

ISTM Nursing Professional Group (NPG) Leadership Council
Wednesday, 19 October 2011
Teleconference Minutes

In Attendance:

Members:

Gail Rosselot, Chair
Briar Campbell
Cindy Rugsten
Nahoko Sato
Claire Wong

Staff:

Diane Nickolson
Kathy Smith

Not in Attendance:

Lani Ramsey
John Bosch

The following is a consolidated record of the deliberations and actions of the ISTM Nursing Professional Group (NPG) during the session described above.

Welcome

Ms. Rosselot welcomed everyone to the teleconference. She noted that the call will last 60 minutes. An introduction to the Members of the new ISTM Secretariat staff member, Kathy Smith, was made. Minutes from the 24 August 2011 teleconference were approved by unanimous consent.

Update from ISTM Leadership Council Meeting of 1 September 2011

Ms. Rosselot reviewed several items of special note from this meeting. First, Ms. Rosselot reported that Ms. Genasi, ISTM President, strongly encouraged all ISTM leaders and groups to submit proposals for the CISTM13 in Maastricht. Ms. Rosselot encouraged each NPG Council Member to submit proposals and expressed her desire to have more nurse proposals and abstracts available for Maastricht. Second, it was noted that the ISTM membership is now above 2500 and that funding for the prior fiscal year was higher than anticipated and resulted in an overall gain for the ISTM. Third, she noted that Dr. Ken Dardick gave a report on the May CTH (Certificate of Travel Health) exam results. During his report he noted the overall pass rate was lower in 2011, likely due to the higher number of non-physicians who took the exam. Ms. Rosselot stated that nurses have had a consistently lower pass rate. She stated that this has been a continuing trend and that nurses have brought their concerns and frustration about the exam to her attention over the past several years. In particular, nurses are concerned about the post-travel content of this exam. A discussion ensued concerning the issues the nurses have with the exam

and how the exam might be adjusted. Ms Rosselot stated that in response to her questions at the Leadership meeting, Dr. Dardick said that to date no data was collected or analysis made of candidate variables that might explain this variance in pass rates (education in travel medicine, years of experience, etc.). Ms. Nickolson noted that it was not only nurses who were not passing, but other non-physician groups as well, such as pharmacists and physician assistants. Ms. Wong related that she was now on the Exam Committee but has not yet participated in any committee activities. Ms. Nickolson stated that the Exam Committee had not yet met, for preliminary work was being conducted with the committee leaders and consultant regarding the updating of the ISTM Body of Knowledge and exam. She reported a survey will be sent out to ISTM members and those who have passed the CTH and are not current ISTM members. The survey will ask for comments regarding the updating of the Body of Knowledge, after which the committee will review the survey and commence with the needed updates. At the same time new questions will be generated for the exam question bank. After the updating of the Body of Knowledge, exam questions will be matched to the content and the new exam developed. After additional discussion, it was decided that the NPG will send a letter to the Exam Committee noting its concerns regarding the pass rate of nurses. Additionally, when the survey is out, the NPG will send reminders and encourage nursing members to complete the survey so it will have good representation in the outcomes.

Professional Education Committee Update

Ms. Rosselot discussed some of the activities of this committee including the plan to offer webinars, the updating of the ISTM travel clinic monograph, and discussions on whether to continue the Expert Opinion page on the ISTM web site. She encouraged NPG Council members to share their thoughts on the value of the Expert Opinion pieces with her.

CISTM13 Update

Ms. Rosselot reported that John Bosch has participated in the first meeting of the CISTM13 Local Organizing Committee, and submitted a brief report. In his report he noted that the LOC discussed the possibility of having a Nursing Day identified for the CISTM13, and will raise this with the Scientific Committee. He noted that should there be a nursing day identified, the nurses reception should be moved to this day as an evening reception. Ms. Rosselot noted that depending upon the timing of a special nursing day, this could be a significant change from the past when it has been customary to welcome all nurses just prior to the Opening Session. She said the Council will want to discuss this further as plans for Maastricht develop.

Ms. Rosselot also reported that she had received the list of CISTM13 Scientific Program Committee Members, but had been asked not to reveal the members yet. She was able to report there were four nurses listed on the committee, with Nahoko Sato and John Bosch on the list.

NPG/Pharmacy Professional Group (PPG) Liaison

Ms. Rosselot reported that Ms. Ramsey had been selected as liaison to the PPG and initial outreach had been done to Jeff Goad, Chair of the PPG. She noted the concept of liaisons was new, and that terms were being identified, since Nurses are unable to join the Pharmacy Group and vice-versa. Ms.

Nickolson noted that Dr. Goad planned to raise this issue with the PPG during its next call, and on behalf of the PPG asked the NPG Council if it would allow a liaison from the PPG join its teleconferences and meetings. The Council unanimously welcomed this idea and look forward to the enhanced professional dialogue. Ms. Rosselot asked Ms. Nickolson to communicate this to Dr. Goad.

CE Task Force

Ms. Rosselot reported that the second email resulted in a number of nurses volunteering to serve on the Task Force. Ms. Rosselot will serve as chair, and Ms. Wong agreed to serve as Co-Chair of the Task Force to provide a broader international perspective. The Task Force members will be identified and contacted next week, and activities commence since the timeline is short. It is planned to have a survey sent to the full NPG regarding CE, and the Task Force will consider its results in addition to conducting the research needed to resolve these issues. The recommendations need to be ready by January for presentation at the next Executive Board conference call in February. Ms. Nickolson recommended that the NPG submit its report a few weeks prior to the EB Teleconference so an electronic discussion can take place prior to the call. Since the teleconferences can only last 90 minutes, it is a way to ensure that enough time for proper consideration can be made about the proposal. It is hoped that a survey of nurses within ISTM concerning this issue can be accomplished during November.

Communication to All ISTM Nurses

Ms. Rosselot thanked Ms. Nicholson for facilitating the ability for NPG to now communicate by email directly to all ISTM nurses, including those who are not currently NPG members. She said this will help NPG meet its mission as a voice for all nurses within the society.

NPG Website Page

Ms. Rosselot noted the NPG minutes are now available on the website page. She suggested the NPG consider using the page for more general communications and documents, and put fewer time-sensitive materials on this page, so it will not require updating so frequently. This suggestion was met favorably by the Council, and Ms. Rosselot will update the page to reflect this decision.

Newsletter Development

Ms. Rugsten gave a report on the discussions between herself and Mr. Bosch concerning the development of a newsletter to be sent out to the NPG membership. Mr. Bosch favors such a newsletter, but Ms. Rugsten felt that this might be more of a burden instead of a help. There was general discussion concerning the pros and cons of the newsletter. The general consensus was that instead of sending out an additional newsletter, that the NPG articles in NewsShare and on the ISTM NPG website should be enhanced and sent to the full NPG separately as well. These communications can also encourage the NPG members to visit the website page. This concept will be raised with Mr. Bosch.

Singapore Program Development

Ms. Campbell reported on the NPG program for the Singapore meeting that she, Lani Ramsey and Gail Rosselot have been working on. It will be a 90-minute interactive program introducing the NPG and

would include three presentations concerning ISTM nursing diversity, rabies and a Japanese encephalitis case study. There will be a focus on networking and encouraging nurses to join ISTM. Ms. Rosselot stated that she could request funds from the Executive Board for travel to the meeting. Unfortunately the invitation to create the program was made after the 2011-2012 budget was created and approved, but during the Leadership Council Meeting she did mention that the NPG may request additional budgetary funding for this fiscal year. Ms. Nickolson confirmed that there were no such funds at present in the NPG budget; there was only some support for postage and copying. The suggestion to request funding for speaker travel to Singapore was met with full support from the council, and Ms. Rosselot will submit the request to Ms. Nickolson to forward on.

Action Items

1. The NPG Council Members will submit proposals and abstracts for Maastricht.
2. Ms. Rosselot will send a letter to the Exam Committee noting the concerns of the NPG regarding the pass rate of nurses on the CTH exam.
3. After the Exam Committee releases a survey regarding the ISTM Body of Knowledge and exam, the NPG will send reminders for nursing members to complete the survey.
4. Ms. Nickolson will ask Dr. Goad if it would allow the NPG liaison to join the PPG teleconferences and meetings and if the PPG liaison would like to do the same with the NPG. [item completed]
5. Next week Ms. Rosselot will contact those nurses who will be a part of the CE Task Force to begin conducting the research needed to resolve CE issues.
6. A survey of nurses concerning CE credits will be held during November.
7. A report of recommendations will be completed by the CE Task Force by January.
8. The report of recommendations should be submitted by the Task Force to the EB in January to allow for electronic discussions prior to February EB Teleconference.
9. Ms. Rosselot will update the NPG website page. [item completed]
10. Ms. Rugsten will communicate with Mr. Bosch concerning the enhancement of NPG articles on NewsShare and further distribution to members of the NPG.
11. Ms. Rosselot will submit a request for funding support for the NPG session at the Singapore meeting to Ms. Nickolson who will forward this on to the Finance Committee.