

Nurses' Reception

Boston CISTM

Sunday, May 8, 2011

Our reception was a wonderful start to a very full week of sessions in Boston. NPG wants to extend special thanks to Diane Nickolson and the Secretariat for all the room arrangements and the delicious food. Over 200 nurses were in attendance and I heard great feedback during the week about this opening event.

Sandra Grieves, outgoing Vice Chair of NPG, and Gail Rosselot chaired the program and we were fortunate to have some special speakers and a very enthusiastic group of nurses in the large room.

The formal part of the meeting began as follows:

1. Welcome to the nurses and a request for a show of hands- who was attending their first ISTM meeting and who had been to a previous conference? Sandra Grieves then suggested that new attendees consider pairing up with more "seasoned" attendees to learn how to get the most out of the meeting. Nurses were also offered a chance to wear a gold or silver star on their name tags so colleagues could identify fellow nurses throughout the week. There were many stars in the room on Sunday!
2. As some of you know, we also celebrated International Nurses' Day during our week in Boston. We acknowledged the work and life of Florence Nightingale whose birthday is celebrated each year on May 11. A renowned nursing leader, Florence Nightingale certainly qualified as a travel health nurse as well with her work with the military, her time in the Crimea, and her efforts to combat typhoid, typhus and cholera. Definitely a woman ahead of her times...
3. We then celebrated the efforts of another British citizen, our outgoing NPG Chair, Jane Chiodini, who worked tirelessly on behalf of ISTM nurses during the initial two years of the NPG. Under Jane's leadership, NPG initiated our website, published the Nursing Best Practice Guidelines, and represented nurse interests within the ISTM Leadership Council. Yeah Jane! A very BIG greeting card was passed around the room so nurses could send their personal thanks and best wishes to Jane who was unable to attend the meeting this year.
4. Sandra Grieves was then thanked for all her work as outgoing Vice Chair. In addition to supporting Jane and all of NPG, Sandra insured mention of NPG in each issue of *NewsShare* and encouraged nurses to work on all of the standing committees of the society.
5. Fiona Genasi then addressed the group. As the first nurse to serve as ISTM President, this was a very special moment for the group. Fiona pledged her support for ISTM nursing interests. We in turn applauded her and promised our backing for her presidency. Exciting times ahead!
6. As outgoing chair of the other ISTM professional group, Larry Goodyear, from the UK, addressed the nurses on behalf of the Pharmacy Group. Larry offered the support of his group for nurse initiatives and expressed enthusiasm for joint projects in the next two years. Jeff Goad from the U.S. will be the new chair for this group and both professional groups are eager to work together.

7. To end this portion of the program, nurses were reminded that the NPG Assembly would take place on Tuesday evening. Everyone was strongly encouraged to attend that forum when specific nursing concerns and interests would be addressed. A special invitation was extended to any nurses at the reception who were not yet NPG members. They were encouraged to join NPG and reassured that there are no obligations attached!

As a real change of pace, the program then featured a networking opportunity first introduced at the Budapest meeting in 2009. At that CISTM, Anita Backer, NPG Council member from California, organized a novel method for meeting and greeting colleagues. "Speed networking" is a variant on "speed dating" and it gives a large group a chance to rapidly meet new colleagues in a fun way. Successful in Hungary, we tried it again in Boston and for the next 30 minutes everyone went from table to table meeting nurses they did not know. Once again it was a hit with ISTM nurses.

The reception ended with small group meetings for nurses who share common worksites or professional interests. We had a group of nurses in college health in one corner, nurses from employee health in another area, and nurses at the far end of the room talking about a common interest in research...

Feedback from nurses about the reception was uniformly excellent and the idea for gathering nurses together at the start of a CISTM was again very successful and well-received.

Thanks to everyone who made it such a wonderful beginning to our week in Boston.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Rosselot

NPG Steering Council