As I look back on our Emergency Nursing 2015 Conference, I realize that we have accomplished so much in bringing teams together and still have more to do. In 2007, while leading the California Emergency Nurses Association, we had the opportunity to partner with the California Fire Chiefs Association to bring together the fire, EMS, law enforcement and emergency nursing into one large conference by “bringing the teams together” for an emerging event to educate all of us on the front lines. Today, we still bring these teams to together to understand our roles, learn together and identify the challenges each of us has while serving our communities. This has been my passion that as the 2015 President I brought to the Emergency Nurses Association on the national front.

This year we were again able to “bring the teams together.” From a practice standpoint, at ENA’s Annual Meeting we delivered a surprise mock active shooter disaster drill on the heels of the Oregon Umpqua Community College shooting incident on October 1, 2015. Emergency nurses participated in a live multi-casualty incident drill to educate triage, treatment and transport priorities working alongside with EMS, law enforcement and media personnel, working in tandem to save the most lives in a horrific tragedy. We were led in the drill by Dan Nadworny, who is well known for his work with the Boston Marathon bombing.

“Bringing the teams together” certainly can be recognized on all levels. We must all work together to achieve success by leaving behind the traditional silos and accomplishing common goals together. This is not just for a specific incident but can be achieved locally within your workplace or at the national and international levels of emergency nursing care. In my international travels I have experienced emergency nurses globally facing many of the same challenges. Yes, like ours, those challenges include crowding, violence to healthcare workers and burnout. Are we still working in silos to fix these issues? Should we not all be working together and stand united? These are the questions I ask.

Internally, whether within our own workplace or at ENA, we must bring together the brainstorming and the talent each of us has—not to mention our committees and other esteemed colleagues, such as our board of directors, past presidents, Journal of Emergency Nursing authors and editorial staff, Academy of Emergency Nursing, physician colleagues, ENA staff and all constituents—to make that team approach difference. Does your feedback count in your workplace? It is time we continue to break down the barriers and work collectively to identify issues at hand, formulate solutions, act on a developed plan and re-evaluate effectiveness. Coming together as a team with an open mind to hear and understand each position is a start for effective communication and a willingness to be part of a team to achieve the best outcomes. ENA is accomplishing this at home and abroad to make differences in patient care locally and worldwide.

Without any doubt, I am humbled to serve as your emergency nurse leader this year, but the success at Conference and the success in the work you all do every day is because of who you are. I look forward to future partnerships with our members and all emergency nurses and affiliates worldwide to face and correct the challenges affecting our profession. From my President-elect address to the membership in 2014, with its theme of hope and all of us coming together to make a difference, I could not be prouder of the direction we are heading in together as we bring our teams together.