



**Building Children's Nursing for Africa Conference 2017: 'Pillars of Practice'**  
 A participative conference for neonatal, paediatric and paediatric critical care nurses to celebrate and build on what nurses do well in caring for children and their families.

Conference highlights from day three



**Be courageous**

**Prof Hester Klopper** opened the final day of the conference with a testament to the passion, determination and effort expended by everyone working to build children's nursing in Africa. As delegates prepared to return home fired up to effect change, **Mitzi Franken** cautioned us to remember that change is often a five-year project. As nurses we need to be patient as well as determined, and opportunities like this conference give us the chance to look back and see how far we have come. **Grainne Walsh** shared her professional journey, and recognized the vital role of mentors and allies at each point on the road. Delegates were invited to celebrate the community of professional practice in children's nursing in Africa and internationally which has been brought into existence, and to use this community to sustain, encourage and support one another. **Minette Coetzee** explained the journey which Cape Town and Malawi walked together, leading to the establishment of children's nursing training in Blantyre which is now generating more than 50 children's nurses each year. The map which delegates had been putting their flags on all week revealed an astonishing fact: at this year's conference there are more than 2000 combined years of children's nursing experience represented!

**Thanks**

Long-standing friends and supporters of CNPDI, and children's nursing in Africa more broadly, were thanked for their generosity and for their faith and belief in investing in education, which is making so much progress possible. Linda Whitfield for the Harry Crossley Foundation, Jeffrey Misomali for ELMA Philanthropies, Noel and Brigitte McIntosh, and Louise Driver of the Children's Hospital Trust, were all warmly recognized. Finally, the 2017 UCT post graduate children's nursing students dazzled us with their dance moves and brought everyone to their feet at the close of the conference as delegates made personal pledges stating how they would be brave in advancing the development of children's nursing.

**Awards for the best presentations went to:**

- **Most Trendsetting Presentation: Illana Webber** for a video presentation utilising graphic media to very effectively illustrate the concepts behind the First 1000 Days. *The First 1000 Days: our ceiling could be the next generation's floor.*

- **Best Research Presentation: Arina Jenkins** for a presentation that showed an exceptionally rigorous research based approach to achieving a reduction in neonatal deaths through quality improvement. *Reducing central line-associated bloodstream infections in a public sector NICU.*
- **Best Emerging Researcher: Mandayachepa Nyando** for an exceptionally well-executed study which achieved truly illuminating findings relating to women's experiences of care. *Experiences of women caregivers looking after a child living with HIV and AIDS in rural Malawi.*
- **Best Poster: Christal Bastian** for a poster presentation that clearly and vividly explained the process of implementing changes in practice. *Developing a surgical site infection (SSI) bundle.*
- **Best Practice Development Research Presentation: Tiyamike Nkhoma** with a presentation that documented how care for critically ill children was improved through observation, documentation, and reflection, resulting in action to address modifiable factors. *Pathways to care for critically ill or injured children at Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital, Malawi.*