

## Evidence-based vaccination should be mandatory for all nurses & midwives!

The 2<sup>nd</sup> year EANS students will lead the EANS debate, which takes place during the EANS Summer Conference. A member of the EANS faculty will chair the debate.

The debate's running order is detailed in full below.

- Chairperson introduces the debate (about 2-4 min.)
- Voting for and against the motion (about 2-4 min.)
- Year 2: Team speaker 1 for the motion (about 5 min.)
- Year 2: Team speaker 1 against the motion (about 5 min.)
- Year 2: Team speaker 2 for the motion (about 5 min.)
- Year 2: Team speaker 2 against the motion (about 5 min.)
- Contributions from audience and from 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year groups (about 5 min.)
- Year 2: Team speaker 3 for the motion rounding up (about 5 min.)
- Year 2: Team speaker 3 against the motion rounding up (about 5 min.)
- New voting for and against the motion (about 2-4 min.)
- Chairperson concludes the debate (about 2-4 min.)

The 2<sup>nd</sup> year debate team that gains the biggest *change* in the number of people voting between the two votes will be the winner of the debate. Please note teachers, senior mentors or year group team leaders cannot contribute as one of the year groups speakers at the debate

This year's EANS summer conference is concerned with the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic for nursing and midwifery. Nurses and midwives have been victims of COVID-19, but have also been spreaders of the disease. Therefore, in some European countries, COVID-19 vaccinations became mandatory for health care workers. However, in other countries with strong traditions of respecting individuals' integrity, this is hardly imaginable, even if it means potential harm for vulnerable, care-dependent people.

This division across Europe evolves around several critical questions.

*Can we put patients at risk because healthcare workers mistrust or ignore the evidence on vaccines, or because they put their personal preferences first?*

*Alternatively, can we force healthcare workers to receive preventative treatments for the sake of others, and thus waive the need for their informed consent? Moreover, should we then make vaccination mandatory for all infectious diseases leading to considerable health threats?*

These questions ask for a critical debate within the European Academy of Nursing Science!

EANS therefore asks all its members to consider the following motion:

### **Evidence-based vaccination should be mandatory for all nurses & midwives!**

Two groups of EANS students will discuss the motion, aiming to win the votes of the majority of the audience consisting of all EANS summer school students, EANS teachers and conference participants. We would ask discussants to use the COVID-19 pandemic as starting point, but discuss the issue in general, e.g. taking into account professional, ethical and legal issues for mandatory vaccinations for nurses and midwives.