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The Ansell Newsletter

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Dear reader,

"To create a world where people and products enjoy optimal protection against the risks to which they are exposed": that is the bold vision of Ansell Healthcare. In pursuit of that aim, Ansell continually invests in R&D to deliver the very best barrier protective solutions on today's market. But it goes further than that. Ansell is also solidly committed to offering expert advice and know-how to support its business partners, end-users and medical associations.

The strong bond between Ansell and many specialist associations, like the European Operating Room Nurses Association (EORNA), perfectly illustrates Ansell's commitment to support healthcare workers worldwide in their efforts to further harmonize and improve the quality of healthcare across Europe. Education and awareness play a pivotal role in that task. Ansell was therefore delighted that four AnsellCares courses have been accredited - as the very first ones! - by EORNA's brand-new Accreditation Council for Education.

At the fifth EORNA Congress, OR nurses showed great interest in Ansell's new solutions to support them in their day-to-day tasks. Given the volatile economic environment and all the uncertainties that come along, it is good to see a continued interest in Ansell's solutions. After all, your branch of industry has a mission that is fairly different to that of many other sectors: to deliver best-quality healthcare services, in order to safeguard people's health and well-being. Ansell will continue investing in solutions, services and long-term partnerships to help you achieve that aim.



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Editorial

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Ansell Healthcare welcomed over 1000 nurses at EORNA Congress

Ansell looks back at a highly successful EORNA Congress (EORNAC) last April in Copenhagen, Denmark. Over 1,000 operating room nurses visited the Ansell booth to discover how Ansell can help them further optimize patient care. Stars at the booth were the newcomers in the Gammex® PF family like the Gammex® PF HyGrip™ and Gammex® PF IsoDerm® Sensitive™ plus, not forgetting an impressive bunch of bunnies and mouth-watering smoothies.



A bunny called IsoDerm

The synthetic Gammex® PF IsoDerm® surgical gloves have been designed for people who have developed a Type I allergy, healthcare workers and patients alike. The glove is therefore recommended as a precautionary measure for emergency and rescue services, and especially for childcare. To underline its child-friendly nature, Ansell designed the lovable 'IsoDerm' bunny, in light green and white. The cuddly toy was met with great enthusiasm among the attending nurses. As were the smoothies and the nerve-breaking bunny game at the Ansell booth. After all, all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy...

Ansell's Gammex® PF line of surgical gloves has recently been expanded with two rebranded and two new gloves. With the Gammex® range being widely acclaimed by surgeons, operating room nurses and surgical technicians the world over, it seemed only logical to put Gammex® PF under the spotlight at EORNAC. The operating room nurses who visited our stand and were not familiar with Ansell solutions were suitably impressed when experiencing the gloves' superior comfort levels. Those who frequently use Gammex® PF in their operating rooms were introduced to the new Gammex® PF HyGrip™ and Gammex® PF IsoDerm® Sensitive®, providing exceptional grip and thinness respectively.



Ansell lecture at EORNAC: 'Reduction of needle stick/share injuries by double-gloving'

Ansell also contributed to the EORNAC conference part with a lecture from infection control expert Denise Korniewicz, Professor & Sr. Associate Dean for research at the University of Miami School of Nursing & Health Studies (Florida, US). Prof. Korniewicz zoomed in on the risk of needle stick injuries and consequent infections among operation room personnel, showing how double-gloving can reduce that risk.

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AnsellCares web-based courses get the 'EORNA ACE APPROVED' quality label

Continuing education is key to high-quality healthcare services. Both EORNA and Ansell have understood that very well. Through its AnsellCares educational program Ansell wishes to provide healthcare professionals with the best possible advice on barrier protective solutions. Four online AnsellCares courses have now been accredited by EORNA's brand-new Accreditation Council for Education (ACE), after receiving earlier confirmation of acceptance by its US counterpart (AORN).

The renowned AnsellCares program brings alive Ansell's firm commitment to education. Aimed at creating awareness and education among healthcare professionals, it bundles an ever-growing series of online and offline research and educational resources on infection control, allergy prevention, barrier protection and nursing procedures. The up-to-date information is vetted by a Scientific Advisory Network, which is composed of leading independent scientists, physicians, educators and researchers from around the globe.



Unique initiative

EORNA strongly believes in the AnsellCares approach and is confident of the high quality and thoroughness of Ansell's web-based training courses. It therefore decided to follow the example of AORN, the American Operating Room Nurses' association, and approve four AnsellCares courses. ACE is the brand-new Accreditation Council for Education monitoring Europe's first accreditation system for operating room nurses, and setting quality standards for distance learning courses and educational events. "Ansell is proud to support ACE," said Holger Furstenberg, European Marketing Director, Professional Healthcare EMEA Region, at the Ansell booth during the EORNA Congress. "As operating theatre nurses have a front-line role in ensuring patient protection, their continuing education is of key importance."

AnsellCares online courses

Fully accredited by EORNA ACE



Following EORNA's launch of the Accreditation Council for Education (ACE), AnsellCares' online courses have become the first to receive ACE accreditation.

Part of an educational series on infection control, allergy prevention, barrier protection and nursing procedures, AnsellCares' courses perfectly link to the requirements of continued education for healthcare workers around the world.

Easily accessed online, each AnsellCares' course content can be downloaded for independent study. Tests are conducted online, with final results and accreditation points delivered on an EORNA ACE certificate.

AnsellCares' online courses currently available

+ Double Gloving

+ Glove Material

+ Glove Powder

+ Electrosurgery



Available at EORNA website

The first AnsellCares courses with the EORNA ACE quality label are courses on the topics of double-gloving, glove material, glove powder and electrosurgery (yielding 1.5 course credits each). All four self-study courses are available through the EORNA website. Visitors log in to a dedicated section of the website (EORNA Academy Access to Web Based Educational Courses) and choose from the courses on offer. Content can then be accessed and downloaded, for the nurses to study at their own pace. The tests can be taken online, with final results and accreditation points available on an EORNA ACE certificate.

ACE accreditation: a true quality label

Lifelong learning is much more than a buzzword in the medical world. With working environments, technologies and approaches, etc. changing at dazzling speed, healthcare workers - surgeons nor nurses - cannot settle down for a 50-year flat career. As a world leader in barrier protective solutions, Ansell can play a major role in continuous professional development. The accreditation of Ansell courses and programs greatly helps to underline the high quality, professionalism and objectiveness of its educational programs.



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Ansell offers training cheques during EORNA Congress

To underline its ongoing commitment to better education, Ansell gave away three training cheques (one each day), worth €500 each, at its EORNAC booth. The following three ladies are the happy winners of the voucher:

- Mrs Darja Grm, University Clinical Center, Maribor – Slovenia
- Mrs Herminia Telo of ULSNA, Portalegre – Portugal
- Mrs Helga Hallgrimsdóttir – Landspítali University Hospital, Reykjavik – Iceland

Ansell truly hopes they will use their cheque as wisely as the winners at EORNAC 2006. Johan Gaens, deputy head nurse at UZ Leuven (Belgium) was one of them: "Having just started my 'managerial training', the money came in very useful. The course helped me broaden my expertise, which resulted in a new, fascinating job. Thanks Ansell!"

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Belgian operating theatre nurses gather for annual congress

As you will read in detail elsewhere in this edition of InTouch, members of EORNA, the European umbrella organisation for operating theatre nurses, got together in April in Copenhagen. Locally, nurses have also been meeting in recent months to exchange their knowledge and experience, as well as to find out more about the latest developments in their field. For example, the end of March saw a meeting of the Flanders nursing association, the VVOV. Then, at the beginning of May, it was the turn of their counterparts in Wallonia, AFISO. Ansell attended both meetings.

Kiwi fruit, gloves and young skin

“Children in the operating theatre” was one of the central themes at the recent Congress of the Association of Flemish Operating Theatre Nurses (VVOV). At the invitation of Ansell, Gerda Lensen, nurse practitioner at the Medical University Centre in Groningen, The Netherlands, gave a presentation in which she expanded on the risks and prevention of latex allergy. Entirely in line with the overall theme of the VVOV Congress, Ms Lensen focused on one particularly important risk group: young children. Some 80 or so nurses attended the Ansell workshop.

‘Kiwi fruit, gloves and young skin’ was the interesting title of the Ansell presentation. Gerda Lensen began her address with an introduction: what is latex, what causes a latex allergy and how can nurses recognise such an allergy? In her talk, she underlined the fact that direct skin contact with latex products is not the only cause of allergy. Airborne latex protein can also cause damage. Powder-free latex gloves provide a first step in restricting the danger of allergy. However, this is not enough for some risk groups. For them, synthetic products are the only good method of prevention.

Synthetic gloves for children

During her presentation, Ms Lensen listed the groups who are at risk from latex allergy, alluding to the kiwi fruit featured in the title of her address: patients who are allergic to “tropical fruit”, including the kiwi, appear to be extremely sensitive to latex.



One striking and yet quite large risk group for latex allergy are young children who are operated on frequently. Gerda Lensen presented the strategy proposed by Ansell to counter this problem: synthetic gloves are recommended for surgical procedures on children who undergo operations frequently.

Gammex® PF Isoderm®

At the Ansell-Hospithera stand, attendees were able to see, touch and try latex-free Ansell gloves that are ideal for operating on children: the Gammex® PF Isoderm® and the recently introduced Gammex® PF Isoderm® Sensitive gloves (see page 4), that are currently being promoted with the Isoderm cuddly rabbit.

Plenty of interest



The VVOV Congress 2009 welcomed 155 participants on Thursday 26 March and 390 on Friday 27 March. Success for the Congress chairperson, Mrs Monique Van Hiel. She put the Association firmly on the road to 2010 and even better care in Flemish operating theatres.

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AFISO is undeniably playing the training card

The aim of AFISO (Association Francophone des Infirmières de Salle d'Opération), the French-language association for operating theatre nursing staff, runs entirely in parallel with EORNA and its Flemish nursing counterparts: to optimise patient care in the operating theatre. The annual AFISO conference plays a central role in achieving that aim. This year, the meeting – which was the 23rd to date – was run over two full days for the first time.



By spreading the conference over two days, AFISO was able to offer its members a full seminar programme, featuring a number of interesting speakers. And for the first time this year, the conference also included presentations from educational institutions that provide special training for 'operating theatre nurses'. They spoke of their experiences to mark the tenth anniversary of these courses in Wallonia.

In addition to the seminar portion of the conference, attendees also had plenty of opportunity to learn about the latest developments in operating theatre nursing. The extensive range of Ansell gloves was displayed on the Hospithera stand. Two ACE-certified AnsellCares courses stressed the fact that Ansell, like AFISO, is playing the training card to the full.



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Introducing surgical trainees to proper hand protection

For the third year in a row now, Ansell is a Gold sponsor to ASiT, the UK Association of Surgeons in Training. More than sponsoring the association, however, Ansell wishes to be its partner, offering surgical trainees access to valuable educational resources and information. During the annual ASiT Conference in Nottingham, from 27th – 29th March, Ansell got a fine opportunity to expose its hand protection expertise and make surgical trainees aware of the importance of proper glove usage.



Surgical gloves are rarely a primary concern to trainees. Quite often, they are hardly aware of proper hand washing and donning techniques and don't know how to choose the most appropriate glove. While that knowledge is a must to enhance protection levels, both for the patients and for themselves. During the ASiT study day, preliminary to the 2009 Conference, Ansell provided the trainees with a workshop, demonstrating the importance of good hand washing techniques and the appropriate ways to use a glove. In the exhibition room, the students could then discover the large portfolio of latex and synthetic gloves that Ansell has on offer, plus extra services like the [AnsellCares programme](#).

Ansell ASiT Medal

The prizes for the best abstracts have been a regular feature of the ASiT conference for many years now. The 2009 Conference featured five separate prize sessions, including an 'Ansell prize': to acknowledge Ansell for its many years of sponsorship, ASiT had introduced the Ansell ASiT Medal. It was given to Hyun-Mi Carty and Peter Tsim for their research paper "Simulated Laproscopic Skills". They got the opportunity to present their abstracts at the 2009 Conference of the Association of Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland (ASGBI), last May.



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Ansell enlarges Gammex® PF range with rebranded gloves...

'The answer to the most demanding surgeon's requirements: that is how Ansell viewed its powder-free Gammex® PF surgical glove upon its launch in 2000. The Gammex® PF has indeed been a success ever since, sold in over 150 countries. Building on the strengths of this very first Gammex®, Ansell is constantly extending the line with both Natural Rubber Latex (NRL) and synthetic gloves, making it the most renowned and comprehensive surgical glove range on today's market. Quite recently, two other successful surgical gloves have been rebranded under the Gammex® PF flag.

Every surgical glove in the Gammex® range boasts an unbeatable combination of superior protection, comfort and great sensitivity. This quality pledge, which is verified by stringent testing, is the key to Gammex® PF's triumph. As they share the Gammex® protection and comfort characteristics, the DermaPrene® Ultra (neoprene) and the Micro-Thin™ Nutex™ (NRL glove for microsurgical procedures) have been re-baptized Gammex® PF DermaPrene® and Gammex® PF Sensitive®, respectively.

Synthetic with latex-like comfort

Ansell's patented manufacturing process guarantees 'undetectable' allergen levels in all of its Gammex® PF gloves

But with 8 to 10 % of operating room personnel diagnosed with latex allergy, Ansell also offers valuable latex-free alternatives. The neoprene Gammex® PF DermaPrene® is a superbly comfortable glove free of latex proteins and accelerators, thus preventing the onset of both Type I and Type IV allergies. It is a worthy addition to the polyisoprene Gammex® PF IsoDerm®, which combines latex-like fit and comfort levels with allergy prevention. This glove is highly recommended for emergency and rescue services and especially for childcare where precautionary measures need to be taken.

Brand-new Gammex® PF IsoDerm® Sensitive™

Gammex® PF IsoDerm®'s winning formula has now been copied in an add-on: the Gammex® PF IsoDerm® Sensitive™, Ansell's first non-NRL glove for micro- and reconstructive surgery. Just like its NRL counterparts (e.g. the rebranded Gammex® PF Sensitive®), this polyisoprene glove is exceptionally thin, thereby facilitating precise manipulation of delicate instruments in both dry and wet conditions. It can, in addition, be coupled to the Gammex® PF IsoDerm® for a 100% synthetic double-gloving solution.

Positive customer feedback

Gammex® PF IsoDerm® surgical gloves were awarded an overall ranking of 8.6 out of 10. In fact 96% of respondents felt that the product is equal to (39%) or better than (57%) the product currently being used.

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Another newcomer: Gammex® PF HyGrip™

When good grip is the main worry, like in orthopedic surgery, healthcare professionals can rely on the new NRL powder-free Gammex® PF HyGrip™. Its unique micro-roughened surface stops instruments from getting slippery, thus resulting in a controlled grip performance equivalent to that of bare hands. The soft, semi-translucent glove can be used as a single glove but it is essentially intended to be used with the coloured Gammex® PF Underglove for maximum puncture visibility in double-gloving solutions.

Positive customer feedback

Early testing conducted in customers' workplaces revealed that nearly 2/3 of orthopaedic surgeons gave Gammex® PF HyGrip™ a score of 'good to excellent'. All users felt that the product provided a significantly improved grip.

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