



INP / APN NETWORK BULLETIN

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

Issue 17 April 2012

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Greetings from the Chair:

Hello Colleagues,

The 7th ICN INP/APN network conference in London, 20-22 August 2012 has had a high number of quality abstracts submitted. It is shaping up to be an exciting event where old and new friends will meet again! Don't forget to register before 9 July to receive the 'early bird' fees.

Final announcement
7th International Nurse Practitioner/Advanced Practice Nursing Network Conference
**Advanced nursing practice:
Global vision - global reality**
Monday 20 – Wednesday 22 August 2012
Imperial College, London, England, UK

This event is hosted by the Royal College of Nursing, United Kingdom and will take place in London, the host city of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The event will emulate the Olympic motto of 'Citius, Altius, Fortius' (Faster, Higher, Stronger) by showing how advanced nurses excel and lead in clinical practice development across the world.

Exhibit! Advertise! Promote!
This event provides you with an unparalleled opportunity to connect directly with a significant group of world leading practitioners. There are a number of ways for you to be involved in the exhibition giving you the opportunity to network and raise your profile within this specialised nursing arena. Packages can be tailored to help achieve specific objectives. For further information please contact the exhibitors team on +44 (0)20 7547 7759 or email: exhibitors@icn.org.uk

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Our network is committed to assisting nurses from countries that are developing the nurse practitioner/advanced practice nursing role by

offering a grant to assist the successful applicants to attend the INP/APN network conference in London. This is the second time we have offered the grant which is largely due to the efforts of our Fundraising subgroup. We had an overwhelming response and the successful winner(s) will be notified shortly.

We recently put out a call to our members to join one of our seven subgroups. Two major changes have taken place with the re-convening of the conference subgroup and the splitting of the education/practice subgroup into two separate subgroups. This has greatly assisted us in accommodating the large number of people that want to join one of our subgroups! If you could not get into the subgroup of your choice you can try applying to one of the other subgroups.

Enjoy reading our April bulletin and remember we love to hear from you so please submit your story to the Communication subgroup chairs Andrea and Roberta.

See you in London!

Anna Green, Chair
International NP/APN Network
International Council of Nurses

Table of contents	
Greetings from the Chair	1
Featured Countries	2
Upcoming Events	4

Featured Countries

Singapore

Author: Madrean Schober, Senior Visiting Fellow, National University of Singapore, on site 17 March 2012

Following formal and informal discussions beginning in 1997 along with eventual strong support at the Ministry of Health level in 2000 – 2001, the concept of Advanced Practice Nursing began to evolve in Singapore. In 2003, under the auspices of the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, the National University of Singapore established an APN program offering an academic program in acute care, adult health and mental health. Although the focus was directed toward specialties, the developing program was generic in emphasis. In 2006 the Singapore Nursing Board announced standards and regulations for the Advanced Practice Nurse (APN) with an amendment to the Nurses and Midwives Act. This landmark document was designed to protect the title 'Advanced Practice Nurse' and define practice from a regulatory perspective.

Success continues in Singapore with the graduation of the fifth cohort of APNs from the master's program in 2010. As of 2011, specialty offerings have now been extended to critical care and oncology/palliative care. The specialty choice of pediatrics is expected to commence in 2013. Following graduation from the two-year master's program, students must complete the minimum of a one-year internship in their chosen specialty before applying for certification, registration and licensure with the Singapore Nursing Board (SNB). Registration to practice as an APN is renewed on an annual basis.

The APN Register, established in 2005 by the Ministry for Health, is expected to help with the systemic development of this category of clinical nurse, educated to a master's level in nursing, in becoming a key player in Singapore's drive to keep health care affordable while maintaining quality services. Consistent with this view and to support the

development of professionalism and to enhance the status of clinical nursing, the Ministry of Health developed a clinical nursing career path, similar to career paths that exist for management and education. APNs meeting the criteria for advanced practice can progress along this career path that is also aligned with remuneration based on performance review.

Key decision makers in education and health policy are working diligently to adapt models and frameworks from the United States and other countries with longer histories of advanced nursing practice. At the same time decision makers are trying to introduce APN roles suitable for health care services in hospital and community settings in Singapore. Visibility and support for this advancement in nursing is evidenced at the Ministry of Health level, where a request has been made to have 200 APNs in place in various specialties in Singapore by the year 2014. As of February 2012, there are 78 certified APNs and 15 APN interns preparing for certification. The current challenge in the country is to maintain quality education and clinical experiences to meet the Ministry of Health projections.

Experience of an NP Student in Canada

Author: Lisa Kolkman, MN-NP Student, University of British Columbia, Canada 2012

One's destination is never a place, but a new way of seeing things. Henry Miller

These wise, very welcome words were posted on a bulletin board outside the room where I waited nervously for a clinical exam to begin. As a nurse practitioner (NP) student, it feels as though I have spent hours waiting outside of doorways: waiting for a patient to disrobe to struggle through an examination; waiting for a preceptor to get off the phone to struggle through a case presentation; waiting outside of classrooms to struggle through power point presentations or exams. Transitioning from a proficient, acute care registered nurse into a novice family NP has certainly been a journey. After practicing for ten years in various hospitals throughout Canada and the United

States, I began to look for more from my career. A desire to continue with clinical practice led me to the MN- NP program at the University of British Columbia.

NP education has been characterized as two years of "drinking from the fire hose of knowledge". This is certainly a true characterization. I have had placements in emergency, family practice, pediatrics, geriatrics, acute care, rural/remote and travel medicine. Sheer volume of placements overwhelmed all the knowledge and experience I had obtained. New environments and a new role made the familiar strange.

It was in my final placements that I was able to get my feet underneath me again. Supportive NP preceptors made a difference in the quality of my clinical learning. Through their role modeling, I began to understand the process. I spent less time waiting and more time doing. I understood the connection between what my role was and what my role is going to be. Spending time in a rural practice in the wide expanse of wilderness that is northern Canada taught me how NP's could make a difference in underserved communities.

My classmates and faculty have also played an essential role in this evolution. The University of British Columbia MN-NP class of 2012 consists of 14 inspiring, supportive, politically motivated individuals who will go on to make a difference in patient care and advance the NP role in BC. The faculty at UBC is of top quality. Their obvious commitment to our success and personal commitment to our well being has been a huge impetus in our own push for excellence.

Back to Henry Miller and the nervous NP student outside the classroom door. These last two months have taught me to look at the NP role in a whole new light. Building on my own experience, the excellent education I have received, the support of mentors, and a very rich tradition, I look forward to the challenges ahead of me as I aim to provide quality, patient centered, primary care with a strong nursing focus.

Communicating Nurse Practitioner (NP) Research:

A pilot project in distance education: nurse practitioner students' experience of personal video capture technology as an assessment method of clinical skills

This paper reports on a pilot project aimed at exploring postgraduate distance nurse practitioner (NP) students' experiences using personal video capture technology to complete competency assessments in physical examination. Students participating in this study attended an externally delivered nurse practitioner master's program in Brisbane, Australia and used clinical mentors, clinical support teams, and clinical placements from their geographic area during their NP program. Ethics approval and consents were obtained prior to the commencement of the project. A pre-intervention survey gathered demographic data from the NP students (n=31) and measured students' information communication technology fluency. Subsequently, 13 students were allocated a hand held video camera to use in their clinical setting. Those NP students participating in the study completed a post-intervention survey and further data were gathered using semi-structured interviews. Data were analysed by descriptive statistics and deductive content analysis, and the Unified Theory of Acceptance and Use of Technology (Venkatesh et al. 2003) along with principles of action research were used to guide the project.

Use of the intervention was high (93%) as NP students recognised the potential benefit. Students were video recorded while performing physical examinations. They described high levels of stress and some anxiety, which decreased rapidly while assessment was underway. Barriers experienced were in the areas of facilitating conditions (technical in character, e.g. upload of files) and social influence (e.g. local ethics approvals). Students valued the opportunity to reflect on their recorded performances with their clinical mentors and by themselves. This project highlights the demands and difficulties of

introducing technology to support work-based learning.

Strand H, Fox-Young S, Long P & Bogossian F (2011). A pilot project in distance education: Nurse practitioner students' experience of personal video capture technology as an assessment method of clinical skills. *Nurse Education Today*(0). doi: 10.1016/j.nedt.2011.11.014

Announcements:

Upcoming ICN INP/APNN Conferences

2012 ICN INP/APNN conference, 20 – 22 August 2012, Imperial College, London, England. For more information and to register, go to www.rcn.org.uk/innp2012

Or watch this web site for further details and conference links: www.icn-apnetwork.org

International APN Regulatory Survey

This past year, the INP/APNN Policy/Standards/Regulation subgroup surveyed ICN member nations to add to the knowledge about APN regulation. The survey examined the status and requirements of regulation as well as the scope of practice of advanced practice nurses in various settings. The INP/APNN conference will include a presentation of the findings of this international survey about the regulation of a variety of advanced practice nursing roles across the globe.

The **International Council of Nurses (ICN)** is a federation of 135 national nurses associations representing the millions of nurses worldwide. Operated by nurses and leading nursing internationally, ICN works to ensure quality nursing care for all and sound health policies globally.

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Understanding the Experience of APNs

Plans are underway to add to the understanding of the experience of APNs across the globe. A research opportunity is under development and will include an opportunity for INP/APNN members who are attending the conference in London in August 2012 to contribute their stories. More information will be sent in the upcoming months.

Join the Discussion!

Would you like to communicate with NPs and APNs from around the world? Why not join the INP/APNN discussion forum, hosted by ICN. It's free, fun and interactive. Go to the following link, register and join a topic that interests you. www.icn.ch/forum/viewforum.php?f=47&sid=7d51a21fe5b9ca7220e1b23ff9279e4f

Join a Subgroup!

INP/APNN has a number of subgroups including Education, Practice, Health Policy, Research, Conferences, Fundraising and Communications. For more information about the work of these groups and how you can become a member, visit the INP/APNN website at: <http://icn-apnetwork.org/>