

## The Israeli Association of Cardiac and Critical Care Nurses (<http://www.iccil.com>)

### Who are we?

The Cardiac Nursing Society (founded in 1986) and the Nursing Intensive Care Society (founded in 1995) merged at the end of the '90's and named "The Israeli Association of Cardiac and Intensive Care Nursing".

### The cornerstones for the association's activities according to ethical guidelines:

- Voluntary - All members of the association are volunteers.
- A-political - The association deals with professional issues related to cardiac nursing and intensive care.
- Independence - Independent of every cause, only operated by volunteers.
- Democracy - the members of the association elect the leaders; chairman and treasury, by a vote.

### The structure of the association

Association's Chairman: Levana Jakobson

Association's treasurer: Orly Kolpak

### EBN Today

15 years ago, (2006) a small group of active ICU nurses decided to meet monthly to conduct joint research and close the gap between published evidence and bedside practice. In addition, the core group was determined to connect the evidence to the Bedside ICU Israeli nurse. That is how our EBN (Evidence Based Nursing) group started.

- Consists of 25-30 active volunteers participants - (out of about 800 members)
- EBN Members include: educators, dean of a nursing school, head nurses, bedside nurses, clinical instructors and researchers, representation hospitals throughout the country, all types of intensive care.
- Common interest of improving nursing care, discuss common problems, solutions, crises, and frustrations regarding our daily bedside work.
- Representative – MOH (Ministry of Health) National Council for the Prevention of Cardiovascular Diseases
- The Board welcomes new members and promotes new ideas that they bring with them.

### The association's activities

- 🏠 The Committee convenes once every 4-6 weeks to discuss and update its activities.

- 🏠 EBN is the research group that deals with and investigates issues in intensive and cardiac care nursing that are common to the various units and departments in the various Israeli medical centers.
- 🏠 Promote nursing research - all decisions on topics of research are voted on by the association's board.

### The association's committee

- 🏠 Is responsible for organizing national conferences.
- 🏠 Organizes international conferences on critical care nursing.
- 🏠 Participates in other international cardiac and intensive care nursing conferences.
- 🏠 Is responsible for unique courses related to intensive care nursing.
- 🏠 Initiates studies on professional issues in Israel and is an active participant in international research (co-investigators with CONFLITICUS, FENICE, EUROPAIN and DecubicUs).

### Elections for positions on the association committee

Each cardiac and intensive care department can send a representative to the association's committee. Positions such as chair of the association and various committees (newspaper committee, content, etc. organization) are elected by the committee.

Membership is renewed yearly.

Membership fees fund the association's activities.

### Conferences

- 🏠 Throughout the year, regional conferences are held in various hospitals around the country.
- 🏠 Once a year there is an annual conference for senior staff.
- 🏠 Once every two years there is an international cardiac and intensive care nursing conference which is held in Israel.
- 🏠 Participate in international conferences (EfCCNa, Bioethics, Multicultural Nursing Care, EuroHeartCare, more).

### Cardiac and Intensive Care Nursing Association Goals

- ✓ Promote cardiac and intensive care nursing in Israel.
- ✓ Promote and develop professional expertise.
- ✓ Continuing knowledge update.
- ✓ Promote organization's representatives and participate in the regular medical/nursing settings (e.g., MOH).
- ✓ Policies regarding the nursing profession (Scientific Council).
- ✓ Develop standards for quality assurance of treatment (e.g.: oral therapy, mechanical ventilation).

**We are benchmarking, developing the highest standards we can for the Israeli Cardiac and Intensive Care nurses.**

### Our first project

During the first year of the EBN meetings, we started with a systematic review to discover an *evidenced based protocol* for mouth care for the intubated patient. Finding an abundance of literature including contradictory data, we decided to investigate what was being done in our country. This led to our first evidence-based research publication. <sup>3</sup> This was done after researching pneumonia in the intubated patient, which was also published. <sup>7</sup>

This was important, but what about *follow up of guidelines* to implement a nationwide intervention? The aim of this continuing project was to close the gap between best-published evidence and bedside practice. This intervention caused many more nurses to adapt their oral care practices. This effort was also published <sup>8</sup>

### What else?

We argue the risk benefit of moving our patients out of bed. Where is the evidence?

What is the most current best evidence for nutritional care in intensive care?

What should we do about open or closed visiting hours?

What about Rehabilitation in the ICU / Fluid Bolus in Intensive Care / Gender and MI.

Characteristics of patients receiving vaso-active drugs – can nurses intervene, decide and make policies?

Clinical Practice Guidelines for the Management of Pain, Agitation, and Delirium in adult ICU.

We compare the difference in our hospital settings and try to help each other find solutions - using systematic reviews, best expert opinion and inviting speakers to help us clear the uncertainties.

Another topic that came up for discussion was - does bullying among peers exist in intensive care units?

Do we suffer from peer bullying in our workplace? This is a very difficult subject to raise. Nurses from many adult intensive care and cardiology units participated in this study. This led to two different publications. <sup>6,11</sup>

### Position papers

📌 VAP prevention

📌 Protocol for Mechanical Ventilation weaning. <sup>9</sup>

📌 Clinical guidelines for the treatment of pain, agitation and delirium in intensive care units

### Association's web biannual newspaper since 2017

Amongst the dedicated subjects are:

- Sepsis - the third cause of death in Israel and around the world.

- The fifth vital sign - pain. Despite the many studies dealing with pain and developing guidelines for treatment, it remains a symptom that is less appreciated and untreated.
- Providing a glimpse of the staff operating in different intensive care units.
- Formulating and creating a nutrition protocol managed by nurses for the critical patient.
- Innovative issues in the safety of care.

Another project was to investigate what nurses know about their role in early identification of the septic patient - once we analyze the results, we will plan another nationwide intervention to close the gap between what we should be doing according to the evidence and what we are truly doing. Our results were published in our national nursing journal <sup>13</sup>

We have started working on a new project. Families of intensive care patients are in crisis. According to the literature, families report the presence of symptoms of PTSD, loneliness, poverty and a feeling that their lives are falling apart. The literature has found a number of nursing activities that reduce and alleviate the difficult experiences of the families and also meet their needs. One of the ways that has been found to reduce loneliness and lack of support is nursing training and conversations conducted by the unit's nurses with the family during visiting hours in the intensive care unit. No related literature was found on the Israeli population. Therefore, we decided to start a national study to examine the relationship between nursing training and family members in the ICU and family needs.

## Educational Programmes

### 1. Palliative ICU care course

Through one of our multi-centre, multi country research projects, we found that nurses feel that they lack skills when caring for the ICU patient at the end of life. We investigated what their opinions and perceptions regarding the exact skills that they need and accordingly created an end of life Palliative ICU Care course for critical care teams. This curriculum has been recognized and accepted as a post educational program by the MOH, giving nurses credit hours. So far, we have done three courses, in 2014, 2015 and 2018.

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### 2. Advanced intensive care course

Nurses in intensive care and cardiac units have to undergo/take/study an intensive care course (today the program lasts a year and is meant only for registered nurses with a bachelor's degree). After finishing this course, there is only academic continuing education (MA, PhD) but nothing specific for intensive care / cardiac nurses. The accelerated development of nursing, medicine and medical technology poses a challenge to nurses who studied an integrated ICU course many years ago and who must catch up with extensive theoretical knowledge. Therefore, our association built/ constructed a new educational programme of Advanced Intensive Care Course, which is continuing education for nurses with an intensive care course. This curriculum has been recognized and accepted as a post educational program by the MOH, giving nurses credit hours. So far, we have done three courses (2017, 2018 and 2019) and the fourth one is on its way sometime in 2020.

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### National congresses

The founding conference was held in 1987. Ever since then, we have one to two national congresses yearly. Each time a different hospital hosts it.

### International congresses

Every two years our association organizes an International Conference on Critical Care Nursing which cooperates with the Physician International Conference on Acute Cardiac Care. We have two full days of critical care nursing sessions, with speakers from both Israel and abroad (Barbara McLean, USA; Tiny Jaarsma, Sweden; M. Georgiou, Cyprus; and more).

Our next 12th International Conference on Acute Cardiac Care, Critical Care Nursing, Tel Aviv, Israel is due to be on 23-25 May, 2021. More information can be received at [www.acute-cardiac-care.com](http://www.acute-cardiac-care.com)

### Participation in International congresses

- EfCCNa congress (European federation of Critical Care Nursing associations) 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019
- MICE-ICU symposium (multicultural nursing care on ICU), 2018
- World congress on Medical Law and Bioethics, 2018
- EuroHeartCare 2017, 2018, 2019

### Collaboration with other nursing associations

EfCCNa - The European federation of Critical Care Nursing associations is a formal network of critical care nursing associations in Europe. EfCCNa provides a unique opportunity for European critical care nurses working as equal partners on the advancement of European critical care practice, education, management and research. <https://www.efccna.org/>

EfCCNa's next congress, due to be held on 22-25 September 2021, in Utrecht, the Netherlands. <https://efccna.org/congress-2021-in-utrecht>

ACNAP - Association of Cardiovascular Nursing & Allied Professions. Recently we have joined the ACNAP's national societies committee. ACNAP provides a unique opportunity for European cardiac nurses and allied health professionals to deliver the best care to patients with cardiovascular disease and their families, developing a programme of education, research and mentorship. Membership is free. First sign up to the ESC (European society of Cardiology) and then to the ACNAP. <https://www.escardio.org/Sub-specialty-communities/Association-of-Cardiovascular-Nursing-&-Allied-Professions/About>

EuroHeartCare Congress is organized by the ACNAP. Next congress, due to be held on 17-29 June 2021, will be online. <https://www.escardio.org/Congresses-&-Events/EuroHeartCare>

WFCCN- World Federation of Critical Care Nursing- The Israeli society are members of the world wide society and knowledge is shared, collaborative research activities and participation in international conferences.

## Publications

1. DeKeyser Ganz, F, et al.(2021) "*Illness Perceptions of Israeli Hospitalized Patients with Acute Coronary Syndrome*" BACCN, Nursing in Critical Care, 2-8. <https://doi.org/10.1111/nicc.12616>
2. DeKeyser Ganz, F, et al. (2016) "*The vital role of nursing in the identification, diagnosis and treatment of severe sepsis and septic shock*" The Israeli Nursing Journal (not translated)
3. DeKeyser Ganz F, et al. (2015) "*The quality of intensive care unit nurse handover related to end of life: A descriptive comparative international study*" International Journal of Nursing Studies, 52(10), 49-56
4. DeKeyser Ganz F, Benbinishty J, Raanan O et al. (2015). "*Bullying and its Prevention among ICU Nurses*" Journal of Nursing Scholarship, 47(6), 505-511.
5. Piers, R.D., et al. (2014). "*Inappropriate care in European ICUs: Confronting views from nurses and junior and senior physicians*" Chest,146 (2), 267-75.
6. Benbinishty J, et al. (2013) "*Weaning from mechanical ventilation. A position paper of the Cardiac Care and Intensive Care Association in Israel*" The Israeli Nursing Journal, 191 (1), 30-32. <http://www.inu.org.il/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/191print.pdf>
7. Ganz, F.D. et al. (2013) "*Translation of Oral Care Practice Guidelines into Clinical Practice by Intensive Care Unit Nurses*" Journal of Nursing Scholarship, 00:0, 1–8
8. DeKeyser Ganz, F, et al (2013). "*Resuscitation in general medical wards: who decides?*" Journal of Clinical Nursing, 22 (5/6), 848-55.
9. DeKeyser Ganz, et al (2012). "*Moral distress and structural empowerment among Israeli Critical Care Nurses*" Journal of Advanced Nursing, 69(2), 49-56. doi:10.1111/j.1365-2648.2012.06020x
10. Piers, R.D., et al. (2011). "*Perceptions of appropriateness of care among European and Israeli Intensive Care unit nurses and physicians*" Journal of the American Medical Association, 306(24), 2694-2073.
11. Endacott, R et al. (2010). "*Applicability of palliative quality measures to end of life care in ICUs in the UK and Israel*". Intensive Care Medicine, 36(Suppl 2): S388
12. DeKeyser Ganz, et al. (2009) "*ICU Nurses' Oral-Care Practices and the Current Best Evidence*" J. Nursing Scholarship, 41:2, 132–138
13. Raanan, O., et al. (2008). "*The journey towards clinical nursing research is paved with good intentions*" The Nurse in Israel, 177, 53-55.
14. Raanan, et al (2008). "*Ventilator associated pneumonia in the intubated patient*" The Nurse in Israel, 178, 45.