



Update from the ICN INP/APN Network Chair Rosemary Goodyear

Greetings from your new Chair! Having served as Secretary on the Core Steering Group, I was elected to the position of Chair in January 2005 replacing Madrean Schober, the founding Chair, who has moved to the position of Past Chair.

Dr. Loretta Ford, co-founder of the first Nurse Practitioner (NP) programme in Denver, Colorado, USA will be the INP/APN Network's first keynote speaker at the ICN Congress on Tuesday May 24 at 2 pm. It will be an honour to have Dr. Ford with us on the 40th anniversary of the NP role to celebrate the progress and change that nurses have made in health care, thanks to her insight and vision.

Message from the Past Chair Madrean Schober

The trend toward development of Advanced Nursing Practice worldwide is a dynamic progression of professional activity. It has been my pleasure over the past four years to facilitate the initiation and growth of the ICN International NP/APN Network.

Since the inception of this ICN network in October 2000, events in the emergence of advanced nursing roles have occurred continuously. The aim of the network has not only been to respond to this trend but to provide active support to nurses, educators and policy makers looking to initiate APN and NP roles.

I welcome Rosemary Goodyear as the new chair for INP/APNN. Her experience, expertise and enthusiasm should not only provide a strong foundation for the network activities, but should also promote a

continued vision for innovation and leadership for the advancement of nursing practice globally.

Advanced Practice Nurses in Motion, Featured Countries

Advanced Practice Nurses are Born in Thailand by Prathana Langkarpint

The APN concept was adopted by the Nursing Council of Thailand in 1998. It took a few years to have the first certification examination, but, in 2003, the first group of 49 APNs was certified in Thailand. In order to avoid the title confusion and hierarchical fragmentation, only one title was used: Advanced Practice Nurse. However, they are certified in five branches: medical and surgical, paediatrics, maternal and child, community, and psychiatric and mental health nursing. It is hoped that APNs will help meet the goal of the National Health Care Reform and the 9th National Health Development Plan.

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Hong Kong Scenario
by Alice Yuen Loke

The Development of Nurse Practitioner Education Programme

The First Master of Science Nurse Practitioner Programme commenced in 2001 in the Department of Nursing and Health Sciences (now School of Nursing) at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University.

The aim of the programme is to offer experienced registered nurses an opportunity to develop the knowledge, understanding and competencies to function effectively as Adult Nurse Practitioners and as nurse leaders in meeting the changing needs of Hong Kong's health care system.

This programme is a pioneer in developing Nurse Practitioners in Hong Kong. Building on Yale University's expertise in educating NPs, the programme was initiated to educate a cohort of NPs. These students will become change agents for establishing a Nurse Practitioner-prepared workforce in Hong Kong. In the past few years, the School has employed experienced NPs from the USA to teach in the programme.

The Establishment of the NP Position

The initiative to develop an education programme for Nurse Practitioners is being supported by the Hospital Authority (HA), the largest employer of nurses in Hong Kong. The HA has indicated that a master's degree with a clinical focus will be required for Advanced Practice Nurses in 2003-2004. It is envisioned that the NP's role will be more visible. A planning group will be established to delineate the roles of NPs and to discuss related regulations in Hong Kong.

Nurse clinics have been set up in hospitals and community settings. The School of Nursing at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University has established a clinic run by registered nurses with advanced clinical experience. Currently, these clinics have been established in specific areas such as midwifery clinics, diabetic clinic, continence clinic, stoma clinic, etc.

The NPs, with the support of the medical team, focus on health maintenance, disease prevention, counselling and patient education in a wide variety of settings and within different specialties. These nurses can diagnose and manage common chronic illnesses. The nurse clinic provides nurse-led services operating within an established framework to ensure standard of care, continuity of service and appropriate accountability.

The establishment of nurse clinics in HA hospitals is still at the developmental stages. It is understood that important issues such as legal authority for prescribing, professional liability, regulation of independent practice certification and registration need to be established by the Hong Kong Nursing Council.

Nursing in Bahrain
by Amina Matooq

In Bahrain, current programmes at the College of Health Sciences - the only college responsible for nursing education in Bahrain - include a generic BSc established in 2003 as a four year programme for high school graduates, and a BSc completion programme, established in 1984 as a two year programme for an Associate Degree in Nursing. Post-basic programmes, also called advanced practice programmes, are one academic year programmes for graduates from the Associate Degree in Nursing Programme. Examples of these are post-basic programmes in Midwifery, Community Health, Psychiatric, Cardiac Care and Emergency Care.

There are no MSN programmes at the College of Health Sciences. Those who are interested in continuing their education are sponsored by the Ministry of Health to obtain a MSN either in the USA or elsewhere according to the acceptance and specialisation of programmes. Currently, there are two nurses attending the University of Pennsylvania and one at Case Western Reserve University (Ohio).

Development of Advanced Practice in French Belgium
by Cathy Delannoy and Anne Francoise Mairlot

In French Belgium, master's level education is currently available in public health, administration and education. There is great interest in Advanced Practice Nursing due to a shortage of physicians. Since physicians are asking for help, the Catholic University of Leuven took this as an opportunity to learn more about APN at master's level.

In October 2004, a delegation visited the University of Delaware to further explore the advanced practice role in the USA. Visits were scheduled with practitioners in a variety of practice settings.

Upon return to Belgium, the Clinical Nurse Specialist Role was favoured since nurses were reluctant to move into a role that included diagnosis and prescriptive privileges. We are now looking for a favourable decision from the Catholic University of Leuven and from the Health and Education Ministries in order to develop the curriculum. We hope nurses will embrace this opportunity to advance their practice and education.

Development of a Family Nurse Practitioner Programme in Puerto Rico
by Lenore Resick, Duquesne University and Janet Rodriguez, University of Puerto, Medical Sciences Campus

The development of a Nurse Practitioner (NP) programme is not without challenges. This is an overview of the experience at the University of Puerto Rico (UPR) Medical Sciences Campus (MSC).

Janet Rodriguez, Associate Professor, drafted the original NP programme proposal in 1999. During review at the University of Puerto Rico, a proposal was submitted to HRSA for funding. In 2003, it was approved and funded, but funds were returned since the approval at the UPR was not completed. This has been a long process, but we are optimistic that we will someday soon have an approved and funded programme.

Featured Member Activities

Update in Iraq
by Richard Garfield

There has been extensive damage to nursing education and training in Iraq over the last two decades through wars, counter-insurgency, economic sanctions, dictatorship and foreign occupation. There is agreement that nursing is a key area for further attention, however since 1990 there has been a sharp decline in the numbers of nurses working in professional roles.

There is a strong educational base for nursing education in three Iraqi universities, but currently all education is classroom-based with no clinical experience. Military nurses are now being integrated into the public system of hospital care.

Iraq needs a new generation of well-trained nurses to develop primary care and health education initiatives. The World Health Organization has supported the development of three training centres and has supported a series of short courses for nursing leaders inside and outside the country. The former five levels of entry to nursing practice have been streamlined to two and the French government is preparing large-scale support for Iraqi nursing education. These are good beginnings, and much more remains to be done.

Canada
by Mary van Soeren

In Canada, the Nurse Practitioner movement has seen a number of gains. The Canadian government has funded a large national project to investigate the NP role and establish a national exam for NPs working in Primary Health Care. Most of the provinces and territories have or are moving towards legislation to support the role. There is a variation in education preparation and legislation.

The biggest challenge is in mounting a collective voice. There are a small number of NPs that are politically active in their

communities. A newly created Nurse Practitioner Council of Canada formed by provincial associations will create a voice for NPs nationally. The Canadian Association of Advanced Practice Nurses (CAAPN) is affiliated with the NPCC in this work. For more information on the national research project please go to: <http://www.caapn.com/>.

Network News

The subgroups are moving ahead with a variety of activities. Rosemary Goodyear and Fadwa Affara will provide an update on the draft Scope of Practice, Standards and Competencies at the meeting in Taipei. These are currently being reviewed by regulators and National Nurses Associations. It is anticipated that the final document will be of great value particularly in countries where advanced practice nursing is being introduced or developed.

A new logo and display has been developed and the website is active. Look for new information on the website. The Communications group is looking forward to hearing about the activities of members and new developments in the NP movement around the world.

The Conference subgroup has used the new logo on the display banner and is now preparing PR materials, and setting up a database of potential sponsors for conference advertising. The Conference subgroup has grown by five members: Chong Guat Ngoh (Malaysia); David Nielsen (Australia); Genevieve-Gold Ndukwe (Nigeria); Linda Dacres (Canada); and Michael Fudim (Israel). We welcome our new members and look forward to a productive year.

Call for Papers ICN International Nurse Practitioner/Advanced Practice Nursing (NP/APN) Conference

28-30 June 2006, Sandton, South Africa, Sandton Convention Centre

Theme: Commitment to care: Advance Practice Nurses making a difference

The Conference will provide a platform for Advance Practice Nurses and Nurse Practitioners from all over the globe to share ideas, experiences and best practices through symposia, formal presentations and posters. For more information visit www.denosa.org.za or email np2006@denosa.org.za.

Communications

Many of our subgroups are actively recruiting new members. We invite you to become more active. If you have any questions about the activities or time commitments, contact the chair whose details can be found located on our website. The communications committee would like the bulletin to reflect the news of advanced practice globally. Let us know what is happening in your part of the world. You can email your news to sheer@udel.edu. We are looking forward to seeing many of you at Taipei as the work of our network progresses.