

24th February 2011.

Dear ESPNIC,

Feedback of my personal learning from the ESPNIC fellowship 2011

The aim of my study visit to Sophia Children's Hospital (Rotterdam) was to meet with Jos Latour and his team of nurse scientists in PICU, to begin to establish both professional and research links with this research-active department. Jos kindly organised a very detailed program for me and I began my short 3-day study visit (21-23 Feb).

On the first day I had a very successful and informative research meeting with Jos and the team of nurse scientists: Monique van Dijk, Erwin Ista, Onno Helder, Cody de Boer, Anneke Boerlage. We discussed potential collaborations in the future and agreed that we would meet during the Hannover ESPNIC meeting. In fact Erwin and Jos will be attending a national PICU research meeting I am hosting in Liverpool, on 23/24th march, to begin to develop stronger European PICU nurse research links. We talked about potentially undertaking a Delphi study on PICU nursing research priorities in Europe (as Jos has previously done with adult intensive care).

After this I meet with Beatrix Elink Schuurman, who leads the Sophia research group, which was interesting and then with the PICU unit manager Inge van 'Wout, where we discussed many practice and professional issues across PICU and she showed me around their intensive care unit. On the second day of my visit I spent the morning with one of the ventilator nurse practitioners Bionda van Driel, which was fantastic and very interesting to learn about their roles and I was also able to speak to some nurses in the cardiac and the neuro intensive care about nursing practices which was absolutely great. Although some practices (eg the nursing staff to patient ratio) are quite different, many of the problems are the same across these PICUs.

The after having lunch with Erwin Ista and discussing his sedation withdrawal scoring tool and his future research plans, I met with Ada van den Bos to discuss patient safety initiatives on the PICU. Again many things are similarly done, yet their package of these and a role dedicated to patient safety are very positive and something that I think should be done more in the UK.

On the final day of my study visit, I attended (and spoke at) the EMPATHETIC symposium, on the day of Jos Latour's PhD defence. This was an excellent symposium and the experience of witnessing a different PhD defence (to what is done in the UK) was great. This was also an excellent day.

I have some plans from this visit, including at least two ideas for collaborative projects and two publications (co-jointly with Jos Latour) and I look forward to working with this team in the future. In addition, I have gained many improvement ideas that I can and will bring back to my PICU in Liverpool.

I would recommend other nurses to try and visit such a progressive and dynamic place like Sophia Children's Hospital, with a very warm and welcoming team.

Lyvonne Tume
24.2.11