This International Conference was held in Pamplona, Northern Spain. It was hosted by the University of This International Conference was held in Pamplona, Northern Spain. It was hosted by the University of Navarra and had over 400 delegates from all over Spain, the Balearic Islands, and the Canary Islands; so many, in fact, that they had to close the auditorium doors as they could not seat anymore. Speakers came from the same areas as the delegates, but also included three American ladies, from Iowa, Boston and New Jersey, and myself. The themes of the two days were Coding and Classification of Nursing, the Nursing Process, and the computerisation of what nurses do. The Conference was extremely well organised and almost all the sessions had experienced translators, with microphones and headphones used throughout the two days by delegates and speakers alike.

Thursday 25th May 2000

The Deputy Chair of the Navarra University, Mr Pilar Fernandez, warmly welcomed everyone to this friendly巴斯que speaking territory. He hoped that a great deal of learning and networking would take place over the next two days.

The Conference was opened officially by the Lady Mayoress of Pamplona, Yolanda Barcina. In her address, she explained how pleased she was to see so many experts in healthcare coming together to share experience. She explained that this nursing and computerisation conference was the third one taking place this month, preceded by a conference on dermatology, and a short time before that a course on management and supervising. She raised issues in information and management of technology, nursing language, the nursing process and how these should help to advance nursing. The organisers were used to holding conferences and this did reflect in the professionalism displayed throughout the two days.

Maria Isabel Razquin, Director of the University where all the pre and post registration nursing education is undertaken and the medical staff trained, gave a keynote speech. She has undertaken an immense amount of research in nursing and contributed to many papers in Spain. She spoke of the conceptual discipline in nursing, and of how the market economy was affecting health services. This theme was extended into world health information and the storage of data; the development of nursing informatics and how nursing practice should lead to validating and developing minimum datasets using an understandable language. She then alluded to NANDA and the 4 thesaurus’ which holds medical and nursing terms that can be cross referenced with new information and knowledge. All the terms we commonly use in the UK were mentioned: multi-disciplinary, updated, accurate, efficient and research and knowledge based.

She went on to say that it has been difficult to quantify the life quality of a patient; it has been tried and it has failed, not showing the significance of nursing. Conceptualisation is a foundation for nursing and it was suggested it could be used with research, with the scientific focus and practical sources being the future body of knowledge.

Nurses, she said, should have a clear identity of the care given in multi-disciplinary teams, while combining facts and data with nurse training, recognised nursing disciplines and leaders of research would enable competence in complicated fields. Skilful and relevant collection of data, she concluded, would facilitate education and change management training for encompassing computerising with conceptualisation.

Patricia Lyer based her presentation on her book, “The Nursing Process”. A registered nurse from New Jersey, USA, she began her talk with the situation in 1978 with nursing diagnosis and common problems with look up tables. From this, work began to identify the correct care plan and to develop the outcomes, and she then saw this as needing to be included as a responsibility in job descriptions. She mentioned Clinical Nurse Specialists, Nurse Practitioners and nurses with master degrees, but it was difficult to see where they fitted into the British grading structure.

Patricia spoke of how care plans reflect needs and nursing diagnosis is not just a medical term. The best way to implement change, she said, was...