



CAROLE BOULANGER

The terms “role model”, “trailblazer” or “pioneer” are often employed to describe individuals who have contributed to their field. As such, these terms can lose their sense of importance and be used quite indiscriminately. However, when one is considering the achievements of Carole Boulanger, you realise that these descriptions fail to do justice to describing certain individuals, of which Carole certainly is one.

She truly is a “trailblazer”. Her basic nursing training began in Staffordshire in the UK, from where she subsequently achieved a professional studies degree in critical care, as well as an MSc. She then embarked on an initial government-backed pilot programme to explore whether additional training given to experienced ICU nurses would enable them to perform roles traditionally associated with medical staff.

So was born the ACCP programme in the UK, for which Carole has worked tirelessly, culminating in the development of a National Competency Framework. This has evolved into an academic framework and curriculum formalising the training under the auspices of the Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine (FICM). She was the first nurse to achieve this, and her unrelenting efforts in driving this process forward have been rewarded with an Honorary Fellowship of FICM. A remarkable achievement for a non-physician.

For most individuals, maintaining a home, working a full nursing shift and numerous national responsibilities would have been enough, but not Carole. In 2013, to all our benefit, she was elected to the Council of ESICM as the N&AHP representative. Europe was soon to reap the rewards, as her indefatigable approach was first applied to the Congress Committee, and then to the Executive Committee, where she was responsible for negotiating reduced fees for N&AHP members, which translated into increased membership.

She was a strong supporter of the ApplC project, the interactive app for ICU nurses; the family webpage for ESICM; and web-based courses for N&AHP. If that is not enough, she was actively involved in INACTIC, the competency-based training for intensive care that has developed a pan-European curriculum, as well as developing collaboration between the European Federation - and the World Federation - of Critical Care Nursing. Furthermore, and not least, she is a champion behind the diversity project of the ESICM, which has set the agenda for our Society for the years to come.

If all this is not enough, she is a fantastic colleague to work with and her team cannot speak highly enough of her. Always willing to help and never one to refuse a task, she is extremely approachable. I have often seen her stopped by a junior colleague to seek advice and, no matter how busy she is, Carole makes time to listen and advise and nothing is too much trouble.

For all these reasons, and many more, the European Society of Intensive Care Medicine proudly awards the Society Medal to Carole Boulanger for her outstanding contribution to both the Society and the specialty. No doubt she will continue to be a true “trailblazer” and role model for years to come!

LUI FORNI

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