

CONCID Prepares for 2010
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On the way towards 2010! This is the slogan of the Coalition of Nursing Communities in Disasters (CONCID) for their fourth Nursing Congress, which will take place in July, 2008, at the University of Puerto Rico - Mayaguez (UPRM).

“The city of Mayagüez will host the 2010 Central American Games and the UPRM will be honored with the visit of athletes, people from other countries and residents of Puerto Rico. CONCID has considered the risks and vulnerability that come with being the host of the games,” indicated Dr. Abigail Matos Pagan of the Nursing Department at UPRM.

She explained that the congress will focus on two aspects: health and security. As part of the health component, a plenary session will be offered in which they will discuss scientific investigations about mass disasters. The CONCID will also carry out a drill that will recreate a scene of mass victims wounded by bullets, explosion, and multiple traumas, among other additional scenes.

“We have to practice. If we don’t, we will not be able to respond adequately to these situations”, said Dr. Matos Pagan. She added that for three consecutive years CONCID has conducted drills that have obtained excellent qualifications by the agencies who evaluate these exercises.

On the other hand, the security component will focus on the response by the University Police to these types of events.

Dr. Matos Pagan added that the educational sessions, workshops and drills planned for the Congress will help us to have “an organized coordinated response,” whose principal objective is to save as many lives as possible.

CONCID trains nursing professionals for disasters so that they can provide services in education and health to communities at risk before, during, and after a natural or human-caused catastrophe.

In 2007 the US President George W. Bush designated the organization as a certifying voluntary organization of the Presidential Office of Voluntary Services. Moreover, five members of the CONCID received the presidential medals for voluntary service that year.