

NACC Launches New Colitis and Crohn's Nursing Award

23rd September 2005, St Alban's, Herts, UK. Leading Colitis and Crohn's Disease patients' charity, the National Association for Colitis and Crohn's Disease (NACC), is announcing a new Colitis and Crohn's nursing bursary worth £1,000 to the winning specialist nurse nominated by NACC members. NACC is inviting each of the 30,000 members to nominate their specialist Colitis and Crohn's nurse for the new award by outlining their nurse's special qualities and outstanding approach to patient care.

Importantly, NACC is highlighting the valuable role played by the specialist Colitis and Crohn's nurses and drawing attention to the lack of these highly skilled individuals. A recent NACC survey shows that only 26% of patients have access to specialist nurses and the charity's ongoing campaign is aiming to increase the overall nurse numbers.

Entries will be judged by NACC Trustees and experts in Colitis and Crohn's nursing. The expert panel of judges will include Elaine Steven, Chair of the NACC Council of Trustees; Susanne Wood, Vice Chair of the NACC Council of Trustees and a Nurse Specialist in Clinical Nutrition; Dawn Elliot, Chair of the RCN Gastroenterology and Stoma Care Forum and Dr Karen Birmingham, Editor of Gastrointestinal Nursing. The award will be presented to the winner at the RCN Gastroenterology & Stoma Care Nursing Annual Conference at Telford on Wednesday 23rd November 2005.

Specialist nurses play a significant role in the quality of care provided to their patients particularly with the availability of the newly established help-lines. These allow the specialist nurse to offer immediate, highly qualified advice and ensure that where necessary, patients are either prioritised for an out-patient appointment or admitted to hospital. Richard Driscoll, Director of NACC explains, "Understanding, accessibility and communication skills are essential elements of the specialist nursing role, alongside their advanced clinical knowledge.

Press Release

Richard continues, “We are delighted to have been able to establish this new bursary for Colitis and Crohn’s nurses as part of our overall campaign to raise awareness of the importance of their role. We look forward to receiving a high level of strong nominations for the nurses that are in post, but this campaign is highlighting the fact that only a quarter of NACC members surveyed have access to a specialist nurse involved in the care and management of their Colitis and Crohn’s disease”. **ENDS**

Health professionals, patients or their families seeking further information or support can contact:

**National Association for Colitis and Crohn’s Disease (NACC)
4 Beaumont House, Sutton Road, St Albans, Herts. AL1 5HH**

**Daytime Information Line 0845 130 2233 NACC-in-Contact Line 0845 130 3344
Website www.nacc.org.uk**

Editor’s Notes

- **NACC provides Support and Information**
NACC provides a valuable support network and information resource for people and families affected by Colitis and Crohn’s Disease as well as raising significant funds for research. The 70 NACC Groups across the UK enable members to share information and experiences. The Daytime Information Line is available to members and non-members alike who have queries about all aspects of their disease. The NACC-in-Contact Line offers members a chance to speak to a trained volunteer with Colitis or Crohn’s Disease. Membership of NACC is open to anyone who has Colitis or Crohn’s Disease, their friends and families, health professionals and anyone who wishes to support the charity. Membership costs £12 in the first year, £10 thereafter.

NACC – Improving Life for People Affected by Colitis and Crohn’s Disease

For more press information on NACC please contact:
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