International Council of Nurses
The global voice of nursing

Barcelona
ICN Congress 2017
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Press Information . Communiqué de presse . Comunicado de prensa

Largest International Nurses' Congress Kicks Off

Geneva, Switzerland, 28 May 2017 – The International Council of Nurses (ICN) Congress in Barcelona, Spain, kicked off today with an opening ceremony marked by high profile nursing figures, government officials and international health experts.



Close to 8,200 nurses representing 135 nationalities have registered for the Congress which will last for four days and focus on the many ways in which nurses are at the forefront of transforming care. Hosted by the General Council of Nursing of Spain, the Congress will also include over 1,900 posters, 70 concurrent sessions, 18 symposium sessions, along with integrated and sponsored symposiums. New this year is the inclusion of eight policy cafés and three panel discussions.

Dr Judith Shamian, ICN President, and Dr Frances Hughes, ICN's Chief Executive Officer, led the ceremony and honoured the work of the prominent nurses who have marked the profession through their dedicated commitment to development, research and innovation.

Notably, the prestigious Christiane Reimann Prize was jointly awarded to Dr Sheila Dinotshe Tlou, Director of the UNAIDS Regional Support Team for Eastern and Southern Africa and to Dr Linda H. Aiken, director and founder of Penn Nursing's Center for Health Outcomes and Policy Research.

The Health and Human Rights Award – ICN's only award for a non-nursing recipient – was presented to Mr Yohei Sasakawa, Chairman of The Nippon Foundation, one of the largest private foundations in Asia conducting humanitarian aid activities worldwide, in recognition for his truly significant humanitarian contributions and achievements in the domain of health and human rights.

For their innovative and forward thinking which strongly impacted nursing and patient outcome, Katrine Seier Fridthjof, Dr Beth Oliver and Arlene Travis were nominated as runners-up to the Kim Mo-Im Award which was bestowed to Dr Miofen Yen, Professor at the National Cheng Kung University in Taiwan, for establishing an educational programme in South Eastern Asia in an effort to improve higher education in the region by training advanced nurses.

For its generous grants allocated to nurse-led projects, The Burdett Trust for Nursing received the ICN Partners in Development Award, thus recognizing the importance of investing in the profession to empower nurses and support its development.

Also marking the evening, Her Royal Highness Princess Muna al Hussein of Jordan was honoured for her advocacy work, involvement in policy matters and overall commitment to the development of nursing in Jordan and worldwide.

Concluding the opening ceremony, Her Excellency Mrs Dolors Monserrat Montserrat, Minister of Health, Social Services and Equality of the Government of Spain welcomed participants to her country and expressed her gratitude and support to the nursing profession.

The nurses were then treated to an amazing display of Spanish culture and entertainment.





Note for Editors
The **International Council of Nurses (ICN)** is a federation of more than 130 national nurses associations representing the millions of nurses worldwide. Operated by nurses and leading nursing internationally, ICN works to ensure quality care for all and sound health policies globally.

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