

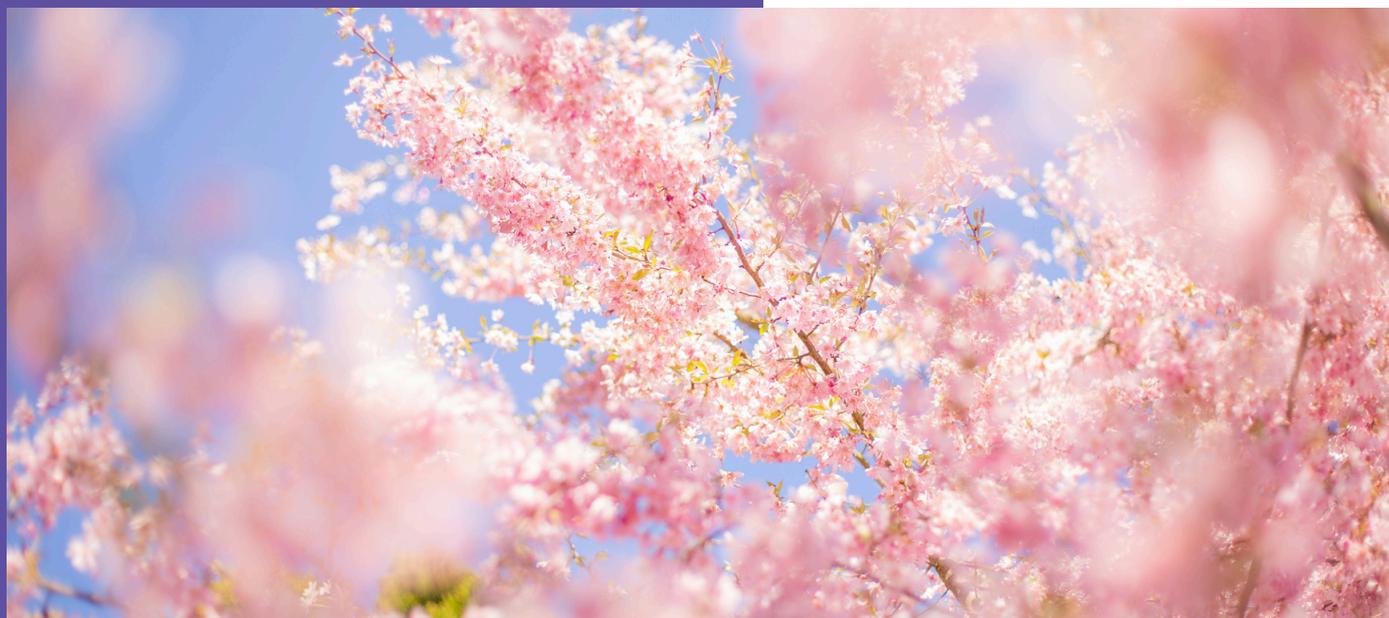
SPRING 2025 NEWSLETTER

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Sigma

EUROPE REGION

April 2025



Welcome to the Sigma Europe Spring 2025 Newsletter!

The first quarter of 2025 is finishing, and our region has been very busy with our nine regional committees and thirteen chapters. We are for the first time collaborating with another nursing society in Europe, the European Specialist Nursing Organisation and will help co-host together with our Alpha Alpha Gamma chapter their conference to be held in Zagreb in May 2025. This conference has a very interesting title a *"Green Future, Healthy Workplace: Nurse Specialists Leading the Way!"* and very appropriate for today's nursing. We have launched a new regional committee Nursing Ethics with such an overwhelming response that we had to close the call for members within 48 hours. This new adventure will prove to be Sigma Europe's biggest committee, and we are up for the challenge as we come together and realise a need for our members.

Our other committees are busy informing clinical practice, education and research with their multiple publications. The drive within these committees is inspiring and a joy to be apart of. At Sigma Europe we offer a safe place to network, collaborate and add to the knowledge sharing.

Plus, shortly we will be looking forward to launching the [SigmaERCKUPIO2026 website](#). All this would not have been possible without you as members and the stellar team of members at the regional level of Sigma Europe, thank you to all, you guys are simply amazing!

Dr Marie-Louise Luiking, Regional Coordinator



Nursing Ethics Committee

We launched the NEW Sigma Europe Nursing Ethics committee in style back in February online with 39 members from 11 countries across Europe. This is our BIGGEST endeavour to date with a regional committee, so no pressure there. But we have done our homework. Thank you to Co-chairs Tânia Morgado & Tiago Casaleiro. Thank you to all the new members for your trust & this will be an amazing adventure, as we break tradition and venture into the new. We have proposed three subgroups to maximise our collaboration and networking. We will be looking at Ethics Research and Policy Development, Educational Initiatives on Nursing and Case Analysis and Ethical Recommendations.



Nurse Education Interest Group

Members have gotten together recently to submit an invited commentary to an international journal on *"Mapping leadership in undergraduate nursing regulator standards and requirements across eleven countries"*. The group is also busy with their fourth paper extending their previous pilot from two countries to six.

Nursing Workforce Committee

Are carrying out data collection for their second manuscript on *"The concept of "safe nursing staffing" after the pandemic: a protocol for a content analysis"*.

Membership Involvement Committee

Congratulations & thank you Dr Peter Wolfensburger for a stellar Masterclass.

Our committee has also been busy with a manuscript submission to an international journal *"The PhD Virtual Connect: Developing a community of practice in doctoral education"*.

A slide for a masterclass. The text on the slide reads: "Masterclass Tuesday 18th February 2025 2-3pm (CET), theme PPI". Below this is a portrait of Dr. Peter Wolfensburger. To the right of the portrait, his name and title are listed: "Dr. Peter Wolfensburger, PhD, MScN, RN (er/ihm / he/him)", "Dozent Master of Science in Pflege / Lecturer Master of Science in Psychiatric & Mental Health Nursing", "Abteilung Angewandte Forschung und Entwicklung Pflege / Division of Applied Research and Development in Nursing", and "Visiting Associate Faculty of Health and Social Sciences, Bournemouth University, UK".

Research Committee

Our research committee has recently submitted their 1st manuscript on this valuable topic to an international journal, *"Recent trends in doctoral theses in nursing across eight countries: A scoping review"*. Their next research project, which is already planned, and manuscript will investigate this topic with a closer lens.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND AWARDS



1st MSc Virtual Connect 2025
*Research local, Inter(act) globally:
Transforming healthcare step-by-step*

May 21st, 2025

Organization & Hosting
Sigma EUROPE REGION membership involvement committee

Info: mic.sigmaeurope@gmail.com
website: <https://europe.sigmanursing.org/new-page/membershipinvolvementcommittee>

The European Membership Involvement Committee – Sigma Theta Tau International cordially invites all master students in Nursing and Midwifery to the:

1st MSc Virtual Connect 2025 Scholarly Event
*“Research local, Inter(act) globally:
Transforming healthcare step-by-step”*

A European videoconference to present and discuss Master research

May 21st, 2025, 13:00 – 16:00 (CET)

Join us Sigma Europe 1st MSc Virtual Scholarly Event on May 21st, 2025 at 13-16 (CET)! The theme of this event is *“Research local, Inter(act) globally. Transforming healthcare step-by-step”*. This event is arranged by Sigma Europe Membership Involvement Committee. Welcome!

[🔗 Read more here](#)

[🔗 Submit your abstract until 24th April](#)



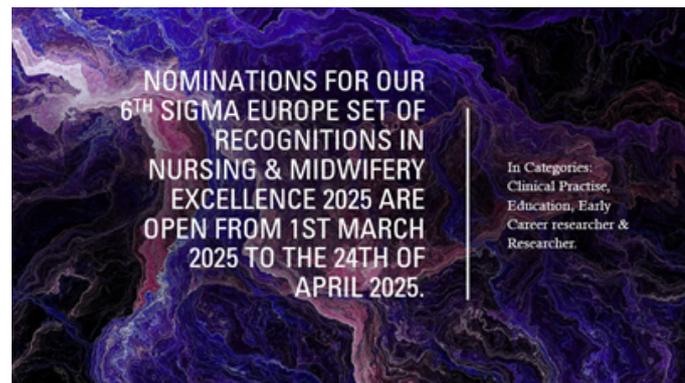
ESNO CONGRESS
29 – 31 MAY 2025, ZAGREB, CROATIA

ESN

ESNOZAGREB2025.COM

Join us Sigma Europe, our Croatian Chapter Alpha Alpha Gamma & ESNO as we co-host at the conference for a “Green Future, Healthy Workplace: Nurse Specialists Leading the Way!” 🌱 Zagreb, Croatia between 29th & 31 May 2025. Don’t miss your chance to share your expertise, contribute to a healthier and more sustainable future, and connect with fellow nurse specialists from across Europe.

[🔗 Register now: https://esnozagreb2025.com](https://esnozagreb2025.com)



**NOMINATIONS FOR OUR
6TH SIGMA EUROPE SET OF
RECOGNITIONS IN
NURSING & MIDWIFERY
EXCELLENCE 2025 ARE
OPEN FROM 1ST MARCH
2025 TO THE 24TH OF
APRIL 2025.**

In Categories:
Clinical Practise,
Education, Early
Career researcher &
Researcher.

Let Sigma Europe recognize your hard work and dedications to this wonderful nursing profession and your career. Being recognized and valued for the work you do in healthcare whether in education, clinical practice & or research boosts your profile. We recognize the diverse contributions Sigma Europe members have in their profession with individuals bringing different skills, backgrounds, and perspectives. Recognition highlights the varied contributions that nurses make, from clinical expertise to compassion and leadership. Let’s hear your narrative. Ultimately, nursing recognition is about honouring the individuals who make significant contributions to the healthcare system, ensuring you feel appreciated, and encouraging a culture of excellence.

[🔗 Read more here](#)

[🔗 See criteria here](#)

[🔗 Send nominations here](#)

On 7th May the Phi Mu (England) and Omega Xi (Scotland) Chapters will be hosting a Research Presentation and Member Meeting. All Sigma European Region members are welcome to join the meeting. Use the below link for more information and to register.

[🔗 https://SigmaMeeting.eventbrite.co.uk](https://SigmaMeeting.eventbrite.co.uk)

UPCOMING EVENTS AND AWARDS

WELCOME TO THE HAPPIEST COUNTRY OF THE WORLD: Sigma European Regional Conference 2026 in Kuopio, Finland

8th Sigma European Regional Conference 2026 will be arranged in Kuopio, Finland on 24.-26.6.2026. *Alpha Beta Nu Chapter* will host this event at the University of Eastern Finland.

Abstract submission will be open from **June 1, 2025 until September 30, 2025**.

More information can be found at the conference webpage.

[Visit the conference webpage](#)

[Watch the advertisement video](#)

Conference themes

Future nursing leadership
Healthy workforce
Safety in nursing
Sustainability in nursing
Health pedagogy and technology
Co-design with patients
Advancing future nursing practice
Methodological innovations in nursing

**Welcome to Kuopio,
the beautiful heart of
Eastern Finland!**



Developing a conceptual framework for research utilisation in clinical nursing and midwifery in Ghana

Dr. Lydia Boampong Owusu is a lecturer and Clinical Coordinator at the School of Nursing and Midwifery, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Ghana. She is a Registered Nurse specializing in paediatric care with over 15 years of clinical experience. Lydia holds a PhD in Health Sciences with Nursing Science from North-West University, South Africa, where her research focused on research utilization in clinical nursing and midwifery practice. Her presentation will address: *“Developing a conceptual framework for research utilisation in clinical nursing and midwifery in Ghana.”*

Wednesday 14th May 2025, 3.00 pm (BST)

To access via MS Teams and for further information please contact Prof Joy Merrell at j.a.merrell@swansea.ac.uk



We are thrilled to share that Professor Dr Dhurata Ivziku has been awarded the National Qualification as Full Professor in Nursing by the Italian Ministry of University and Research! Congratulations to our New Professor from our Italian Chapter Alpha Alpha Beta.

Dhurata mentioned that *"This achievement is the result of years of hard work, sacrifice, and unwavering dedication to advancing nursing science, education, and practice. It reflects my deep passion for the profession, my commitment to continuous learning, and my relentless pursuit of excellence. This recognition is not just a personal milestone—it's a testament to the power of resilience, perseverance, and the desire to make a meaningful impact in healthcare and academia. This journey was not easy, but every challenge has strengthened my resolve to contribute to the growth of our profession and inspire future generations of nurses. To my colleagues, mentors, students, and everyone who has supported me along the way—thank you! This is just the beginning of an even greater commitment to innovation, research, and leadership in nursing. To those striving towards their goals: keep pushing forward, embrace the challenges, and never stop believing in the impact you can make."*

Congratulations to Sigma Europe member The Right Hon. Professor Dame Anne Marie Rafferty, who is now sitting in the UK House of Lords following the ceremony on Monday, March 3, 2025. A nurse in the centre of governmental policy making U.K. (2ND FROM THE RIGHT)

From the House of Lords' site: *"Dame Anne Marie Rafferty, DBE, having been created Baroness Rafferty, of Kirkcaldy in the County of Fife, was introduced and took the oath, supported by Baroness Smith of Basildon and Baroness Watkins of Tavistock, and signed an undertaking to abide by the Code of Conduct."*



Congratulations to Prof Vanessa Heaslip President-Elect of our English chapter Phi Mu on this stellar achievement. And to ALL who are recipients of the Sigma Hall of Fame 2025. The International Nurse Researcher Hall of Fame recognizes nurse researchers who achieve significant and sustained national and/or international recognition for their work and whose research actively influences the profession and the people it serves.



Congratulations to Dr Ana Filipa Cardoso and colleagues for this editorial, from our Phi Xi chapter, Portugal. A new editorial argues that education for health professionals has not evolved at the same rate as the advanced requirements for evidence-based practice (EBP).

The authors discuss the Sicily statement on #EBP, a 2005 landmark paper for education in the health sciences academy, exploring how the JBI Model of Evidence-Based Healthcare conceptually aligns with this, creating an interesting opportunity to teach #EBP to healthcare professionals. "...principles for education on evidence-based practice (EBP) should be introduced as an intentional, collaboratively developed framework for inculcating a set of core concepts, knowledge, and skills."

Read the editorial, 'Time to standardize educational competencies on EBP: the benefits of a common core framework'. <https://ow.ly/NZAa50UQ0w4>



NURSES, CLIMATE CHANGE, AND THE FIGHT FOR GLOBAL HEALTH | Climate change is a critical health crisis, yet its impact on patient safety is often overlooked. After witnessing its effects firsthand at COP29, Sigma's UN liaison Charlotte McArdle explores why urgent action is needed and how the most trusted profession can lead the way on #NursingCentered [Read more here](#)



Congratulations & so well achieved, to our NEW Doctor Dr Tiago Caserlio "Promoting spiritual coping of the family caregiver of a relative with severe mental illness: development and test of a nursing intervention".



Congratulations & so well achieved, to our NEW Doctor Firas Atef Abu Hussein who defended his Ph-D research on *Nurse Practice Environment, Job satisfaction workload & quality of Nursing Care in Aged Care facilities: A mixed method study* recently. Firas is a member of our Israeli chapter Omega Lambda & a presenter during our Sigma ERCBournemouth & our 10th Ph-D vs in 2024.



Congratulations to Prof Dr John Gilmore member of our Irish chapter Omega Epsilon at Large who is the recipient of the Irish-US Alumni "Emerging Leader Award 2025". Sigma nurses leading the way!

OMEGA EPSILON AT-LARGE, Ireland

On the 16th January last in Munster Technological University we had a wonderful celebration of Nursing leadership.

Our Event included a Masterclass delivered by Dr. Kathleen Markey on: *'Nurturing Inclusivity in Widening Culturally Diverse Healthcare Settings'* and, Oluwatosin Mabadeje on: *'Transcultural Nursing Education and Practice: The Lived Experience'*.

There was also an Address from President of Sigma: Dr Sandra Bibb on *"Professionalism, Perspective, and Perseverance: Essentials in Championing Contemporary Nursing Practice"*

As part of the celebration of leadership **our chapter acknowledged the six Irish nurses listed as part of the Sigma Europe Honour to celebrate 100 nurses** who have been recognised for their contribution to education, research, and practice at a point in time over the past 100 years:

They were:

Ms Annette Kennedy

Prof. Geraldine McCarthy

Prof. Hugh McKenna

Ms Marian Barnes

Dr Therese Meehan

Prof. Mary Frances Crowley (posthumously)

Our chapter event and masterclass culminated with a further expansion of our Chapter through the induction of new members officiated by our Chapter President Dr. Liz Kingston.



ALPHA GAMMA ALPHA, Spain

Alpha Gamma Alpha Chapter has organized two activities this semester.



1. **On Sigma Research Day 18.3.2025** we celebrated Sigma with nursing students putting special attention in the importance of research in nursing.

2. **Richard Riccardi visited** in the School of Nursing of the University of Navarra (10–24 March). He gave several seminars and sessions about Sigma, leadership and the image of nursing.



UPSILON XI AT-LARGE, Wales

A recent publication of *Dr Lata Mandal* as the 2nd author: "Holistic Family-Centered Interventions for Autism Spectrum Disorder: Enhancing Child and Parental Well-Being: A Case Study".

🔗 Read the publication here: <https://doi.org/10.1177/0974150X241312838>

PHI XI, Portugal

A very BIG THANK YOU. After 8 plus years as President of our Portuguese chapter Phi Xi Assoc. Prof Dr Lurdes Lomba has handed the baton over to a new President. Lurdes in her time has done incredible things with the chapter in sustaining, activating and ensuring a healthy chapter legacy to pass on. In 2020 when the pandemic hit, she made the decision to go online with the 4th Sigma European Regional Conference & all the work and tech that took to make it happen in the short time. It was in 2020 a primeur and groundbreaking to organise and host a 3-day global conference over 6 time zones for attendees to participate live in real time. Lurdes will now act as the counsellor for the chapter at Coimbra.



ALPHA ALPHA GAMMA, Croatia

Sigma Nursing Members Honored for Excellence in Teaching and Research at the 11th anniversary celebration of the Faculty of Health Studies, University of Rijeka, Croatia

Dr., assoc. prof. Kata Ivanišević received the Award for the Best Educator According to Student Evaluations, reflecting her outstanding teaching performance and commitment to student-centered education.



Dr., assoc. prof. Marija Spevan was awarded the Dean's Award for achieving the first registered European patent for industrial design protection at the Faculty, and for her significant contribution to the development of institutional intellectual property management.

Textbook Published by Assoc. Prof. Snježana Čukljek and several Alpha Alpha Gamma Chapter Members: Osnove zdravstvene njege (Basic Nursing Care)

The lead author of the book is Assoc. Prof. Snježana Čukljek, PhD, Vice President of the Alpha Alpha Gamma Chapter, with co-authors Martina Smrekar, MSN, RN, PhD., Ana Marija Hošnjak, MSN, RN, PhD and Sanja Ledinski, MSN, RN, PhD – all active members of the Chapter and experienced educators at the University of Applied Health Sciences (ZVU) in Croatia.

The book is intended primarily for students of undergraduate nursing programs and offers a comprehensive and structured overview of the theoretical and practical foundations of nursing care.

Published by the University of Applied Health Sciences (ZVU), the textbook is aligned with the learning outcomes of nursing curricula in Croatia and supports evidence-based nursing education and practice.

The publication highlights the academic and professional engagement of Sigma members in advancing nursing education through high-quality teaching materials tailored to the needs of future nurses.



First Student Members of Croatian Sigma Chapter Deliver Well-Attended Lecture on Transition to Practice

On March 19, 2025, Katarina Husarek, BSN, RN, and Valentino Loborec, BSN, RN, one of the first student members of the Croatian Alpha Alpha Gamma Chapter, delivered a highly attended online lecture *"Transition from Student Life to the First Job"*.

The event was organized as part of the Working Group for Young Nurses under the Croatian National Nurses Association (HNSS – Hrvatski nacionalni savez sestrištva). Drawing a large audience of young nurses and nursing students, the lecture provided valuable, experience-based insights into the challenges and opportunities associated with entering the professional workforce after graduation.

Both presenters offered a candid and supportive perspective on their personal transitions, addressing topics such as adjusting to clinical responsibilities, communication with multidisciplinary teams, and navigating the early stages of career development.

Special congratulations go to Tihana Gašpert, MSN, RN, PhD candidate, our chapter member and head of the HNSS Working Group for Young Nurses, for her leadership in organizing this successful and meaningful event.

ALPHA ALPHA GAMMA, Croatia

8th Emergency Medicine Congress in Vodice, Croatia

Many members of the chapter actively participated in the 8th Congress of Emergency Medicine, organized by the Croatian Society for Emergency Medicine Nurses and Technicians (HSDHM) in March 13–15, 2025, in Vodice, Croatia.

The event brought together experts in emergency and critical care nursing. Chapter president Boris Ilić, MSN, RN, PhD candidate, delivered a lecture on *“Artificial Intelligence in Nursing Education”* and chaired a roundtable discussion *“The Application of Artificial Intelligence in Emergency Medicine”*. Chapter members assoc. prof. Kata Ivanišević and Mario Dugonjić, mag. nutr. clin., actively contributed as panelists

In addition to their roles in discussions, several members held individual lectures; Benjamin Osmančević, MSN, RN, PhD candidate,

Marica Jerleković, MSN, RN, Assoc. Prof. Damir Važanić, PhD (member of the HSDHM Board), Saša Balija, MSN, RN, PhD candidate (President of both the Congress and HSDHM), Sandro Vidmanić, MSN, RN, PhD candidate, and Assoc. Prof. Kata Ivanišević, PhD (Secretary of HSDHM).

Leadership and organizational roles were filled by chapter members within the Scientific Committee of the Congress. Assoc. Prof. Damir Važanić, PhD, served as President of the Committee, while Assoc. Prof. Snježana Čukljek, PhD (Vice-President of the Alpha Alpha Gamma Chapter), Assoc. Prof. Biljana Filipović, PhD (Chapter Secretary), Assoc. Prof. Adriano Friganović, PhD, and Assoc. Prof. Kata Ivanišević, PhD contributed as committee members.

The active involvement of chapter members in both the scientific and organizational aspects of the congress highlights the chapter’s growing influence and leadership in advancing emergency nursing practice, education, and innovation in Croatia and the region.



**Dear Sigma Europe Region Chapter Member,
tell us what you want to read in the Sigma Europe
Region newsletter!**



Answer the survey here:

<https://forms.office.com/e/uCVyXyLqsn>

Spread information about your research to other members!

Fill in the survey of the research you wish to publish on Sigma Europe's social media channels and website.



Link to the survey:

<https://forms.office.com/e/3jEgdhFWFv>

8th Sigma European Regional Conference

24th-26th
June 2026 Kuopio,
Finland

Towards innovative future
nursing practice,
leadership, education and
research



EUROPE REGION

