

## Network History

The following chronological list of events portrays the evolving nature and history of the ICN Nurse Practitioner/Advanced Practice Nursing Network.

### 1992

The first group of Nurse Practitioners (NPs) qualified in the United Kingdom in 1991. They attended a nurse practitioner conference in Colorado. At this conference they met with representatives of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) and the University of Colorado. It was agreed that NP's in the United States and the United Kingdom would work together to improve communication and share their knowledge and experiences.

### 1993

In San Antonio, Texas, USA the same group of NPs from the UK presented their experiences at the 1993 annual conference for AANP. Enthusiasm grew in the UK and the first International NP conference was held in London in August sponsored by the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) UK including colleagues from the USA.

### 1996

At the 4th international NP conference in Edinburgh, Scotland formal discussions began with an emphasis on developing a committee to improve international NP communication. The presence of Advanced Practice type roles was now noted beyond the UK, USA and Australia. The idea emerged to develop an international network to represent all countries where advanced practice nursing exists.

### 1997

During the annual AANP conference in New Orleans, USA, the RCN and AANP hosted a meeting of NP representative organizations with a view to planning a joint conference to be held in the United States in 2000. During this meeting it was noted that the concept of an organized network might possibly be a way forward for structured communication among NPs internationally. Discussions were productive and indicated that a forum for nurse practitioners and advanced practice nurses could be beneficial to share educational development along with practice and policy strategies.

### 1998

Various international partners including a representative of ICN met in Melbourne at the RCN Australia/RCN UK 6th International NP Conference in February. The discussions continued regarding the development of an NP Network. An attempt was made to develop an international definition of this role. This proved problematic given that the terminology used is inconsistently and diversely in countries where the roles exist. As a result, the decision was made to move more toward a definition of advanced nursing practice, encompassing the nurse practitioner theme. Consensus was also to investigate the possibility of establishing an international nurse practitioner network in association with the International Council of Nurses (ICN).

### 1999

At the ICN Centennial Congress in London in June a pre-congress advanced practice nursing forum was held. The purpose was to:

- Achieve a consensus on the key attributes

of what advanced practice might be.

- Formulate a questionnaire concerning advanced practice roles.
- Describe the philosophy of the proposed network.
- Give advanced practice nurses/nurse practitioners present at the conference a network opportunity.

Panel members from Scotland, USA, Bahrain, Canada, Ireland, Republic of South Africa, England and Australia provided information on the status of advanced practice in their respective countries. Information from this session was used to develop a questionnaire/survey distributed through ICN to determine areas of the world where these advanced practice roles exist.

At the International NP Conference in Cardiff, Wales in August a network steering group met & agreed that representatives would meet with ICN in Geneva to set about the formal development and expected launch of the network. It was agreed that the launch would take place at the 8th international NP Conference in San Diego, CA, USA.

## **2000**

The ICN international network was launched at the 8th International Conference of Nurse Practitioners in San Diego, CA, USA on October 1, 2000. Given the diversity in defining advanced nursing roles the title International Nurse Practitioner/Advanced Practice Nursing Network (NP/APNN) was agreed on. The Network identified the following objectives:

- To serve as a forum for exchange of knowledge
- To serve as a resource base for the development of advanced

practice/nurse practitioner roles and the appropriate educational underpinning

- To serve as a vehicle for ICN to harness specialist expertise
- To help ICN more effectively meet its mandate as the global voice of the profession
- To provide a mechanism to promote and disseminate information from any of the network members and ICN
- To act as the base for future international collaboration around advanced practice and the nurse practitioner role, including international conferences beyond 2000.

## **2002**

The 2nd NP/APNN conference was held in Adelaide, Australia. A proposal for a definition and characteristics of advanced nursing practice had been introduced in 2001 in Copenhagen at the ICN conference, when the Network group convened a group of interested APNs. Open discussion led by Madrean Schober, Chair of NP/APN Network, took place and suggestions were offered by those attending. The current ICN definition and characteristics was drafted by NP/APN Core Steering Group and sent to the ICN Board of Directors where it was approved in 2002 following a review by ICN National Nursing Associations.

## **2004**

The 3rd NP/APNN conference was held in Groningen, the Netherlands.

A Network logo was developed and approved by ICN.

## **2005**

The NP/APN Network logo pin was developed

and approved by ICN for sale in Taipei at the ICN conference. It was also possible to buy a pin and donate one for a NP/APN who could not afford to purchase the pin.

## **2006**

The 4th NP/APNN conference was held in Sandton, South Africa.

Launch of the “Logo Award Pin” program provided 20 donated pins to APN members during the conference in Sandton, South Africa. This was the first time APNs were recognized with a Logo Pin by the Network.

## **2007**

A scope of practice document for advanced nursing practice was started by the Policy Subgroup of NP/APN Network in 2001. After research into the international community’s understanding of APNs, the level and extent of practice and education, the first draft was completed in 2004, revised in 2005 and again in 2007. The first “Pre-publication copy” was circulated at the ICN meeting held in Yokohama, Japan. The final document was published by ICN in May 2008.

In the fall of 2007, the pilot survey addressing education, practice and regulation of NP/APNs was circulated to Network members by the Education and Practice Subgroups. Revisions were made because the pilot survey and the full survey was implemented in Spring 2008.

## **2008**

The 5th NP/APNN conference was held in Toronto, Canada.

Survey results were reported at the of NP/APN Network conference in Toronto, Canada by Dr. J. Pulcini, Chair of Education and Practice Subgroup.

The Fundraising Subgroup proposed the development of a Grant to support funding of a member to attend the next NP/APNN.

The Scope of Practice document was published and available through ICN in May 2008.

## **2010**

The 6th NP/APNN conference was held in Brisbane, Australia.

The first Advanced Practice Nurse grant recipient was awarded at the Brisbane conference – Mrs. Januna Tamrakar Sayami from Kathmandu, Nepal. The first fund raising ‘silent’ auction was conducted at the Brisbane conference. Fundraising was aimed at continuing the grant program.

The NP/APN Network offered stuffed dolls to NPs who worked with children in their practice. The dolls had been donated by a colleague in Seattle, Washington and shipped to the conference to be distributed to meeting participants and were distributed to NPs attending the meeting in Brisbane.

## **2011**

The Network established a centrally located bank account through ICN at a Swiss bank account. Prior to this the bank account was located in the country of origin of the CSG treasurer.

## **2012**

The 7th NP/APNN conference was held in London, United Kingdom.

The second grant recipient was awarded at the London conference – Ossama Abed Zaqout, Amman, Jordan.

## **2013**

Research request guidelines were developed

due to the increased requests to conduct research utilizing NP/APNN members.

#### **2014**

The 8th NP/APNN conference was held in Helsinki, Finland.

#### **2015**

A Network session was held at the ICN conference in Seoul, Korea.

#### **2016**

The 9th NP/APNN conference was held in Hong Kong with over 900 delegates from 24 countries attending.

#### **2017**

At the ICN Congress in Barcelona, Spain a Global Alliance initiative was announced with the Network identified as the inaugural member of the Alliance. The Network was now called the ICN Nurse Practitioner/Advanced Practice Nursing Network (NP/APNN).