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## **Leading Change, Building Healthier Nations**

*Provides a platform for more than 560 concurrent sessions and 800 posters*

**Geneva, Switzerland, 23 December 2008** Guest speakers from all over the world will participate in the 24<sup>th</sup> ICN Quadrennial Congress, to be held from 27 June to 4 July 2009 in Durban, South Africa. The scientific programme will feature four plenary sessions, 30 main sessions, 70 symposia, 490 concurrent session presentations and 800 posters. The programme also will include a debate on the topic: *Task Shifting: Solution or Problem?*

Now a programme navigator posted on the ICN Congress website makes it possible for you to search for accepted congress abstracts, by author, country, key word and date/time. You can begin to plan your congress experience as of today, arriving at the Congress prepared to take full advantage of the rich offering.

The Fourth Virginia Henderson Memorial Lecture will be given on 1<sup>st</sup> July by Edward J. Halloran, PhD, RN, FAAN. The lecture honours Virginia Henderson, an American nurse who made an extraordinary contribution to nursing and health. Like Florence Nightingale, she moved nursing forward as a respected profession based on the science and art of caring. Dr. Halloran is a scholar of Henderson's writings and their implications for public policy.

By participating in workshops, Congress attendees will be able to develop skills in a range of areas, including coaching, workplace violence prevention, writing for professional journals, regulation of support workers, assessing performance of regulators, health and human rights, handling professional complaints, and positive practice environments. In addition, special interest group sessions will be held for historians, government chief nurses, ethicists, workplace representatives, accident and emergency nurses, and others.

During the Congress, all ICN Networks will hold meetings and two new networks will be launched: the ICN Education Network and the ICN Telenursing, Informatics and E-health Network.

A number of special events will take place in Durban to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation (FNIF). Established in 1934, the FNIF is ICN's premier foundation. FNIF supports and complements the work and objectives of ICN, including the the Girl Child Education Fund.

Nursing leaders from around the world will identify the profession's future directions during the Council of National Representatives (CNR) meeting preceding the Congress.

Further information and regular updates on the Congress programme are posted on the Congress website: [www.icn.ch/Congress2009](http://www.icn.ch/Congress2009).

### **Note for Editors**

The **International Council of Nurses (ICN)** is a federation of 132 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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