcare professionals who attend to ICU patients have no formal training in ICM.

Nurse Intensivists therefore have the singular challenge to train / or expose other professionals to ICM practice. Challenges are the attitude, and traditional concepts of responsibility for, and ownership of patients by the primary doctor.
The philosophy of the WFCCN is to assist critical care nursing associations and nurses regardless of age, gender, nation, colour, religious beliefs or social background in the pursuit of the objectives of the WFCCN.

The purpose of the WFCCN is to link critical care nursing associations and nurses throughout the world, to strengthen the influence and contribution of critical care nurses to health care globally and to be a collective voice and advocate for critical care nurses and patients at an International level.

Historically, critical care nursing organization (CCNO) leaders from around the world have established forums at various international critical care congresses.
World Federation of Critical Care Nurses
Representing over 500,000 critical care nurses worldwide
Resources

WFCCN
WORLD FEDERATION OF CRITICAL CARE NURSES

Resources of all kinds
WFCCN maintains an extensive archive of resources on many subjects including Medical, Cardiac and Respiratory Care
4th Worldwide WFCCN Survey

Purpose: to profile the activities and concerns of critical care nurses and professional critical care nursing organizations (CCNOs) around the world and identify expectations of nursing leaders and policy makers

59 respondents representing Africa, Asia, Europe, Middle East & The Americas

Collectively, the most important issues for critical care nurses:
- Working conditions
- Need for formal practice guidelines and competencies
- Staffing levels
- Access to quality education programs
The WFCCN provides the global forum and network linking all nurses together, encouraging participation and giving a voice to critical care,

Strategic linkages and support to the emergence and growth of regional critical care nursing federations in: Europe (EfCCNa), Asia-Pacific (APFCCN), Pan American Federation of Critical Care Nurses (was launched in Venezuela in October 2006 – this is a Spanish speaking federation), African Federation of Critical Care Nurses (was discussed and planned in South Africa in 2007). West African Critical Care Nurses Society was also initiated at the 1st WFCCN meeting in Nigeria (Calabar, 2014).
Way forward for Critical Care Medicine in Nigeria - Collaborations with World Federations and Societies

- The WFCCN paved the way for NANIN to be recognized worldwide as the flag bearer for Critical Care in Nigeria, and henceforth is the main Change Agent moving Critical Care Medicine forward in Nigeria.

- The WFCCN initiated NANIN into a Sister Program/ Mentorship with the BACCN, (2007). We are in Collaboration with the Emirates Society of Intensive/ Critical Care Medicine (ESICCM), U.A.E.; International Pan-Arab Critical Care Medicine Society (IPACCMS), Saudi Arabia; Society of Critical Care Medicine (SCCM), U.S.A.; Global Sepsis Alliance (GSA)/ World Sepsis Day (WSD), Germany; as individual members and as a group.

- NANIN is charting the way forward for Critical Care Medicine in Nigeria using the main language of Critical Care – COLLABORATION to form the Nigerian Society of Critical Care Medicine (NSCCM). This way we shall put in place Quality Improvement indices to explore ways to improve Standard of Critical Care Practice in Nigeria.
Despite differences in intensive care unit (ICU) capacity and technologies for critical care management, nurses from both developed and developing countries reported a focus on promoting best practices. Several common themes emerged, including staffing, education, and workload issues such as nurse-to-patient ratios.

Quality metrics, such as infection prevention, early recognition of sepsis, and strategies for mobilization were shared, while similar global concerns emerged.
Less affluent countries identified a need for education and training and improved access to the Internet and other supportive infrastructures. Although staffing levels, wages and working conditions were major issues for over half of the countries, access to education and practice guidelines ranked as higher priorities.

Although addressing country-specific issues related to the provision of critical care is important, engaging the global critical care community to overcome barriers to quality patient care becomes paramount.

Focusing on workforce issues, education and training, as well as promoting access to resources such as practice guidelines and best practice recommendations, will help to ensure that health disparities for the critically ill are addressed worldwide.

Needs of LMICs
For giving us the opportunity to meet and share our experiences.

For mentoring us to build a strong foundation in professional development for the future of our specialty; and thereby impact on health and wellbeing of our communities.

For their commitment to supporting us in providing and improving the quality of care for both our patients and their families.

I am obliged
Figure 1: WFCCN Core administration

Pediatric Intensive Care Nursing 6(2) 2005
WFCCN Country Member Representatives
At Durban World Congress 2013
@ Durban Congress
@ Durban Congress
NANIN members @ Durban
@ Durban Wfccn meeting
WFCCN Ambassador & I