

## Nurses Network Meeting – and the first N-ECCO School

**At the ECCO Congress in Prague, the fourth Nurses Network Meeting was held. Also, a new educational activity for nurses – NECCO School – was held for the first time.**

Approximately 160 delegates from 23 countries came to Prague to attend the Nurses Network Meeting. – The Meeting is growing rapidly, says Liesbeth Moortgat, Vice Chair of NECCO.

### **Not a narrow specialty**

Liesbeth explains that the Meeting aims to improve professional nurse education throughout Europe, to increase networking opportunities for specialist nurses in IBD – and improve IBD patient education throughout Europe. We have a mixed list of speakers – they are both doctors and nurses. It's important to keep that mix for the future, she continues. IBD nurses have many tasks to perform – it's not a narrow specialty. It covers many aspects of the patient's care, and this is reflected in the Programme of the meeting.

### **Lectures and workshops in NECCO School**

This year, NECCO School ran for the first time. It took place on the first morning of the NECCO meeting, with attendees able to then join the main NECCO network meeting afterwards. ECCO intends to give young nurses, who might still be in training and have an interest in IBD, the possibility to attend an IBD focused course. Attendance to the school is on



Delegates from NECCO School.

invitation only. 31 nurses from 19 countries attended this inaugural school, all of whom had been nominated by their NECCO National Representative, Liesbeth explains. 18 of these nurses were sponsored by EFCCA (an umbrella organisation representing 24 national IBD patients associations from 23 European countries) for travel and accommodation costs. The School was a half-day course. It started with assessment and diagnosis of IBD, and finished with two case-based workshops, says Liesbeth.

### **Abstracts and oral presentations**

Also for the first time: 12 abstracts had been sent in for the Network Meeting – and three of them were selected for an oral presentation. The remaining nine ones were presented as posters. The oral presentations were given at the Meeting's last session and were appreciated by the audience. In these, topics on homecare systems for monitoring IBD, how communication from nurses to IBD patients is tailored to the patient needs and the need for scientific evidence on outcomes attributable to nursing activities, were touched upon.



European  
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Liesbeth Moortgat and Marian O'Connor

### Thinking about next year

The overall evaluation of the 4th Nurses Network Meeting and the 1st NECCO Nurses School was laudatory. The nurses liked the topics. Talking to colleagues from other countries is highly appreciated. On the evaluation forms a lot of nurses provided us with many possible topics for next year, and we will once again be looking for abstracts from our delegates to share the high quality work going on in practice. So we all believe that our next meeting – the 5th – in Dublin 2011 also will be a success, says Liesbeth Moortgat.

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