



INP / APN NETWORK BULLETIN

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**Communications CSG Liaison: Helen Ward
Editor: Andrea Boyle**

Greetings from the Chair:

Congratulations to the RCN conference organising committee for hosting a very successful 7th INP/APN network conference. We ended up with over 400 registrations from 31 different countries. The over 140 oral presentations, 8 workshops and 80 posters on display ensured delegates had a variety of presentations to choose from. The feedback was overwhelming positive with some thoughtful suggestions which we will share with the Helsinki hosts for our 8th INP/APN network conference.

Our membership base continues to grow with 1,950 members representing 79 countries. Our subgroups have been doing amazing work in strengthening their membership and in meeting their objectives. Due to the strength and contribution of the subgroups and at this stage in growth and development of the network we have disbanded the Network Resource Bank and would like to thank all the members who contributed to this group over the years.

I will keep my opening message short as I'm aware we have many interesting stories to share with you from our members.

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

Conference Reports:

ICN INP/APNN 7th Meeting, August 20-22, 2012, London, England

Imperial College, London, England served as the site for the 7th INP/APNN networking conference. As noted above, 400 advanced practice nurses from 31 countries attended the conference which featured three days of scientific sessions and reports on global advanced nursing practice. Hosted by the Royal College of Nursing, conference highlights included keynote presentations on advanced nursing practice, globalisation of advanced nursing practice, the scholarship of nursing practice, a global update on regulation of advanced nursing practice roles, and the experiences of advanced nurses working within disaster areas and war zones. The conference additionally included exhibitions, poster sessions, and networking sessions with chairs and members of the INP/APNN subgroups.

An additional highlight of the conference was an evening dinner cruise on the Thames for participants, family members and friends.

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Regulation of Advanced Nursing Practice Roles: A Global Update

Authors: Roberta Heale, RN, DNP and Christine Rieck-Buckley, RN, MS

Advanced nursing practice continues to develop and grow, increasing access to health services and improving patient outcomes around the world. With globalization increasing the mobility and migration of these care providers, it is timely to examine the regulations that govern advanced practice nurses (APNs). In 2008, the Education and Practice subgroup of the INP/APN Network presented findings of a survey primarily focused on APN education with some initial data on regulation. This past year, the INP/APNN Health Policy subgroup surveyed ICN member associations 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. Over 30 countries responded to the survey. Initial findings revealed a wide variation in the regulation of advanced practice nursing roles. The use of title protection varied widely across jurisdictions with several countries reporting the use of processes other than regulation to authorize nurses practicing in advanced roles. Academic criteria, registration, and certification were strategies identified for credentialing APN roles by survey respondents. Barriers to practice were also identified. Examples included a lack of an accreditation or regulatory process, a lack of title protection and a lack of a framework, or specified competencies for the advanced nursing role. Challenges related to the acceptance of a higher level of independence in practice were also identified in the survey.

This article briefly described initial findings from the APN regulation survey. A future report will provide additional information from the survey regarding this important area of APN work.

Featured Countries

Jordan

Author: Ossama Abed Zaqqout, Amman, Jordan



The 7th INP/APNN conference at London was one of the most interesting experiences that I ever had in my life. I have had several invitations to attend conferences overseas but failed to arrange acceptance mainly due to financial constraints. But not this time. The ICN - INP/APN network offered me a chance to become involved by funding my conference fees and dinner trip on the Thames River.

My thesis for my master studies program at the University of Jordan focuses on Advanced Practice Nursing (APN) in Jordan. The thesis has now been supplemented, supported and made richer by the great ideas and literature that I obtained during many of the conference sessions and discussions. The role of APNs in Jordan is not integrated in all systems of health care, but the title of clinical nurse specialties (CNS), accredited by the Jordanian Council of Nursing law, is available. CNSs are expert nurses holding masters degrees in clinical areas with all of the qualifications that the Jordanian health care system requires.

My study on APNs (the first such study conducted in Jordan) will be strengthened through my conference participation. As a member of INP/APNN representing Arabic countries, I also realize that a thesis in the area of health policy, particularly regarding advanced practice nursing in Jordan, will also potentially benefit the Health Policy Subgroup of INP/APNN.

Another major benefit of conference attendance was the opportunity to build relationships and develop friendships with colleagues in the nursing profession from all around the world. My experiences have motivated me to participate in the upcoming Finland conference (but as a presenter this time) sharing the findings of my

studies in Jordan. Additionally, my interactions within British society and the openness and friendliness of the British people made this a great and unforgettable experience.

Though I was a member of the ICN INP/APNN health policy subgroup prior to the conference, the conference has inspired me to be a more active member. Meeting some of the terrific members of the INP/APNN helped my relationships with these individuals flourish and will in turn help facilitate cooperation, as opposed to contact solely through email. I am appreciative to ICN, INP/APNN, the Conference Committee, and everyone who participated in fundraising at the 6th INP/APNN Conference, which helped fund this incredible opportunity I was given.

Australia

The Nurse Practitioner role in an Emergency Medical Unit. How did I get here?

Author: Anne Finley

This article is not so much about the nurse practitioner role in an emergency medical unit, but more about how the position came to be implemented in an ever-changing nursing environment. Completing a Nurse Practitioner (NP) Masters in Western Australia provided limited opportunities to complete the required internship, so I applied to do the internship in a tertiary institution in Sydney, Australia which subsequently led to a position as a NP in the hospital's home visiting team. Work on the team involved visiting children, with conditions such as asthma, bronchiolitis and gastroenteritis, who required ongoing home care post hospital discharge.

The move from Perth in Western Australia to Sydney was more arduous than originally relocating from England to Australia. The layers of bureaucracy were something to behold. My entire family gave up their Western Australia lifestyle and careers to move interstate only to find that during my first week of employment, my department was reviewed for viability, closed down, and staff were relocated. The department subsequently reopened about a year later under a different name and with different staff members. The new department took a while to get off the ground and staff were only seeing patients with

two diagnoses (wet dressings and IV antibiotics). I felt I was losing all my skills by not seeing patients within my scope of practice and was becoming increasingly disheartened. I had vast experience and had a scope of practice that was grossly under-utilised. A year later I arranged a meeting with the Nurse Manager and the Medical Head of Department in the ED department, selling them my skills and letting them know how I could be an asset to the department. I then negotiated a two month trial in the ED caring for children within my scope of practice. Having done my Master's thesis on role implementation I knew I had to negotiate role changes. Initially I was placed in the acute area of the ED. I was not an emergency nurse, and would be the first to acknowledge that, but I had plenty of experience in the post acute area and eventually was able to transition to the Emergency Medical Unit and less acute areas of the ED.

The role I negotiated has proven to be so successful that I was able to write a research paper about the role and this led to my subsequent acceptance as a speaker at the recent (2012) ICN INP/APNN conference in London. Perhaps it was my determination to succeed, a supportive family, and kind people around me that kept me going through the dark hours. Development of my new role was a tiring process but well worth the angst!!

Featured INPAPNN Sub-Groups: Research and Fundraising

Research Sub-Group: Beverly Bird, RN, MS, Co-Chair

'Ask a Researcher': [INP/APN Network Research Subgroup Resource Link](#)

The Research Sub-Group seeks to support Nurse Practitioners and Advanced Practice Nurses in research related activities through:

- Facilitating the provision of resources, tools and advice to NPs and APNs seeking to undertake research in their local or national practice settings; and,
- Supporting NPs and APNs seeking advice on presenting their research in national and international conference settings.

The **'Ask a Researcher'** hyperlink on the Research Sub - Group webpage links directly to inp.apnn.askaresearcher@gmail.com - which is monitored by the sub-group members.

The Research Sub-Group is pleased to provide this resource – especially to nurses who have little support or guidance in undertaking related research.

Fundraising Subcommittee: Maureen Reeves Horsley, RN, MS, ARNP, Chair

A Special "**thank you**" to attendees at the London Conference who donated over 70 wonderful items and purchased them back at our Fundraising Committee tables! We raised approximately £1500 (2,400 USD). A great success and lots of fun - was had by all!

The Fundraising subcommittee of the ICN INP/APN Network is charged with raising monies to meet approved and specific causes. For years, we have offered our logo lapel pins and by purchasing two, one can be donated to a colleague attending a future conference.

Our first Silent Auction Fundraiser was held at our Brisbane Conference in 2010, under the direction of Molly Burley and Pat Maybee. The monies raised were partially used to offer grants to APN/NP applicants for London. Mr. Ossama Zaqqout, our awardee who attended the London conference expressed great enthusiasm for future involvement with the INP/APNN. Congratulations and thank you, Ossama!

Early in 2014, we will be offering applications for assistance to NP/APNs from countries where the APN/ NP role is in developing stages. The grant

applicants will be reviewed with priority to applicants submitting an abstract for poster or oral presentation at our Finland conference. Watch the website for more information. Our committee plans another Silent Auction to afford all attendees the opportunity to "share and shop"! Thank you to Pat Maybee, Melanie Rogers and Melanie's NP graduates for their hours of support.

Would you like to become involved? We welcome you to join our committee. For more information email Maureen at: mrhjch@gmail.com

Look forward to seeing you in Finland in 2014!

Announcements:

Would you like to communicate with NPs and APNs from around the world? Why not join in on 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 or create a new topic.

www.icn.ch/forum/viewforum.php?f=47&sid=7d51a21fe5b9ca7220e1b23ff9279e4f

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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