



International Council of Nurses
The global voice of nursing



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International Council of Nurses and European Wound Management Association: Partners in fight against antimicrobial resistance

Geneva, Switzerland, 5 May 2017 – On the occasion of World Hand Hygiene Day, the International Council of Nurses (ICN) has partnered with the European Wound Management Association (EWMA) to promote the World Health Organization's (WHO) *SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands* campaign aimed at maintaining a global profile on the importance of hand hygiene in healthcare and to bring stakeholders together in support of improving hand hygiene globally.

World Hand Hygiene Day



The International Council of Nurses and the European Wound Management Association have joined forces to support the World Health Organization's campaign.

Both ICN and EWMA will support WHO's campaign at each other's upcoming events; ICN's international Congress in Barcelona from 27 May-1 June and EWMA's Conference, 3-5 May in Amsterdam.

This year's campaign is focused on tackling antimicrobial resistance (AMR) through highlighting how it can be prevented through hand hygiene and infection prevention.

Representing the largest profession in the healthcare workforce and thus the frontline in terms of direct contact with patients, ICN strongly advocates for effective and responsible infection prevention and control policies and practices for nurses and the entire healthcare team.

“In hospitals and clinics around the world it is nurses who are leading managing infection control services, we are the bedside scientists and best surveillance system for health you can have”, said Dr Frances Hughes, ICN’s Chief Executive Officer.

With that intent, ICN alongside colleagues from WHO and EWMA, will deliver a workshop at both events on the importance and critical role of hand hygiene for the prevention of infections and antimicrobial resistance.

“Clean hands – Clean wounds” will discuss the role of hand hygiene in the management of surgical wounds, how to reduce transition and infection by multi-drug resistant organisms and best practices for improving hand hygiene in healthcare settings.

In addition to this nurse-led workshop, Dr Hughes delivered a plenary on nursing leadership titled “Changing healthcare systems – the role of nurses” at EWMA’s Conference, on Wednesday, 3 May.

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.

The **European Wound Management Association (EWMA)** is an umbrella organisation linking wound management associations across Europe and a multi-disciplinary group bringing together individuals and organisations interested in wound management.

The ICN Congress For further information contact Lindsey Williamson at: media@icn.ch

Tel: +41 22 908 0100; Fax: +41 22 908 0101,

www.icn.ch

www.icncongress.com

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