



1st N-ECCO Research Networking Forum 2014

The ECCO'14 Congress hosted the successful inaugural N-ECCO Research Forum.

Stemming from the N-ECCO Consensus statements identifying the need for more research to be undertaken by IBD nurses, and the 2013 N-ECCO Networking Meeting, the

Research Forum was attended by approximately 60 nurses from Europe, Canada and the United States. Of these, seven held PhDs and many more held Masters degrees. A large cohort wished to learn about research, how to undertake a research project and how to get started practically.

This first Research Forum was designed to identify the aims and objectives of the forum and how to take the forum forward whilst complying with the strategic overview of ECCO. The N-ECCO Research Forum is not restricted to active researchers; it is also open to those new to research and those wishing to embark upon a study.

The meeting was opened by the outgoing Chair of N-ECCO, Marian O'Connor, who outlined the aims of N-ECCO and gave an overview of the N-ECCO Consensus nurse guidance and its growing impact on IBD nursing across Europe.

This was followed by a presentation by Karen Kemp outlining the need for the forum and providing an impression of how the forum will operate and how it will benefit nurses and patients across Europe. Built into this was how the proposed Scientific Platform will support this new nursing venture.

Group feedback identified the needs of research nurses across Europe. The forum will:

- Support nursing research in IBD
- Generate new knowledge and evidence
- Encourage Europe-wide/international networking
- Provide inspiration, collaboration and opportunities
- Enhance awareness of IBD nursing within ECCO
- Narrow the gap between academic and clinical IBD care

It will:

- Offer linkage between those doing research and those wishing to do so
- Provide special expertise
- Enable exchange of ideas
- Facilitate sharing of experience and expertise
- Permit comparison studies across Europe
- Provide an IBD nurse research resource bank
- Ensure that research knowledge produced is valid for use in other countries
- Identify research priorities
- Develop a cadre of academic clinical IBD nurses



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A number of research themes were identified during the forum, including fatigue in IBD, e-health, quality of life, symptom burden, living with IBD, sexuality in IBD – all areas of IBD research which nurses often excel in. In addition, the forum will offer practical guidance on qualitative and quantitative research methodology, how to design a research proposal, abstract writing and poster presentations.

The N-ECCO Research Forum will not deter the presentation of research findings at the main ECCO Congress: Such presentation will still be encouraged. The forum will concentrate on methodology and the practical aspects of undertaking nursing research within IBD.

It is hoped that the forum will become a shared learning experience of research into IBD, led by IBD nurses experienced in a range of methodologies and outcomes research related to IBD care.

Karen Kemp

N-ECCO Committee Member