

Nurse Professional Group Assembly Meeting 10 May 2011. CISTM12, Boston USA.

The meeting was led by Gail Rosselot and minutes were taken by Claire Wong. Other Council members present: Briar Campbell and Nahoko Sato. Diane Nickolson, ISTM Executive Director was also in attendance. Approximately 125 nurses attended the one hour meeting.

Introduction

Slides kindly prepared by outgoing chair, Jane Chiodini, and supplemented by Gail Rosselot and outgoing Vice Chair, Sandra Grieve, provided this overview:

1. Explanation of the structure of ISTM and NPG as one of the two professional groups (the other is Pharmacy)
2. History of the NPG- established in 2009 as a replacement for the PNI standing committee
3. NPG members now number over 430 as of April, 2011 (total ISTM nurse members = about 600)
4. Charter of the NPG.
5. NPG website-one of several projects accomplished during past 2 years
6. New Council members were introduced:
Gail Rosselot (USA), John Bosch (the Netherlands), Briar Campbell (New Zealand), Nahoko Sato(Japan), Lani Ramsey(Australia), Cindy Rugsten (Uganda), Claire Wong (United Kingdom).
7. Discussion points for the meeting:
 - a. Continuing education (CE) points
 - b. NPG survey
 - c. Priorities for the NPG
 - d. Continuing & enhancing ISTM links
 - e. Possible projects

CE Credits for Nurses

US nurses expressed dissatisfaction with lack of nursing CE at this Boston CISTM and asked to have CE credits at future ISTM conferences. Diane Nickolson, ISTM Executive Director, explained that the process for applying for CE accreditation in the USA is very involved. The application for CISTM12 was not submitted due to the lack of required information regarding the speakers at the conference. Retrospective application is not possible.

Action points:

- Planning ahead for CISTM13
- Diane offered her assistance for individual CE issues: nurses should contact her at the Secretariat
- Gail Rosselot will be attending the Leadership Council on behalf of NPG and will request that the issue of CE for nurses be addressed at an executive level within ISTM
- Since only a portion of the total NPG membership were at the Boston meeting, it was suggested that NPG survey the full group regarding their needs, requirements and interests, in terms of CE points at ISTM educational programs.

NPG survey

A copy of the poster presentation of the survey was distributed. It was agreed that the results provided a basis to move forward. Nurses in attendance were encouraged to read through the report and share their thoughts with the NPG Council.

Slide with Possible Projects for NPG Action

The group was shown a slide that outlined a number of possible projects for NPG. Some of these are suggestions from the outgoing NPG Council and others come from a discussion with the Pharmacy Group. The slide showed the following:

1. Create policy regarding CE credits for all professional groups within ISTM
2. Address issues that nurses have with the CTH exam including the post-travel content
3. Promote consistency in the structure and elections of all professional groups
4. Include NPG members on every ISTM standing committee, task force, and working group
5. Create a “template” article that can be used by any NPG member to describe the role of nurses in travel health in local publications around the world
6. Map nursing practice in travel health around the world
7. Continue NPG surveys on selected topics to focus the efforts of our professional group

Suggestions from the Group for Continuing & Enhancing ISTM links/Possible Projects

From the floor some issues were given further discussion and other topics and issues were raised. The following ideas were suggested for future consideration:

- Work to ensure the CTH exam better reflects the role of nurses.
- All ISTM committees and task forces to include nurse membership - nurses should be present on each to share nursing perspective and provide feedback to NPG for possible action projects
- A separate listserv for nurses – it was generally felt that the present one was intimidating
- It was agreed that the NPG should be careful to avoid isolating ourselves as learning from other disciplines within travel medicine is so valuable.
- Contact list of nurse members willing to have visiting nurses spend time in their workplace.

Priorities for the NPG in the Short-term

At the close of the session, Gail Rosselot asked the group to identify their top 3 or 4 issues for NPG action in the next year. The following priorities were identified:

- CE credits for nurses
- Compilation of a nurse members list for distribution to all NPG members
- Mapping of nurse members practice around the world, including role differences, educational requirements, etc. (This is a companion effort to a similar project being undertaken by the Pharmacy Group.)
- Address issues of the CTH exam that impact nurses