

**PROFESSIONAL GROUP OF NURSES IN ENTEROSTOMAL THERAPY SLOVENIA  
AT NURSES AND MIDWIVES ASSOCIATION SLOVENIA  
CELEBRATED 30<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY**



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On 6th and 7th October 2017, the Executive Committee of the **Professional group of nurses in enterostomal therapy Slovenia** organized two-day professional education in Zreče (Slovenia), on topics of ostomy, wound and continence nursing care. In view of the increasing number of people over 65 years of age, there is also a rise in problems with incontinence. With the successful National Program for Early Detection of Colorectal Cancer and Rehabilitation in Slovenia (SVIT) we also more often meet with patients who have had surgery with final outcome of ostomy creation (colo-, ileostom; temporarily or permanently and/or urostomy).

Therefore, for the mentioned patients and their optimal rehabilitation, in-depth knowledge of these areas of nursing is even more important for ensuring quality nursing care and their optimal rehabilitation. The third set of lectures at a professional meeting was devoted to health care and the provision of chronic wounds. They often occur in the elderly (eg, ulcer) which are particularly at risk for the formation of pressure ulcer, especially if they are immobile. We must provide prevention and use appropriate devices for that. In addition it is important that the patient is treated comprehensively. That is why, when dealing with chronic wound patients, we emphasized nutritional support. Special nutritional treatment is also required in patients with high-output ileostomy, in order to avoid dehydration and electrolyte imbalance and loss of body weight of the patient with ileostomy.

Attendance at a professional meeting was high, a positive atmosphere was present, and the discussions after sessions were dynamic. We were also pleased that participants came from all regions of Slovenia and from all levels of health care, that is, from various health centers in Slovenia, community nursing departments, private clinics, rehabilitation institutes and

hospitals from all regions of Slovenia, besides enterostomal therapists. The participants were able to gain new knowledge, learn skills at training workshops, exchange experiences, which will be able to transfer them to everyday practice. They were present also at the formal academy on the 30th anniversary of Professional group of nurses in enterostomal therapy Slovenia.

11th November 1987, is the day when the head nurses at the University Clinical Centre Ljubljana, Mrs. Polona Zupančič and the members of the initiative committee, Lea Zver, Darinka Klemenc, Alenka Krist, Marija Smolič, Metka Foltyn Zima and Štefka Koderman, formed a »Section of nurses in Enterostomal therapy« within the Association of nursing societies Slovenia. Her first president was Darinka Klemenc. This is how our story began and this year we have completed 30 years. The welcome and keynote speech of the president Mrs. Renata Batas was followed by an introductory lecture, a conversation with the first enterostomal therapist in Slovenia, Mrs. Metka Zima. In 1980, in Cleveland, she successfully completed education for the enterostomal therapist. It was our honor that Mrs. Zima was able to join us, and through this conversation we learned a lot of interesting data that we can not easily find in the written history. In addition to Mrs. Zima, Darinka Klemenc was present, the second with completed course of enterostomal therapy in London (1987) and the first president when the Professional group of nurses in enterostomal therapy was formed. She briefed us on the efforts of the first enterostomal therapist in Slovenia for development of enterostomal therapy and for enforcements the rights of people with ostomy to medical devices on recipe which was prescribed by the doctor. She presented cooperation of enterostomal therapist in the establishment of ostomy patients association in Slovenia – ILCO. At professional meeting we talked about nursing care of patients with ostomy, chronic woundc, compression therapy and continence care. The lecture was followed by workshops on compression therapy, wound care, nephrostomy care. This year, Professional group of nurses in enterostomal therapy developed National protocols for nursing care of patients with nephrostomy and cystostomy.

On our anniversary we also published a monograph »30 years of operation of Professional group of nurses in enterostomal therapy in Slovenia (1987 – 2017)« (Picture 1a and 1b). Our professional group also received from the Chamber of Nurses and Midwives Association Slovenia (President Mrs. Monika Ažman), recognition for 30 years of quality and successful professional work in the field of enterostomal therapy in Slovenia (Picture 2).



1a.



1b.

**Picture 1a and 1b:** A monograph on the 30th anniversary of the Nurses Section in Enterostomal Therapy in Slovenia (photo: Renata Batas)



**Picture 2:** A Professional group of nurses in enterostomal therapy received a certificate from the Chamber of Proceedings of the Union for a 30-year high-quality and successful professional work. (From left to right): Dragica Jošar, Vanja Vilar, Renata Batas (president of the professional group), Ines Prodan (vice-president of the section), Robertina Benkovič and Monika Ažman (president of the Chamber - Union) (Photo: Jovan Batas).

In addition, the Professional group of nurses in enterostomal therapy also awarded thanks, acknowledgments for the important contribution to the functioning and development of the enterostomal therapy in Slovenia to important colleagues and to former presidents (Picture 3).



**Picture 3:** The recipients of acknowledgments, thanks for the important contribution to the functioning and development of the enterostomal therapy in Slovenia (from left to right): Tamara Štemberger Kolnik, Alenka Šau, Dragica Tomc, Marija Smolič, Vanja Vilar, Renata Batas, Marta Gantar, Darinka Klemenc and Alenka Krist (Photo: Jovan Batas).