



1. ICN INP/APN Network Bulletin Chair Update, Madrean Schober

Resources and representation for the ICN International Nurse Practitioner/Advanced Practice Nursing Network continue to increase as we approach the end of 2004:

- International scope, standards and competency guidelines for advanced practice nursing roles are in the final stage of development. It is hoped that these documents will be available for worldwide access within the next six to twelve months.
- A Network Resource Bank (NRB) is now in place with plans to increase utilisation of this resource of experts in the field. Those interested in becoming a member of NRB can access the application on the web site at www.icn-apnetwork.org under the membership tab.
- The 2006 ICN INP/APNN Conference will be hosted by DENOSA in the Republic of South Africa and the 2008 conference will be held in Toronto, Canada.

The term of this chair will end in December 2004 with a vision of network expansion that continues to include far-reaching global representation and increased opportunities for the international community to contribute to and access information on trends and growth for advanced nursing practice.

2. Network Committee Update Subgroup activities for 2003-2004

Rosemary Goodyear, Core Steering Group

The subgroups of the INP/APN Network have been working toward moving the network forward in the global community of nurse practitioners and advanced practice nurses.

The Education Subgroup has posted the position papers on the role of the NP/APN in different countries, and has listed informative links for programmes and courses on offer in several nations. The Communication Subgroup has successfully launched the second issue of the bulletin, which spotlights countries of the Middle East. Articles of interest continue to be solicited. The conference report of the Geneva meeting was published at Medscape Nursing and the Network was represented at the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties held in the USA in April 2004.

The Conference Subgroup has finalized the template and time-line for host countries interested in sponsoring conferences. Once the logo was selected, a banner with photos was developed and will be available for use at the booth display in Taiwan in 2005. Petrie Roodbol of the Research Subgroup reported on the website survey which received responses from 68 countries on the role of Nurse Practitioners, familiarity with the role, education and practice. The Policy /Standards/Regulation Subgroup has completed and submitted the 7th draft of the Scope of Practice and Standards for the NP/APN. This was presented to the conference participants in Groningen and has also been posted on the website for additional feedback from members as well as NNA members of ICN.

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3. Report of 3rd ICN INP/APN Network Conference

Barbara Sheer, Communications Chair

"Critical Pathways in a Global Context" was the theme of the 3rd ICN INP/APN Network Conference held in Groningen, the Netherlands on June 29- July 3, 2004. The Conference Chair, Mrs. Petri Roodbol, and the capable staff welcomed delegates representing 27 countries.

Some European countries were represented with delegates and speakers for the first time at a network conference. Switzerland and Belgium are moving in the direction of advanced practice nursing, while Germany is facing changes in health care and nursing education with mixed results.

There were diverse presentations from around the world including, Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Malaysia, New Zealand, South Africa, Sweden and Thailand. The most poster presentations were from representatives from Japan.

The changes in the European union were highlighted in keynotes by drs Ria von Bonninghausen tot Herinkhave-Visser, chair of the Permanent Committee of Nurses in the Netherlands and Philip C. Berman, Director of the European Healthcare Management Association. In particular, the freedom of movement for people and services within the European Market has significant implications for nursing and health care.

Dr Stephanie Ferguson, ICN consultant, offered a leadership pre-conference workshop for the network committee members and, in a keynote session, discussed the Leadership for Change programme developed by ICN. Her inspiring presentation highlighted the need for countries to develop nursing leadership within the country to move health forward. Nurses need support and inspiration to be actively involved in the health care changes that all nations face.

Fadwa Affara, representing ICN and the network policy/standards/ regulation subgroup, presented the latest draft of the international scope and standards of practice. This is the 7th draft and is now available on the network website for international comment. After the comment period, it will go back to the committee for the final version.

Petie Roodbol presented the results of the 2003-2004 network survey. The 637 respondents, representing 68 countries, responded positively to the concept of the nurse practitioner. Educational programmes were reported in 42 of the countries with over half at the masters level. A press release is posted on the website <http://www.icn->

apnetwork.org and a conference report was published at Medscape Nursing and can be accessed at <http://www.medscape.com>. (posted 7/21/04).

4. Current Membership

Current Membership of the INP/APNN totals 548, and the Resource Bank has 50 members. If you would like to become a member, please consult the website, or, if you have expertise to share, please join the Network Resource Bank. Together we can make a difference in global health care.

5. Nursing Around the World

Advanced Nursing Practice in Switzerland

Lyn Lindpaintner, Institute of Nursing Science, University of Basel

The history of advanced practice nursing in Switzerland is very recent, but very dynamic. The Institute of Nursing Science (INS) at the University of Basel was founded in 2000, and is the first university-level nursing programme in Switzerland. Furthermore, the INS articulated a clinically oriented mission: to improve health outcomes in the Swiss population, especially those living with chronic illness, through the development of advanced nursing practice. This has required innovative curricular developments since, until the INS Master's programme was established, physical assessment skills had not been systematically taught, even in advanced clinical education. The challenges posed by the growing epidemic of chronic illness have raised awareness of the important contribution of advanced nursing practice in this arena. In particular, in the areas of geriatric, cardiac and transplant nursing, as well as HIV/AIDS care, new roles are evolving rapidly. The INS' efforts in clinical field development, research and teaching will surely stimulate important change.

Nurse Education in Germany

Gertrud Leser
Bielefeld, Germany

Nurse education in Germany is comparable to international programmes in content; however, most nursing schools are private hospital-based schools and come under the Ministry of Health. This applies particularly to programmes in adult nursing, newborn and children nursing, midwifery and nursing assistance.

There is also a programme leading to the qualification of care of the elderly nurse, under the Ministry of Social Affairs, and a programme in handicapped/disabled nursing, under the Ministry of Education.

Recent changes in some nursing laws and programmes aim towards a common foundation in newborn/child nursing and general nursing. There are also pilot programmes that include care of the elderly in the common foundation phase.

Overall, although recent changes try to bring nurse education into line with general health care moves that include shorter hospital stays and more community-based health facilities, the nursing profession in Germany continues to be split into different professional groups. Nurses and politicians continue the debate to establish Bsc courses as a first step into the profession, but progress is hampered by financial constraints.

Advanced practice nurses are born in Thailand

Prathana Langkarpint Payap, University Thailand

The APN concept was adopted by the Nursing Council of Thailand in 1998 and in 2003, the first group of 49 APNs were certified in Thailand.

In order to avoid the title confusion and hierarchical fragmentation, only one title was used: advanced practice nurse. However, graduates were certified in five branches: medical and surgical, paediatrics, maternal and child, community, and psychiatric and mental health nursing. It is hoped that APNs will be valuable health care providers to meet the goal of the National Health Care Reform and the 9th National Health Development Plan.

News From Malaysia the Clinical Nurse Specialist Programme

Aini Ahmad, University of Malaya, Malaysia

Raising the educational level of nursing in Malaysia has been a long and difficult task. It took from 1981 to September 1993 to convince university officials that a degree programme in nursing should be started. University Malaya, being the oldest and premier university in Malaysia, has taken the initiative to start a three-year nursing degree programme with the emphasis towards preparing nurse leaders in management and education. Most of the graduates are now part of the workforce of Malaysian healthcare services: as ward manager / matron/ nursing officer for those who specialised in nursing management, and as nurse educator in public or private nursing colleges for those who opted for teaching.

In 1999, the programme identified the discipline of clinical specialty with the aim of preparing the nurse leaders in the clinical

areas. These roles continue to evolve and future directions are emerging.

The Challenges of Developing the Nurse Practitioner Role in Puerto Rico

Janet Rodríguez, University of Puerto Rico
Lenore Resick, Duquesne University-School of Nursing

Historically, initiating the role of the nurse practitioner worldwide has not been without struggle. Puerto Rico, like many countries, has encountered various challenges and oppositions to gaining recognition for this role. In 1997, the University of Puerto Rico, Medical Sciences Campus, School of Nursing initiated an ongoing collaboration with Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. By 2000, there was a necessity to create a culturally competent nurse practitioner curriculum in order to provide the people of Puerto Rico with health services at lower cost and to promote and maintain health.

The initial challenge was to gain support from the people and the medical and nursing professions. Language barriers, limited accessibility to a Nurse Practitioner Programme and no legal recognition of the nurse practitioner role were other obstacles. Strategies to meet the challenges were: assisting and providing continuing education to health professionals, networking through attending international meetings to promote the programme, and conducting research. There are more challenges to be met.

Although there is much to learn from the experiences of other countries about developing the nurse practitioner role, each culture is unique and the most efficient and effective strategies to overcome the challenges must be determined.

The ultimate goal and main reason for meeting the challenges will always be to provide culturally competent care that is accessible and acceptable in order to improve the health and wellness of the people living in Puerto Rico.

This is just the beginning. The best is still to come and we will be prepared.

6. Featured Member Activities Promoting Primary Health Care Nursing in Central America, by Aruna Thampy

Central American countries, including Nicaragua, Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, continue the familiar struggle of populations in poverty, and with inadequate access to basic health care especially in rural areas. Given this situation, nurses in both Canada and Central America have come together to teach community workers within

the national policy framework to work towards achieving health for all.

Given the geographic and economic challenges, appropriate distributive learning technology is both a viable and practical method to reach large numbers of potential students in the communities. Nursing faculty from the Centre for Nursing Studies, St. John's, Newfoundland/Labrador, together with nursing faculty from the four Central American countries, will work together over the next five years to develop and implement primary health care distributive learning to a number of students in all four countries. Currently, Nicaragua has already commenced the ten-month programme, and Guatemala is engaged in a prior learning assessment to evaluate learning needs of rural health workers in the north of the country and plan to use similar technologies by the end of 2004. Feasibility studies are being conducted in Honduras and El Salvador.

This project also engages in national policy dialogue on the role of the primary health care within national health systems. There are broad-based, multi stakeholder discussions on the role of nursing in the health reforms within each country.

Primary health care delivery to outlying and rural areas of developing countries, taught by nurses, using appropriate distributive learning technologies, is a practical model for other countries. We look forward to sharing our experiences in this project, including our challenges and successes.

7. Featured Organisation

THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF GERONTOLOGICAL NURSE PRACTITIONERS

M.J. Henderson, President, NCGNP

The National Conference of Gerontological Nurse Practitioners (NCGNP) was established in 1981 by a group of Gerontological Nurse Practitioners (GNPs) in the northwestern region of the United States of America. They originally met to discuss common interests and issues affecting Gerontological Nurse Practitioners (GNPs) and to become more educated about new nursing science as it related to Gerontological advanced practice nursing.

Since 1981, NCGNP has grown into a full service advanced practice nursing association with a current membership of 1100 NPs. We now welcome all advanced practice nurses who are working with elderly people to become members of NCGNP. We have a six-member elected Board of Directors and an appointed Executive Director. We have several committees working on research

grants, education and clinical practice issues. This summer, we moved into our new office in Bethesda, Maryland, a suburb of Washington DC. This move will facilitate interactions with other advanced practice nursing associations, members of the congress of the United States of America, and other health care organisations.

We have a website www.ncgnp.org and we welcome all advanced practice nurses interested in Gerontological nursing to log on. It is also possible to become a member "on line" and we welcome you to do that.

The highlight of the year is in September when we have our annual conference and business meeting. We provide over 30 continuing education units in Gerontological advanced practice nursing, which many nurses need to maintain state licence and national certification. We invite all advanced practice nurses to submit papers and research for these conferences.

NCGNP values the important input from our colleagues around the world. No one has all the answers when it comes to caring for the elderly. By sharing ideas, experiences and research we strive to improve care for the elderly. That is the essence of NCGNP.

8. Meeting News

We hope to see you at the 23rd Quadrennial Congress in Taipei, Taiwan, May 21-27, 2005. It is a much anticipated event, showcasing nursing innovation, new nursing roles and cutting edge research. Early registration deadline is February 1, 2005. Additional information is available at <http://www.icn.ch/congress2005.htm>.

Looking ahead

Plan on joining the network at the ICN INP/APNN Conference in 2006 to be hosted by DENOSA in the Republic of South Africa. Information will be posted at <http://www.icn-apnetwork.org>.

Communication News

We are interested in learning about the advanced practice movement in your country. Please send information about your progress to sheer@udel.edu.