ICN Conference, Valetta, Malta
The International Council of Nurses held its international conference in Valetta, Malta 4-8 May 2011. The conference brought together over 2,000 participants from 127 countries to discuss and celebrate key issues facing the international nursing community. In addition to 208 concurrent sessions, 38 symposia and approximately 450 posters, over 70 expert speakers contributed to the programme. They spoke to such key issues as disaster nursing, climate change, patient safety, the continuum of care, the transition–practice gap, primary health care, health financing, mental health, HIV/AIDS and health human resource management. You can download the main speaker presentations from the ICN website at: www.icn.ch/about-icn/icn-conference-2011-speakers-presentations/

2011 Update of Global Database of Regulators
In 2009 ICN, with funding from the National Council of State Boards of Nursing Centre for Regulatory Excellence Grant Program, completed a project entitled The Role and Identity of the Regulator. A global database of regulators was created as part of this project. The database included contact information, information on regulation and on health systems for over 170 jurisdictions. In 2011, ICN benefited from having an intern from Thailand, Saovaluck Jirathummakoon, over the summer months who completed work to fill in gaps and update information in the database. The database now includes information on a number of new countries and updated information on existing countries where available. ICN invites you to go to the site to access the database and view the updated information www.icn.ch/pillarsprograms/global-database/. Also, if you would like to include or revise information on your country please contact Jean Barry at barry@icn.ch

Regulation Network Meeting ICN Conference, Malta
A regulation network meeting was held in Malta during the ICN Conference. This well-attended meeting included a panel discussion on the global trend toward regional dialogue and collaboration on regulation. The panellists from Ghana, New Zealand and Bahrain presented on collaborations on regulation in their regions. This was followed by discussion among attendees on other regional initiatives as well as general discussion on topics of interest to regulators.

Online Regulation Network Discussion Forum
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WHO Multi-professional Patient Safety Curriculum Guide

State of Midwifery Report

UK Nursing and Midwifery Council revising Approach to Revalidation

Alberta, Canada introduces Guides for Overseas International Credentials

Review of the European Union Professional Qualifications Directive

New publications from ICN
Online Regulation Network Discussion Forum
In late 2010 after the update of the ICN website, the online regulation network discussion forum went live. This forum provides an opportunity to ask questions and participate in international online dialogue on key issues of interest to regulators. To post to the forum, you just need to complete the online registration form for the forum and log in. To date there has been little activity on the forum. However ICN encourages regulators to take this opportunity to engage in ongoing international dialogue on regulatory issues. To access the forum go to www.icn.ch/forum/index.php Other active ICN network forums that may be of interest to regulators are the advanced practice/nurse practitioner network forum, the nursing education network forum, the student network forum and the rural and remote network forum.

ICN Credentialing and Regulators Forum
The inaugural joint Credentialing and Regulators forum took place in Silver Spring Maryland, USA in November 2010. Thirty-three participants from 16 countries were present to discuss:

✓ Advanced practice: Current developments and trends;
✓ Regulatory reform: What are the drivers and where is it going? ;
✓ Fraud in regulation;
✓ Credentialing and regulatory research: Where are we and where do we need to go?; and
✓ Evolving scopes of practice in health care delivery: Implications for nursing and the public.

A copy of the report of this meeting and appendices with PowerPoint slides is available at: www.icn.ch/pillarsprograms/the-credentialing-forum/

ICN Observatory on Licensure and Registration
The ICN Observatory on Licensure and Registration, chaired by ICN President Rosemary Bryant, held its sixth meeting in Silver Spring Maryland, USA in November 2010. The observatory provided feedback on a draft of the most recent addition to ICN’s regulation toolkit series, the Complaints Management Toolkit to be released in early 2012. They also had in-depth discussion on the impact of the global economic recession on regulation. Observatory member Eleanor Msidi, Registrar, Zambia Nursing Council described the evolution of the Zambia Nursing Council as part of dialogue on capacity building of regulators. Other Observatory members contributed to this discussion by describing their path to developing expertise in regulation. Discussion also took place on the regulatory implications of two recent WHO documents: “Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel” and “Increasing Access to Health Workers in Remote and Rural Areas through Improved Retention.”

WHO Multi-professional Patient Safety Curriculum Guide
ICN sat on the expert working group to develop a Multi-professional Patient Safety Curriculum Guide. WHO had already released a guide specific to the medical profession and recognised the need to expand it for a multi-professional audience. This comprehensive guide includes patient safety curricular content provided in topic-specific teaching modules, teaching strategies and some very useful case studies. The recently released guide as well as other patient safety resources are available as free downloads from WHO website www.who.int/patientsafety/education/en/

State of Midwifery Report
ICN was a member of the advisory committee on the development of “The State of the World’s Midwifery Report”. This report released in May 2011 provides a “snapshot” of the situation of midwifery in 60 high priority countries. It includes an update of major issues such as education, competencies, regulation, professional association, maternal health workforce
distribution and retention issues. ICN brought the perspective of the nurse-midwife to the report as midwifery is practiced by nurse-midwives in many of the countries included. The report is available at: www.unfpa.org/sowmy/report/home.html

WHO/PEPFAR Transformative Scale up of Health Professional Education
ICN has been engaged in this multi-stakeholder initiative led by the WHO and the President’s Emergency Aids Relief Fund (PEPFAR) since October 2009 and is part of the Guidelines Core Development Group. The focus of this work is to develop guidelines that scale-up the numbers of health professionals being educated and contribute to improving the quality and relevance of health care graduates globally. Regulatory frameworks for health professionals is one of the categories to be addressed in the Guidelines. The Guidelines are intended to be released in September 2012.

The African Regulatory Collaborative (ARC): Strengthening Nursing and Midwifery Regulation and Practice in Africa
Chief Nursing Officers, Nursing Registrars and National Nursing Association representatives from East, Central and Southern African countries met together in Nairobi, Kenya 28 February to 2 March 2011 to develop strategies for enhancing nursing and midwifery regulation and practice in that region. The meeting was sponsored by the Commonwealth Secretariat, the US Centre for Disease Control and Prevention and Emory University Atlanta, Georgia, in collaboration with the Kenya Ministry of Health. The aim of the meeting was to establish an innovative South to South partnership to build the capacity of Africa’s nursing and midwifery regulatory bodies and to strengthen nursing and midwifery regulation in the region. Five grants were subsequently awarded. These were to Mauritius and Seychelles who were reviewing their Nurses Act and to Lesotho, Swaziland and Malawi who were developing or continuing work on national continuous professional development programmes.

United Kingdom Nursing and Midwifery Council revising Approach to Revalidation
The Nursing and Midwifery Council in the United Kingdom which regulates some 660,000 registered nurses and midwives has embarked on a process to revise its system for revalidation to be introduced in 2014. The aim of the revised system being developed is to deliver a proportionate, effective, evidence based and affordable system that will enable the NMC to confirm, on a continuous basis, that nurses and midwives are fit and safe to practise, that their skills and knowledge are up to date and specific to their current area and scope of practice. It also aims to promote a culture of continuous improvement in practice to nurses and midwives.

The proposal for the system which was agreed to by the Nursing and Midwifery Council in March 2011 is currently undergoing consultation. According to the NMC website, the intention is that revalidation will deliver an enhanced continuing professional development (CPD) validation process which focuses on identifying the outcomes of learning activities and their impact on fitness to practise and ensures that learning activities are relevant to the current area and scope of practice and that they help improve practice. The plan is for the revalidation to build on the NMC’s current system and have mechanisms to record CPD activities and renew online. It also is intended to include a risk-based audit process combining risk-based, random and stratified sampling methods. For more information go to: www.nmc-uk.org/Nurses-and-midwives/Revalidation/

Alberta, Canada introduces Guides for Overseas International Credentials
The Government of Alberta in Canada has issued a series of 10 International Education Overview Guides available at http://employment.alberta.ca/immigration/12638.html Reports from the following countries have been produced: China, Colombia, India, Korea, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, the United Kingdom, the Russian Federation and former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Although the information is not specific to nursing, it does provide general information on the
educational structure in these countries including post-secondary education that may be useful to regulators when assessing internationally educated applicants from these countries.

**Review of the European Union Professional Qualifications Directive**
The European Commission is currently in the process of reviewing the Professional Qualifications Directive (Directive 2005/36/EC) available at [http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/qualifications/policy_developments/legislation_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/qualifications/policy_developments/legislation_en.htm) which came into force in October 2007. The intention is to have recommendations for amendments by 2012. The directive establishes roles on the mutual recognition of professional qualifications and brings together 15 previous directives to create a single piece of legislation. As part of this update they have carried out a broad consultation with stakeholders and the public. The Nursing and Midwifery Council in the United Kingdom was charged with collecting feedback from the European nursing community about their experience with the Directive. The summary report of the consultation within the nursing regulatory community indicated that further work needed to be done and that amendments should be made concerning:

- Minimum training requirements which need to be updated to recognise nurses should be prepared for new roles and broader responsibilities and to mirror economic and scientific progress.
- Language testing – the directive should be amended to give competent authorities more power in language testing with general consensus that the current situation puts patient safety at risk.
- Continuous professional development – CPD should be made compulsory in the Directive with a harmonised definition established.


**New Publications from ICN**

**Scope of Practice and Decision Making Toolkit**
This Toolkit is part of a learning package that describes the policy framework, relevant concepts, key stakeholders and processes fundamental to any discussion, development and implementation of the scope of nursing practice in any country or jurisdiction. The move globally to acknowledging an individual nurse’s professional accountability to determine their own scope of practice is reflected in the increasing development and use of decision making tools to assist in the process. The Toolkit therefore also describes the key components of decision making frameworks and tools and provides examples currently in use around the world.

Throughout the document there are questions or exercises for the reader to complete and key points are highlighted. A PowerPoint presentation accompanies the Toolkit.

**Global Issues and Trends in Nursing Education**
This monograph presents a current ICN view on global trends in nursing education for preparing a nursing workforce capable of responding to current health care needs in the present and in the future. It provides an overview of current trends in nursing education and describes some of the critical challenges for nursing education.

Both the Toolkit and Monograph can be ordered from ICN website: [www.icn.ch/English.htm](http://www.icn.ch/English.htm)