



Sharing our experiences

Róisín O'Connell reports on the recent visit of Norwegian students and new graduates

A DELEGATION of Norwegian student and new graduate nurses visited the INMO last month. The programme of events offered many opportunities for delegates to share their experiences with one another and reflect on the differences and common experiences they face as nurses and midwives.

The programme included presentations from the president of the European Federation of Nurses (EFN) Elizabeth Adams and talks from Edward Matthews, INMO deputy general secretary, and Steve Pitman, INMO head of education. We debated topics surrounding the state of the nursing and midwifery profession and education in Ireland and discussed what the union can do for its members.

The event saw student and new graduate nurses and midwives come together from Norway and Ireland and discuss what nursing is like in their respective countries. Many of the students were surprised by both the similarities and differences between the professions in the two countries.

One of the Irish students in attendance, Christopher O'Dwyer, spoke about the opportunities the visit afforded INMO student and new graduate members.

"It was great to meet with our Norwegian colleagues and to discuss the similarities and differences between our health systems. However, one commonality that shone through was the commitment to patient care. The content delivered on the day by my INMO colleagues gave our visitors a unique insight to the daily routine of nursing in Ireland but also the importance of the INMO's work," he told *WIN*

Events like this demonstrate the changes that can be made to our health and education system to benefit nursing and midwifery students. They also empower



Pictured at the Richmond Education and Event Centre were (l-r): Róisín O'Connell, student officer, Elizabeth Adams, EFN president, Benedicte Molnes, ENSA president

our student nurses and midwives to realise the effect they can have as students on health policy, while also encouraging them to participate in other INMO events.

Get involved as a rep

Now more than ever, it is essential that each class has a student rep who is connected with me. If your group does not have an INMO student rep, please discuss this among yourselves and nominate one rep for each year, discipline and placement area, if you are spread across multiple sites.

It is worth noting that INMO student reps are distinct from student union reps as the INMO is the professional body representing nurses and midwives dealing with matters relating to the workplace.

Being a rep does not mean taking on a body of work and solving your class's problems by yourself. A rep is someone who lets me know about any collective issues in their group so that I can either address these concerns or bring them to the attention of senior management. This means that your voice is represented at national negotiations.

If you are interested in learning more,

about becoming a rep please do not hesitate to contact me.

Preceptor of the Year Award 2023

The INMO is delighted to announce that the annual Preceptor of the Year Award has opened for nominations. The Organisation would once again like to thank Cornmarket for its continued sponsorship of this prize. The award will be presented to an INMO member who has inspired, encouraged and motivated a nursing or midwifery student to reach their potential.

This award recognises the essential work of our nurse and midwife preceptors, which is a fundamental component of nursing and midwifery education.

Nominate your preceptor before March 30 online or by email via the form available at: www.inmo.ie/Preceptor_of_the_Year

If you wish to nominate your preceptor, please don't hesitate to fill in the form as it is important we recognise the amazing nurses and midwives working within our health service.

Róisín O'Connell is the INMO's student and new graduate officer. If you have a question for her, please email roisin.oconnell@inmo.ie