

NEWSLETTER
MAY 2017
ISSUE 17



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Chairman of Trustees Report

Whilst it is obvious when visiting, that Africa is making strides away from poverty and there are positive signs of development everywhere, WHO and the Health Assembly are still very concerned about the shortage of healthcare workers available. Now The Global strategy on human resources for health : Workforce 2030 suggests that the world is short of 4.3 million healthcare workers at present. The mere availability is not the only requirement, they need to be equitably distributed and accessible to the population whether in urban or rural settings. They need also to be suitably competent for the job required and are motivated and empowered to deliver quality care. This is far from the situation in many of the countries we visit and many of the nurses are tired , stressed and burnout. They are not passing on their skills and knowledge in the way that they might as they are completely empty of motivation for the role. Not to mention the difficult environments in which they are working.

Amongst the many global priorities for healthcare development, expanding access to essential surgical services is one area we are keeping a close eye on. You may recall that at the ECSACON conference I attended last year in Nairobi, there was not a single surgical paper given during four days of education. One of the key agendas which may make a difference to nursing and to the availability of education for the workforce is an effective voice at strategic level. This is relevant in every country and indeed AfPP has for years spent time annually briefing the Chief

Nurses in each of the devolved nations. The voice of the specialist nurse in the African scenario is equally if not more important where the Nursing voice is quieter generally, and often not heard at the top table. So it was with pleasure that I observed the interaction between the Chair of the Perioperative Nurses Association and the PPS to the Minister of Health in Zambia. They had worked together in Operating Theatres somewhere, and it was apparent that the voice of the perioperative community was being heard.

We need to ensure that in our ten countries, there is an awareness of the online education which is available, so that individuals can continue their education when we are not in the country. We are adding new modules all the time. I was most thrilled recently when a colleague from Kenya sent me a module that she had promised a long time ago—that she had eventually put together for us.

The projections of the Workforce strategy to meet the vision of universal healthcare coverage for every population by 2030 requires an enormous and unprecedented scale-up. WHO suggests it is greater than all previous estimates, to meet increasing demands, address current gaps and counter the expected turnover needs huge investment financially and educationally , primarily in low resource settings.

If ever I thought that we might need to do less education in Africa over the next few years; this strategy has strongly told me otherwise!

Kate Woodhead



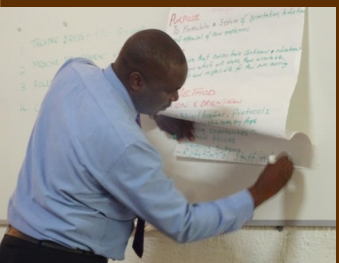
Hand Hygiene demonstration with Stephanie and Mary



Group work—devising standards



Gifts from Canada



Making amendments to standards with all delegates.



Groupwork—with help.



Homework. Steph and Kate typing up the day's standards

Zambia Visit 2017

An excellent week was recently enjoyed in January 2017, by FoAN and FoAN Canada working together to assist the perioperative nurses special interest group (ZOTNIG) of Zambia to devise standards of practice. A group of 19 senior nurses from hospitals all around Zambia as well as the perioperative schools of nursing was gathered together in Ndeke Hotel, Lusaka for a week of hard work, their presence had been co-ordinated by Judith Munthali, chairperson of ZOTNIG and their hospital release enabled by the Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Health.

The programme allows for a short presentation on each topic to remind delegates of international best practice. These were delivered by three facilitators from FoAN UK; Kate, Stephanie and Sally and they were joined by Mary Knight from FoAN Canada. Judith helped by delivering one of the sessions on the local amendments and plans for the roll out of the WHO surgical checklist to operating theatres across Zambia. It was wonderful to have such a full team to assist with the presentations, but especially to help facilitate the group work. Each standard was devised by a small group of nurses with input from us as necessary, the initial work was then amended by the whole group so that the best possible standard could be devised and approved by everyone.

Each day we would work well into the evening, typing up the standards that had been devised and agreed by the group – so that they could make any final amendments the following day. At the end of Friday we were able to complete 20 standards for practice, all of which had been agreed, referenced and made into a workable book. The standards, it was agreed would be reviewed in 2019.

The work was presented to the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry, with a short visit on Friday. He was delighted and invited us back to assist in devising some further standards. The Nursing Directorate are interested in FoAN's Leadership programme and will look for some funds to assist us.

Feedback comments from the evaluations in answer to the questions *What have you enjoyed?* Included:- *The commitment to work as a team and all the hard work to formulate perioperative standards; the lectures were detailed and had the required content; the facilitators were knowledgeable and delivered the relevant material.*

The fact that I participated in the making of standards has made me happy. Even the whole workshop was great.

What will you do differently as a result of this course?

We will definitely be guided by the guidelines and thus improving patient care in the theatres; we will have evidence-based practice as we do our work. Surgical count—instead of just counting small instruments, swabs and needles, I will be counting all instruments in the set; Warming fluids and blood prior to infusion especially in winter to keep the patient warm. Debriefing at all times.

Work using set standards; do a lot of teaching to colleagues at local work places.

Thanks to a generous airline baggage allowance, FoAN was able to give each delegate a text book with their attendance certificate and eye protection. Thanks to everyone who travelled for their enthusiasm, assistance and hard work. Thanks also to each of the delegates who also worked hard for a great outcome! Thanks Judith for all your organisation and support.

Kate and Judith



Thank you very much to Questa Voce for a generous donation

On December 3rd 2016. Stephanie and the choir that she belongs to Questa Voce had their Christmas concert at the Life Centre in Bournemouth.

Questa Voce is a mix of many different voices and styles. There are a number of highly trained and experienced professionals, a number of semi-professional voices and a large number of people with no formal training or experience. Together with the orchestra Questa Musica this brings a great balance of superb music.

At the end of the performance a bucket collection is held to raise funds for local or connected charities. The bucket collection at this concert was shared with The Royal Bournemouth Hospital where Stephanie works as a nurse and FoAN.

Huge thanks to Questa Voce and audience for their donation to FoAN.

Stephanie Freeman



Remember to look us up and follow us on Facebook, as well as ensuring you check the www.foan.org.uk website for up to date news of our activities.

Sally and Steph raise funds at a Tea Dance in Basingstoke.

On Sunday 12th February Stephanie and Sally were guests of David Smith Dance in Basingstoke at their Valentine Tea Dance, which was held in aid of FOAN.



Over fifty people came along and enjoyed an afternoon of ballroom and sequence dancing.

The dancing was supported by by David's parents and grandparents who run a dance studio in Hereford.

We took along the FoAN stand with cards and various African items along with a raffle we raised £55.00

David kindly donated £200 from the event to FoAN.

Sally Pentecost.

Pre Christmas Fashion Show 2016

We held a pre Christmas Fashion Show in November last year, which provided an opportunity for some early Christmas shopping and no doubt gave some ideas of what to wear on Christmas Day!

The Edinburgh Woollen Mill Shop in Eastleigh, Hampshire, hosted our evening.

It was one of fun, entertainment and of course fashion. The 'catwalk' scene was ably compered by the store's Manager, as our models performed like professionals. We even convinced our Vicar to boost the male model numbers.

Light refreshments were served during the Show and we also had a Raffle. Following the actual show all attendees were able to purchase goods with a discount generously given by the store.

We are indebted to the following people: our hosts who stayed on after working hours, donated raffle prizes and contributed to our refreshments; our models who readily agreed to take part and did so with such confidence; and to our attendees for their support both with their presence and donations of raffle prizes.

The Fashion Show boosted our funds by £173.00. Thank you all for your generosity, it was greatly appreciated.

Further events in 2017 in Eastleigh for FoAN includes a pre-summer Fashion Show and a coffee morning, dates to be decided.

Dot Chadwick