



CONFERENCE REPORT

11th International ICNE Conference
Clinical Ethics across the Lifespan



Turun yliopisto
University of Turku

13th – 14th September 2010

The 11th ICNE conference was held in Turku 13th and 14th of September 2010. The theme of the conference was 'Clinical Ethics Across the Lifespan'. During these two days we had the opportunity to listen to international speakers and presenters who are in the frontline in nursing ethics. Professor Leino-Kilpi from Finland presented views on clinical ethics with a perspective of today and the future. Professor Gastmans talked about ethically sensitive experiences of nurses being involved in end-of-life care processes and concentrated on the ethical concepts of vulnerability, care and dignity. Dr Drought from the USA presented the implementation of a system wide ethics program across the Southern California region. Professor Matsuda from Japan talked about the changing policy in Japan and how these changes have influenced on the delivery of healthcare from ethical point of view. Dr Ann Gallagher, Director of International Centre for Nursing Ethics, spoke about the future of clinical ethics: challenges and opportunities for nurses. They all raised important questions we have to respond to in our societies in the near future. Therefore, we all have a responsibility to continue to keep these issues on the agenda of the organisations we work for and in discussions with colleagues.

Twelve parallel sessions were included in the program: Supporting ethics in clinical practice; Research ethics in clinical practice; Ethics and end of life; Ethical issues in children and adolescent care and those in older people care; Learning ethics in nursing; Ethical concepts in clinical practice; Ethics in restraint use; Cultural issues in ethics; Ethical environment; and Professional ethics in clinical practice. There was an impressive number of speakers and poster presenters from the ethics' research field. Presentations during these two days were many-sided and thought provoking. The discussions in the parallel sessions were active from many viewpoints. The ethical concepts discussed dealt with a wide variety of hot topics we currently recognise in health and social care in many countries. Over eighty participants, researchers, teachers, clinicians and students, from 19 different countries representing all the continents in the world participated in the active dialogue during the conference. Through constant exchange of information and working together both research and clinical practice professionals gain more understanding and increase their knowledge which is needed to guarantee a modern and a research based health care for the benefit of people.



Two exceptional events were also witnessed. Dr Verena Tschudin and Professor Anne Davis granted the Human Rights & Nursing Awards for the British Columbia Centre for Disease Control Outreach Street Nursing Program from Canada and for Robert Simons from the Netherlands. These awards are awarded yearly for exceptional work for other people's well-being, health promotion and ethical commitment to work. As Dr Tschudin said, this is going beyond nursing care, our daily demanding work for others. We also had the opportunity to listen to highly appreciated Professor Anne J Davis, who stepped down from her role as the President of ICNE. In a Studia Generalia lecture Professor Davis summed up Thirty Four Years of Nursing Ethics. Dr Verena Tschudin continues after Professor Davis as the next President of ICNE.

From the organisation point of view, we started the preparation work after the last 10th conference in the University of Surrey. Planning and organising the event demanded commitment and teamwork. For example, call for abstracts, crating the scientific program and making all the practical arrangements were completed in a team, and I want to thank all those who participated in the scientific and organisation committees. Special thanks are due to the eleven excellent students in the University of Turku, Department of Nursing Science who participated in the conference organisation.

University of Turku, Department of Nursing Science and the organising committee want to thank the International Centre of Nursing Ethics for the possibility to organise the conference in the old historic and academic city Turku. As a part of the international university, we were proud, but also humble, to organise this important and appreciated event. Hosting the 11th International ICNE Conference, means following an important tradition in nursing ethics and follows the concept the International Centre for Nursing Ethics organisation has created. I hope you had a good time in Turku. It was a privilege to have you all here.

Riitta Suhonen, PhD, Professor (acting)
Chair of the conference
University of Turku, Department of Nursing Science