International nursing experts to headline ICN Regional Conference 2018 in Abu Dhabi

Conference to highlight ICN regional work, Infection Prevention and Control, evidence-based nursing, acute to community care and innovative models of patient care

Geneva, Switzerland, 10 July 2018 - The International Council of Nurses (ICN) is pleased to confirm the names of six headline speakers for the ICN Regional Conference 2018 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE). With the theme Nurses: A Voice to Lead - Ensuring Access to Healthcare through Leadership, Innovation, and Collaborative Practice, the Regional Conference will take place from 25-27 September 2018, co-hosted by the Emirates Nursing Association and in collaboration with the SEHA International Nursing, Midwifery and Allied Health conference.

Annette Kennedy (Ireland), ICN's President, will speak on ICN’s Strategic Directions and Regional Focus. Elected 28th President of the International Council of Nurses in June 2017 after serving four years as Vice President, Kennedy previously held the position of President of the European Federation of Nurses and was active in lobbying the European Parliament, Commission and Council. Kennedy is a Registered Nurse and Midwife with a BA in Nursing Studies and an MSc in Public Sector Analysis.

Professor Didier Pittet (Switzerland), CBE, is an infectious diseases expert and the director of the Infection Control Programme and WHO Collaborating Centre on Patient Safety at the University Hospital of Geneva, Switzerland. Pittet is also the External Lead of the World Health Organization (WHO) Global Patient Safety Challenge “Clean Care is Safer Care” and African Partnerships for Patient Safety. Pittet will speak on the Global Hand Hygiene Implementation Program.
Lord Nigel Crisp (UK) is the co-Chair of Nursing Now, a global campaign that aims to raise the status and profile of nursing. An independent crossbench member of the House of Lords, Crisp co-chairs the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Global Health. He was previously Chief Executive of the English National Health Service and Permanent Secretary of the UK Department of Health.

Andrea Baumann (Canada), Associate Vice-President of Global Health, Director of the WHO Collaborating Centre in Primary Care and Health Human Resources and Fellow in the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences, will speak on Evidence-based Nursing, Transition from Theory to Practice. Baumann is widely recognised for her leadership, research and innovation. She has a history of guiding significant initiatives that have had an impact on health systems.

Professor Leanne Aitken (Australia) is a Professor of Critical Care at City University of London. A critical care nurse, Aitken concurrently holds an academic title as Professor of Nursing at Griffith University and Visiting Scholar at Princess Alexandra Hospital, Brisbane, Australia. Her current research focuses on interventions that can be delivered during and after critical illness or injury to improve recovery after time in the intensive care unit, decision-making practices of critical care nurses and a range of clinical practice issues. Aitken will speak on Strategies to Improve Recognition and Response of Deteriorating Patients.

Kathleen Vollman (USA), a Critical Care Clinical Nurse Specialist, Educator and Consultant will speak on Innovative Models of Patient Care. Vollman’s company, Advancing Nursing LLC, is focused on creating empowered work environments for nurses through the acquisition of greater skills and knowledge. Vollman is an honorary ambassador to the World Federation of Critical Care Nurses.

To register for the ICN Regional Conference 2018 click here.

Other topics in to be discussed during the three-day conference include Universal Health Coverage, the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Regional Perspective, ICN Health Policy, Inter-Professional Education and Collaborative Practice, Global Updates on Infection Prevention and Control, Artificial Intelligence and Healthcare Informatics and the Global Nursing Now Campaign. The provisional programme for the ICN Regional Conference 2018 can be found here.
To keep up with all the latest information on the Regional Conference programme and related events, visit the Regional Conference webpage at http://www.icn.ch/events/Regional-Conference-UAE-September-2018/ or follow us on Twitter @ICNurses #ICNConference.

Note for Editors
The International Council of Nurses (ICN) is a federation of more than 130 national nurses associations representing the millions of nurses worldwide. Operated by nurses and leading nursing internationally, ICN works to ensure quality care for all and sound health policies globally.

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