



INP / APN NETWORK BULLETIN

International Council of Nurses • Conseil international des infirmières • Consejo internacional de enfermeras
3, place Jean-Marteau • CH-1201 Geneva

Issue 9

April 2008

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Greeting from the Chair:

The role of the NP/APN continues to develop around the world as you will read in this issue of the INP/APN Network Bulletin. In a recent conference held in Chiang Mai, Thailand the evolution of this role was reported as well as presentations on education and practice and future directions of nursing in Primary Health Care. 700 participants contributed to the success of this conference and helped frame a declaration on their ideas regarding nursing in this dimension of health care.

The 5th International NP/APN Network Conference to be held in Toronto, Canada September 17-20, 2008 has had an overwhelming response in their call for abstracts. Over 400 abstracts were submitted and therefore this conference promises to bring new ideas, reports of practice, leadership and growth of the NP/APN role for all participants to hear and see. Register early and we will have an opportunity to visit and learn about what NP/APN development is occurring in your community and nation. I hope to see you there. You can access registration by going to www.icn-apnetwork.org.

Rosemary Goodyear, Chair

Featured Country: Argentina:

Observations of nursing in Argentina

Nursing in Argentina is slowly growing and is starting to play an important role in our health system, especially in primary care and delivering health services in isolated locations. We have one national law, passed in 1993, that regulates our profession. This law provides a general definition of our role but does not differentiate between an auxiliary nurse, a registered nurse, a Nurse with a BA or even a Master's Degree. Our professional association, Argentine Federation of Nurses - a member of the ICN, is represented in every province of our country.

In relation to Advanced Practice Nursing (APN), we still have not consolidated a specialty framework considering all regulatory, legal and educational aspects, nor have we managed to make a final definition of roles. There are very few official specialty programs for nursing, and none of these include APN. Developing the APN role would represent tremendous progress for nursing in Argentina as well as a very much needed one, because many parts of our large country are only reachable by nurses/and or Primary Care facilities. In order to accomplish this, our professionals need training and legal support to face this scenario.

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Research is one of nursing's major challenges. First, there is little local scientific research and for the most part, our theoretical grounds and framework are obtained from foreign sources (mostly Spain, Mexico and North America). This means that there is a gap between our theoretical education (based on needs of care designed for the countries) and our empirical experience in Argentina. Second, proper budgeting and human resources must be ensured in order to make progress in the local research field.

The demographics of our country include both urban and rural areas, and health services must be adjusted to these different realities. Urban areas, where almost 50% of the total population lives, shows an epidemiological base of chronic conditions such as heart diseases, cancer, stress related illnesses and trauma. In rural areas, the health problems are more closely related to poor living conditions, poverty and underdevelopment. The Health System consists of a public sector where resources are provided by each province's government, and a private sector that is financed by the health insurance companies and union health services. According to the Ministry of Health figures, 48.1 % of the population is not covered by any kind of health protection at all.

Summarizing, nurses in Argentina are at present a very important and scarce resource. The nursing sector strongly needs to work on a regulatory legal framework to consolidate its role and scope of practice. Local research must be encouraged as a way of resolving local health issues, considering the mix of epidemiological profiles coexisting in the same country. Professional associations must continue to work to achieve these goals.

Cecilia Santos Popper, RN

Up-dates from our colleagues:

Japan:

The advanced practice role developing in Japan is that of the certified nurse specialist [CNS]. There are currently 240 CNS's in all of Japan. The CNS population is small compared to that of the RN (700,000). Despite being few in number clinical nurse specialists are working to clearly identify the clinical competences associated with the role and increase the evidence base on the impact of this role. It is hoped that this encourages the use of CNS's in each hospital and in the community. The number of graduate schools preparing CNS is about 30 out of 76. To meet future demands the number of graduate schools educating the CNS will need to increase.

Japanese people are also faced with a shortage of podiatrist in the rural areas and long waiting times for psychiatric patients to receive care. Furthermore, the elder population is increasing. In Japan, community care is facilitated by the Ministry of Health and Welfare. Therefore in the author's opinion, we need more CNS's in pediatric, psychiatric, and geriatric nursing to promote quality nursing care as well as promote nursing care in the community.

In addition, we are faced with a shortage of physicians and although the government tries to increase the number of physicians, advanced practice nurses are needed. The scope of practice and regulation of the CNS needs to be changed to meet these needs. Therefore, the CNS in Japan, must develop their clinical skills in order to expand their practice and maintain good nursing care.

Shiori Usami RN,CNS, Ph.D

Thailand:

Advanced Nursing Practice in Thailand

Thailand Nursing and Midwifery Council has established the regulations system to certify advanced practice nurses (APN) in 10 areas: 1) Community Health Nursing, 2) Pediatric Nursing, 3) Medical Surgical Nursing, 4) Psychiatric Nursing and Mental Health, 5) Gerontological Nursing, 6) Infectious Disease and Infection Control Nursing, 7) Nurse Anesthesiologist, 8) Midwifery, 9) Community Health Nurse Practitioner and 10) Mother and newborn nursing.

The qualifications for certification are: Masters Graduate from a specialty area in nursing and three years clinical experience in the same field. Advanced nursing practice is defined as "...the management of care to the target population or the defined group of patients who has complex health problems and/or special care needs and focuses on both short term and long term outcomes. The practice includes provision of direct care, making clinical decision based on reasoning and ethics through an integration of evidence based, nursing, and related theories as well as the expert experiences, providing consultation to the nursing team related to knowledge, skills, and professional development, utilizing research or evaluation process to evaluate her/his practice outcomes."

At present there are 474 certified as APNs all through the country. Most of them are clinical nurse specialists. However, with the initiation of health care reform and a universal health care coverage system implemented in 2002, the need for nurse practitioners (NPs) to work in primary care units was identified. Thus many schools of nursing established the four months post basic nursing program to prepare general nurse practitioners to work in the community as primary care providers. At present the Thailand Nursing and Midwifery Council has certified 6000 general nurse practitioners to legally treat common health problems according to protocols. It is expected that by the year 2015, sufficient NPs will have been educated in the short-term programs and the four-month program will be terminated. Thereafter most NPs will be educated as community health nurse practitioners, at the Master level.

Somchit Hanucharurnkul, RN, PhD

The Netherlands:

The number of nurse practitioners is still growing with an addition of 300 each year. Slowly but surely they are working in all fields of practice, including general practice.

The Netherlands face a huge problem of an increasing population of elderly. At the end of 2006, 2.4 million of people (14.3%) were older than 65. In 2038, this number will be 4.3 million (25%). The life expectancy grows from 77.6 years to 81.5 (man) and 81.7 to 84.2 (woman). Currently, we have 601,000 people who are over 80 years. As this population grows they have a need for the right care, at the right time and at the right place. They need holistic patient care from several medical specialists and the organization is complex. From the patient perspective there is a need for integrated care including prevention and case management which also has to be cost-effective. It is a challenge for the Nurse Practitioner.

A new educational program has been developed to meet this need. The legislation to protect the title of Nurse Practitioner and to officially register Nurse Practitioners is almost ready and should be complete this year.

Petrie F.Roodbol, RN PhD

Hong Kong:

APN Development in Hong Kong

A conference titled 'Modernizing Nursing' was held from 4-7 June 2007, in Hong Kong following the ICN Conferences and CNR 2007 held in Yokohama, Japan. It was specifically organized for nurses from mainland China, Hong Kong and Macau who did not have an opportunity to participate in the ICN conference. The first day's program involved speakers who addressed the APN development and exemplary work in different places. The speakers included Dr. Rosemary Goodyear, Chair INP/APN Network, International Council of Nurses; Dr. Premarani Kannusamy, Deputy Chief Nursing Officer, Manpower Standards & Development Division, Ministry of Health, Singapore; Dr. Susie Lum, Chief Manager (Nursing), Hospital Authority, Hong Kong and others. We are particularly pleased that Ms. Guo Yan Hong, Director, Nursing Division, Dept.of Medical Administration,

Ministry of Health, China led a group of 250 nurse leaders from different provinces of China to attend the conference. At the conference, she emphasized that the development of advanced practice nurses would be the direction for China's nurses. The presentation materials of the speakers can be found at www.hksne.org.hk.

After many years' of effort, Hong Kong has now officially established the Hong Kong Academy of Nursing Preparatory Committee (HKANPC). Its ultimate goal is to set up the Hong Kong Academy of Nursing. The HKANPC is widely represented with the participation of the Hospital Authority, Department of Health, 19 Professional Associations / Colleges / Societies and 4

Universities. The HKAPNC is actively seeking support from the government to establish the Academy of Nursing with statutory power to organize, monitor, assess, and accredit all nurse specialists training and to oversee the provision of continuing nursing specialist education. A website www.hkanpc.hk is to be developed in phases to foster communication among the nursing community and with the public.

Frances Kam Yuet WONG & Alice TSO, Hong Kong, China SAR

Upcoming events:

[Fifth ICN International NP/APN Network Conference](#)

"Leadership in Advanced Nursing Practice: Maximizing Health, Celebrating Collaboration and Promoting Innovation." 17-20 September 2008, Toronto, Canada

[Australian Nurse Practitioner Association](#)

4th Annual Conference

26-28 October 2008

Telstra Dome, Melbourne, Australia

Abstract Deadline 01 May 2008

[Upcoming ICN INPAPNN Conferences](#)

- **2009 ICN Congress, Durban, South Africa**
- **2010 ICN INPAPNN conference, Brisbane, Australia**
- **2011 ICN Conference & CNR, Malta**

Watch this web site for further details and conference links –

www.icn-apnetwork.org