

ANNUAL REPORT

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Student & Early Career Nurses Society “SECN”

United Arab Emirates

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Introduction:

Empowering the Next Generation of Nurses: A National and Global Perspective

In alignment with global efforts to strengthen nursing leadership and youth engagement, the Student & Early Career Nurse Society (SECN) was established in 2024 under the Emirates Nursing Association (ENA) as a dedicated national platform uniting nursing students and early-career nurses across the UAE. Founded in line with the UAE National Strategy for Nursing and Midwifery (2022–2026) and inspired by initiatives of the International Council of Nurses (ICN), SECN empowers its members to actively contribute to the advancement of health, nursing, and midwifery at both national and global levels.



The ICN Student Alliance, launched by the ICN, serves as a global network connecting nursing students and early-career nurses to foster collaboration, leadership development, and advocacy. Insights gained from the 2023 ICN survey and Council of National Nursing Associations Representatives (CNR) discussions provided valuable understanding of how to better engage young professionals in shaping health policy and strengthening global nursing participation.



Aligned with this international vision, SECN envisions a future where empowered, engaged, and forward-thinking nursing and midwifery youth play a pivotal role in building a healthier and happier UAE. The society fosters a supportive environment that nurtures both personal and professional development while ensuring young voices influence the future of healthcare.

Membership is open to individuals currently enrolled in nursing or midwifery programs or within five years of graduation, holding active ENA membership and demonstrating commitment to community contribution.

Overview:

Vision

Empowered, engaged and futuristic nursing and midwifery youth for happier and healthier UAE community.

Mission

To establish a national platform that equips and empowers youth nurses and midwives, nurtures their personal and professional growth, and maximizes their engagement in service, leadership, and health policy influence.

Objectives

- Develop an enabling environment for the professional and personal growth and development of nursing and midwifery students and early career groups.
- Maximize the meaningful engagement of nursing and midwifery students and early career groups in reshaping the future of the UAE nursing and midwifery profession and informing its advancement and global competitiveness.
- Enhance the influence of nursing, midwifery students, and early career groups in health, nursing, and midwifery policy dialogue.
- Connect nursing and midwifery students and early career groups across the UAE.
- Contribute to advancing the quality of nursing and midwifery education as well as transition to practice.
- Develop the creative and innovative potential of nursing and midwifery students and early career groups and enable the expression of their unique talents.

Scope of Practice

- Support and empower nursing students and early-career nurses through education, mentorship, and resources.
- Organize community campaigns and professional development programs.
- Represent UAE's nursing youth on national, regional, and international platforms

Joining Criteria

- Enrollment in a nursing/midwifery undergraduate or graduate program or being within five years of graduation.
- Active ENA membership.
- Commitment to advancing the society's mission and representing peers.

Membership Overview

➤ Total Members Students:

- 85 Nursing Students (Early career nurses not yet finalized)

Affiliated institutions:

- Fatima College of Health Sciences
- University of Sharjah
- Higher Colleges of Technology
- Ras Al Khaimah Medical and Health Sciences University
- Fujairah University



Activities:

1. “Effective Communication in Nursing” workshop:

On February 6, 2025, the Student and Early Career Nurses Society (SECN) hosted an engaging Arabic-language virtual workshop on “Effective Communication in Nursing.” This session was designed to strengthen one of the most vital skills in healthcare: communication. Participants explored the foundations of professional communication, strategies for handling difficult conversations, and ways to foster positive relationships with patients. The workshop was interactive, with live polls, Q&A, and breakout discussions that encouraged participants to apply their learning in real time. Nurses who completed the session were awarded Certificates of Participation, marking their commitment to enhancing the quality of patient care through effective communication.



2. International Nurses Day 2025

On May 12, 2025, the Emirates Nursing Association celebrated International Nurses Day by honoring nurses across the UAE. The Student and Early Career Nurses Society partnered with several cafés to provide exclusive discounts, offering nurses a chance to relax and connect outside of work. Participating cafés included Moonlit Café, Orbit Café, Laloca Café & Lounge, Cure Café, Mayar Café, The Perk Café, E18 Specialty Coffee, and Aviator Café. The initiative highlighted community gratitude while reminding nurses of the importance of selfcare and recognition.



3. ICN Congress 2025 “Student Assembly”

The International Council of Nurses (ICN) Congress 2025 in Helsinki brought together nursing leaders, educators, and students from around the world, and the Student Assembly stood out as a powerful platform for the voices of the next generation. Delegates discussed challenges and opportunities surrounding the transition from education to practice, the importance of mental health, and strategies to address burnout among young nurses. These conversations reinforced the reality that, although healthcare systems differ, the experiences of student and early-career nurses share striking similarities across countries.

Representing the UAE, the Student and Early Career Nurses Society (SECN) proudly took part in this global gathering. The chairperson, Miss Nawal Albalooshi, presented on Transition to Practice, Mental Health, and Burnout, amplifying perspectives that directly reflect the concerns of nursing students and new graduates in the UAE. Her contribution sparked meaningful dialogue and highlighted SECN’s commitment to addressing these pressing issues not only locally but also internationally.

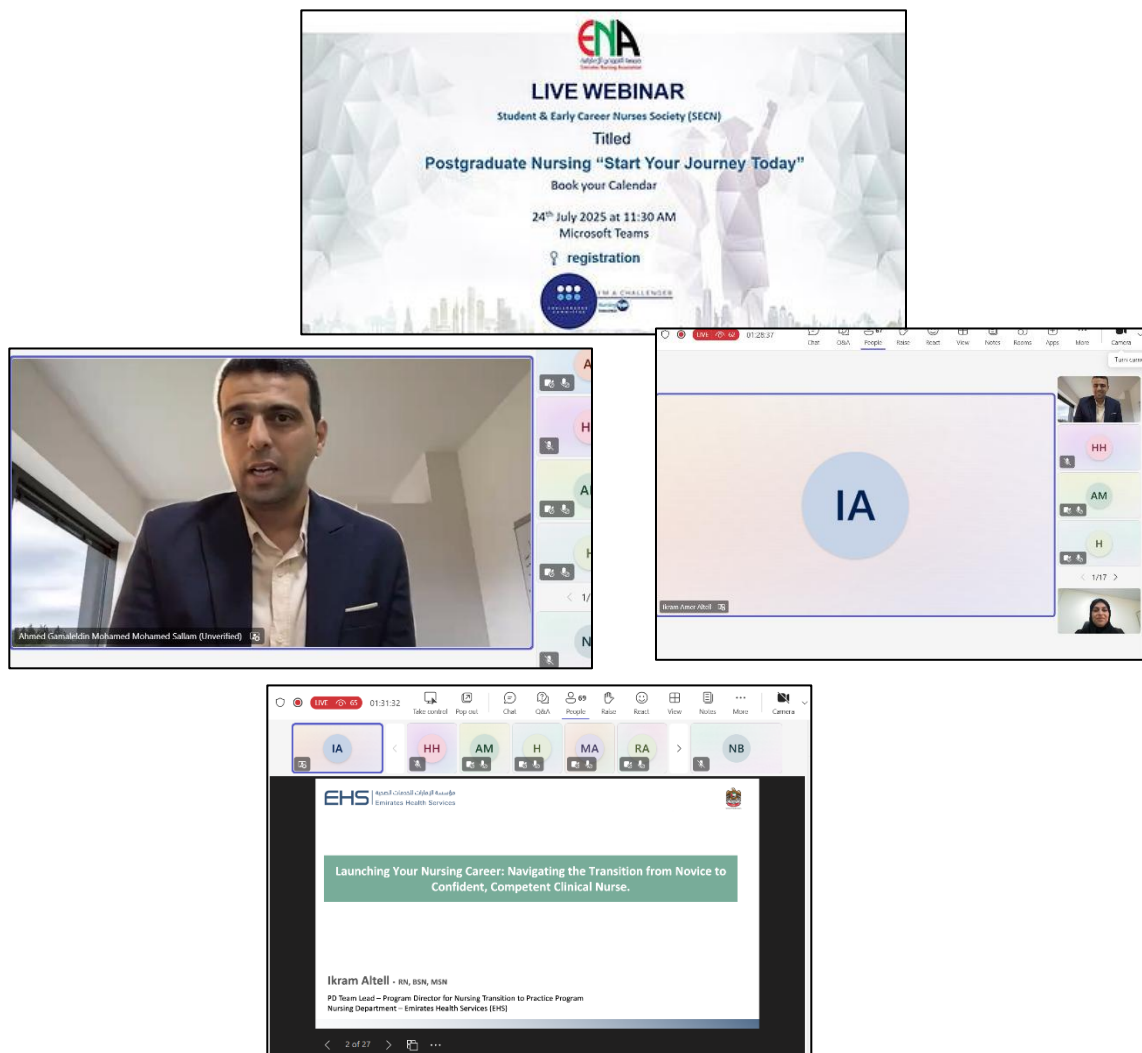
The assembly also fostered connections with the Board of Nursing Students at ICN and peers from across regions, building bridges for future collaboration and exchange. For SECN, participating in such a global stage emphasized the importance of empowering student nurses, strengthening international partnerships, and preparing youth leaders to contribute to the advancement of nursing worldwide. The experience demonstrated that the future of the profession is indeed bright — united by shared purpose, resilience, and vision.

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4. “You Journey Begins today” postgraduation Webinar:

On July 24, 2025, the Student & Early Career Nurse Society (SECN) organized a special webinar tailored for newly graduated nurses titled “Your Journey Begins Today.” The event commenced with an inspiring motivational speech by Ahmed G. Sallam, Chair of the WHO EMRO Youth Mental Health Working Group, who encouraged nursing students to embrace their pivotal role in shaping the future of healthcare and to lead with compassion, resilience, and purpose. The session addressed the challenges and opportunities of transitioning from student to professional nurse, emphasizing teamwork, communication, and adaptability in clinical settings. Regulatory pathways were also highlighted, offering practical guidance on licensure requirements across UAE regulatory bodies, including MOHAP, DHA, and DOH. Additionally, participants gained valuable insights from healthcare recruiters, helping them navigate their first steps into the workforce. By the end of the webinar, attendees left equipped with both the confidence and resources to embrace their early careers with clarity and purpose.



Achievements:

Educational & Career Development

In the area of Educational and Career Development, SECN successfully delivered a series of initiatives designed to guide students and new nurses in shaping their professional pathways. The Career Pathways Webinar Series engaged an average of 150 participants per session, exploring topics such as clinical specializations, postgraduate opportunities, and nursing entrepreneurship. Complementing this, the society organized NCLEX-RN and MOHaP preparation workshops in collaboration with professional exam coaches, where 90% of attendees reported increased confidence in tackling their licensure exams. In March 2025, the Mentorship Program was launched, pairing early-career nurses with experienced professionals, resulting in the establishment of 70 active mentor-mentee pairs.

Research & Innovation

In terms of Research and Innovation, SECN made significant contributions by encouraging student participation in scholarly activities. At the 2024 ENA Annual Conference, the society facilitated a Student Poster Competition under the theme “Innovations in Nursing Education & Practice.” A total of 45 abstracts were submitted, with three winners receiving research grants. Furthermore, SECN partnered with the UAEU Nursing Faculty to deliver a Research Skills Bootcamp, focusing on literature reviews, research ethics, and data analysis. Across three sessions, the program attracted 85 enthusiastic participants, equipping them with essential skills for evidence-based practice.

Community Engagement

SECN also strengthened its role in Community Engagement through a variety of outreach activities. The society organized health promotion campaigns on mental health awareness, smoking cessation, and diabetes screening, which were conducted in malls, campuses, and community centers, collectively reaching over 1,200 community members. In addition, SECN members actively volunteered at national events, contributing to World Health Day, UAE Nursing Day, and Emirates Red Crescent outreach initiatives, further embedding the society’s presence in community health promotion.

Leadership & Representation

Under Leadership and Representation, SECN provided platforms for youth voices to be heard in shaping healthcare policy and leadership. The Youth Nursing Leadership Forum, held in April 2025, gathered over 100 attendees and featured speakers from MOHAP and DHA who addressed topics such as policy involvement, leadership skills, and ethical practice. Furthermore, SECN celebrated the appointment of two student representatives to the ENA Education Committee and one early career nurse to the ENA Research Advisory Board, ensuring that the perspectives of young nurses are included in key decision-making processes.

Future:

Moving into 2025–2026, SECN plans to launch a Journal Club for monthly evidence-based discussions, expand mentorship to include virtual and group formats, establish international exchange programs, and develop a mobile application for member engagement. Through every initiative, SECN has continued to demonstrate its dedication to preparing the next generation of nursing leaders. Its work over the past year reflects a commitment to not only supporting members in their professional journeys but also shaping a stronger, more innovative future for the nursing profession in the UAE.

Conclusion:

The Student & Early Career Nurse Society remains committed to strengthening the nursing profession by empowering future leaders. Through mentorship, education, and active engagement, the society continues to support its members in their journey from the classroom to leadership in healthcare.

Contact us: secn.ena@gmail.com

links:

- [Join UAE-ENA Membership](#)
 - [ENA Membership Application](#)
 - [Join ENA Specialized Societies](#)
 - [Student & Early Career Nurse Society](#)
 - [Apply for ENA Award 2025](#)
- <https://www.ena.ae/ena-awards-2025>

