



REPORTS

2nd International Conference in Nursing Research and 6th World Congress of Bioethics

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The first conference, the 2nd International Conference in Nursing Research, took place in Aguas de Lindoia, São Paulo, Brazil, 28–31 October 2002, as part of the Golden Jubilee of the Nursing School of the University of São Paulo. More than 400 nurses from Brazil, South Africa, Denmark, Angola, Hong Kong, UAE, Canada, Colombia, Chile, etc. attended. The opening meeting with Giovanni Berlinguer was exceptional. We worked hard and we learned much. The debates concerned the relevance of research activities in nursing and their fundamental role in improving care and education. From different approaches the conference addressed ethical, historical, social and political issues of research in health care, focusing on new paradigms and investigation methods.

The second conference held in Brasilia (Brazil's federal capital), 30 October to 3 November 2002, was the 6th World Congress of Bioethics, which can be considered a great success. There were 1352 participants (54 nurses) representing 62 countries from all the continents. The central theme was 'Bioethics, Power and Injustice' and focused on the power imbalance that remains pervasive within health care, the new forms of power in, for example, genetic biotechnology, and the increasing social injustice. The main presentations were about vulnerability, protection of exploitable populations, research ethics, scarce resource allocation and the moral status of embryos. The discussions and debates were most interesting, with many controversial and opposing opinions voiced about ethical issues (e.g. the double standard in research ethics). The oral presentations and the posters were of a very high standard, covering both theoretical and empirical research in ethics. At the end of the conference it was clear that now the great challenge is to extend the bioethics debate to include ethical considerations regarding public health, not only to learn and interpret the moral dilemmas on this issue but to inform, intervene, reshape power relations and improve population health.

Another interesting aspect was that the congress was held in the week after the

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