

BIOGRAPHY OF LUZ ESPERANZA AYALA DE CALVO

During the last 25 years Luz Esperanza has focused her activities in improving oncology nursing education in Colombia and other Latin American developing countries.

In 1989, she was co-founder of Colombian Society of cancer Nursing (AEOC), and she was its President for 10 years (1994 – 2004). Since its foundation she has participated as board member and Coordinator Committee of Education and Research, through it she has participated in planning and developing several national conferences and meetings on Oncology Nursing.

In 1990, both with a nurse from the Colombian Cancer Institute she created the first and unique postgraduate oncology nursing program in the country, which remains the only one in Colombia still and since then she has been its general coordinator and professor.

Luz Esperanza has been a guest lecturer many times in National Conferences of Nursing and Oncology Nursing in Argentina, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela. She has visited and advised some institutions in those countries to implement a similar postgraduate program.

In Oslo, Norway, at the 11th ISNCC Conference, she received the first Past Presidents Award in recognition of her contribution to cancer care.

She has attended several International Conferences in Cancer Nursing in which she has presented orally the results of some studies done in her country as a main author and as a co-authored: Sidney (2004), Toronto (2006), Singapore (2008) and Atlanta (2010).

She promoted the first Latin American congress of oncology nursing which was held in 2008, in Cali Colombia and the second to be held in April 2011 in Vina del Mar, Chile. Now she is proposing a Master program in Oncology Nursing in her country and she is working with a colleague to create a new graduate program in Palliative Care.

Description of current and past work with ISNCC

Since 2008 Luz Esperanza has been working as a member of Board of Directors of ISNCC as representative of the countries of Central and South America, she has participated in its meetings held in the 15th and 16th International Conferences in Cancer Nursing, in Singapore and Atlanta. Also she worked for the 16th ICCN in Atlanta, USA in 2010 as a member of the scientific planning committee.

She collaborated with ONS to plan a pre-conference workshop about Leadership for Latin American nurses at the 2010 ICCN.

She is working since many years ago promoting the education and the best practice of oncology nursing care in the countries of Latin America; in 2009 in La Havana, Cuba, she led the creation of the Latin American Net of Oncology Nursing to share experiences and knowledge with oncology nurses in the region, which was signed this year in Atlanta by nurses attendees from 8 countries of Central and South America. Luz Esperanza promotes the affiliation of different kind of membership to the ISNCC and maintains communication with many colleagues from different Latin American countries and motivates them to take advantage the education and professional development opportunities on oncology nursing offered by ISNCC.

She is member of the Knowledge Development and the Dissemination Committee and Development and Communication Committee.

She is the author of the abstract titled "Working conditions and professional education in oncology nursing in countries of central and south America" which was presented orally in the 16th ISNCC Conference.

In 2009 and 2010 Luz Esperanza participated in the research study ISNCC - Merck on the nurse's role in controlling nausea and vomiting induced by chemotherapy. As an international investigator on this project, she supported the distribution and data collection associated with the ISNCC-Merck CINV Survey in some Latin American selected countries. Her role in relation to the survey distribution included the following activities: Development and pilot of survey questions, Translation of surveys, Submission of ethics applications, Data analysis and interpretation.