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## **The science committee of the CCNAP: moving forward**

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Five years ago, in this same journal, we presented the newly formed Science Committee (1) of the Council of Cardiovascular Nursing and Allied Professions (CCNAP). The aim of the CCNAP Science Committee is to support and contribute to the aim of CCNAP (*optimization of cardiovascular patient care*) by taking responsibility for activities related to research and the scientific foundation for cardiovascular nursing and allied professional practice within the European Society of Cardiology. Now, we would like to conclude the first six years of activity and reflect on how we met our highly ambitious goals. Was it possible for the CCNAP Science Committee to foresee the needs of additional research activities within the CCNAP and, with hindsight, how did we do? But, we also want to present how we plan to move forward and encourage even more CCNAP members to take part in our activities.

### **The Science committee of the CCNAP**

The CCNAP Science Committee was established in 2010 and initially consisted of eight members from three different professions and seven countries (1). Of the original members, five are still in the CCNAP Science Committee but they are on the last term and soon to be replaced. However, the CCNAP Science Committee will continue to represent the diversity of professions within the CCNAP as well as members from Europe and further afield. Over the past years, in addition to replacing members who left, two new members were added and the CCNAP Science Committee now consists of 10 members. It was also decided that at least one member should be a PhD-student, to ensure that the pre-doctoral view is represented. The chair of the CCNAP Science committee is a CCNAP board member and in that way the science committee provides input to all the activities of CCNAP and its committees.

### **How did we do?**

The goals presented five years ago were, in short, to publicise the CCNAP Science Committee to a wider audience, stimulate and support research collaborations and joint research projects, arrange research seminars, improve representation of nurses and allied professionals in guidelines, publish a research agenda reflecting the priorities for research in the area of cardiovascular patient care and to promote this within the ESC and thus to stimulate research funding in this area.

The CCNAP Science Committee has successfully met all of its aims, and beyond, in the last 6

years. We presented the CCNAP Science Committee in an EJCN editorial (1) and at the Euro Heart Care meeting 2011 in Brussels. A list of mentors for pre- and post-doctoral students was prepared in 2012, although it did not become easily available until the “Find a mentor” website, on the CCNAP homepage, was launched last year (<http://www.escardio.org/Guidelines-&-Education/Career-development/Grants-and-fellowships/Nursing/Post-doctoral-mentorship-award>). At Euro Heart Care 2012 in Copenhagen, we organised a symposium on the topic of ‘how do deal with negative trials’ and a first workshop for PhD-students on how to increase collaboration with other researchers. The following year in 2013, this workshop grew into the ‘preconference research masterclass’ for pre- and post-doctoral students and was held proceeding the Euro Heart Care meetings since 2013. This year, 2016, a masterclass on “*Writing a successful research grant proposal*” was held in Athens. The feedback received from the masterclass has been positive and a good networking event for those who attended.

A major achievement was the position paper on “*Research in cardiovascular care*” that was published in 2014 (2). The paper identified knowledge gaps in current cardiovascular patient care research, explored upcoming challenges and provided recommendations for future research.

The Science Committee has been an important discussion partner with the CCNAP board with regards to the optimisation of mentoring for junior researchers and evaluation and developing post-doctoral mentoring initiatives. We evaluated the mentoring experiences within the CCNAP mentoring program, and proposed recommendations for future developments.

### **Where do we go next?**

The undertakings of the CCNAP Science Committee to date can be concluded in three general points that will continue to evolve:

- build evidenced-based practice, research capacity and skills among European nurses and allied professionals within CCNAP and beyond
- plan mentoring sessions for pre-doctoral and post-doctoral CCNAP researchers
- link CCNAP researchers for collaboration across Europe and the world

Among ongoing activities is a second position paper reflecting on the representation of

nurses, allied professionals, patients and patient associations in the development of new European guidelines.

The CCNAP Science Committee will continue to collaborate with other CCNAP committees to plan and facilitate educational seminars and workshops within the Euro Heart Care conference, the next being held in Jönköping in 2017. This will ensure that nurses and allied professionals involved in cardiovascular research continue to have an active role in ESC. This is important in terms of professional development, clinical guidelines development and networking within the field of cardiovascular health, both in Europe and beyond. Given the constant changes in clinical practice, it is always a challenge to stay current and to translate evidence-based research into practice. The CCNAP Science Committee hope to assist in developing a forum to discuss the facilitators and barriers to implementing change in practice.

We invite all of you interested in evidence-based practice in cardiac care to keep an eye on our activities, join our pre conference research activities during Euro Heart Care in the future and contact us with your suggestions and comments.

## References

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