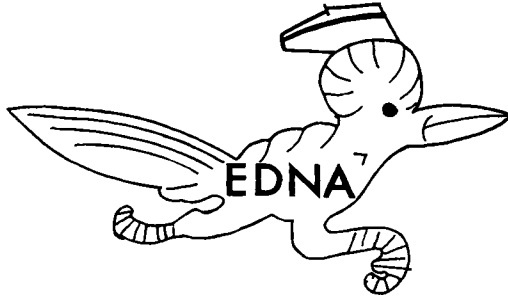


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EDNA THE ROADRUNNER IS BORN



EDNA, the Emergency Department Nurses Association, incorporated in December 1970, chose an appropriate symbol: the roadrunner. EDNA is an important step forward in the care of critically injured and ill patients.

Emergency health services are obviously becoming more important in this country, yet are slowly receiving the attention due. The hub of the services to critically ill and injured patients is the emergency department, the half-way house between the prehospital rescue efforts and the definitive hospital care.

The staff in the emergency department traditionally has been drawn from recent nursing graduates who like the action and who learn by trial and error from their peers. This is unlike the new specialized nursing units in hospitals, such as the intensive care and coronary care units, which usually have well-structured orientation and education programs for nursing staff. The physicians in charge of these units want top caliber nurses and train them thoroughly to be certain patients get sophisticated care.

The patients who enter these specialized hospital units, however, frequently enter the hospital through the emergency department, where they are initially resuscitated and evaluated. It is obvious that the nurses in the emergency department play a vital role in the care of these patients and need at least as much postgraduate orientation and continuing educational programs as is offered to the ICU and CCU nurses.

For over 10 years courses in emergency care

of the sick and injured have been offered to ambulance technicians in different areas of the country, and emergency department nurses have been invited to attend. Their response has been enthusiastic, but it is apparent that courses especially designed for the emergency department nurses are needed. More recently, beginning in 1966, the Chicago Committee on Trauma, through Dr. George Anast, offered this type of course. It proved to be effective and extremely well received, indicating that the course was filling a great need.

One of these programs was offered by the New York State Committee on Trauma, co-sponsored by the New York City-Brooklyn Committee, and was under the direction of Dr. James Cosgriff of Buffalo. It was held in Niagara Falls in September 1970, and it was there that the concept of a national organization for emergency department nurses was given impetus.

Mrs. Anita Door, Supervisor of the Emergency Department at the Edward J. Meyer Memorial Hospital in Buffalo, had the idea and drive to develop EDNA and draw up its constitution and bylaws.

The first annual meeting will be held Wednesday, October 6, 1971 at the Commodore Hotel in New York City, prior to a three-day emergency department nursing workshop course planned by Dr. Robert Clarke, Chairman of the New York City-Brooklyn Committee on Trauma.

I would urge all physicians to encourage their

emergency department nursing staff to join EDNA, and to urge their hospital administrators to give nurses the opportunity to attend such postgraduate educational courses. Over 1,000 nurses have made application to EDNA in the initial 6 months of the Association.

To quote from their constitution, the purpose of EDNA is:

1. "to promote the exchange of ideas among its members;
2. "to foster research and study of problems, advances and techniques in the operation of emergency departments of hospitals;
3. "to conduct seminars, national and international conferences and research into educational methods;
4. "to organize discussions, conferences, study groups and publications;
5. "to further by clinical study, laboratory research, publications, and teaching the knowledge of emergency department techniques and the application of such knowledge to the improvement of the organization, equipment, management and maintenance of a hospital emergency department."

What an excellent and long overdue concept for the improvement of care to all patients who enter the emergency departments throughout the country.

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