



# NP/APN NETWORK BULLETIN

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

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**Editors: Sini Hämäläinen MHC, NP, RN and Marie-Lyne Bournival BSc, PG Health Sc, MN, NP**

## **Update from the core steering group: deputy-chair Daniela Lehwaldt**

Dear Colleagues,

I hope this Bulletin finds you well during these challenging times. I am delighted to introduce myself to you. My name is Daniela Lehwaldt (PhD MSc BNS RGN RNT FESC), Deputy Chair of the ICN NP/APN Network. My past experience in nursing reaches from intensive care units in Germany and Ireland to Nurse Practitioner in cardio-thoracic surgery. Nowadays, I am working as Academic Lead in Nursing in the School of Nursing, Psychotherapy and Community Health at Dublin City University, where I teach, research and engage with practice.

I have been part of the Network for about 10 years. I started in the Subgroup Practice as Co-Chair before joining the Core Steering Group. It is both an honour and a pleasure to work together with so many dedicated members in order to provide information, act as a resource and to exchange NP and APN knowledge, expertise and experience with one another.

If you are interested in Advanced Practice Nursing, if you want to find out about it, learn more about it or if you want to start networking with APNs globally, please register [here](#).

If you are already a member, you can join one of our Sub-groups, e.g. Practice, Education, Research or Health Policy, depending on availability of places. If you are tech-savvy and interested in various forms of communication, we'd love to hear from you too! There are some positions available in the Communications sub-group. We also have a new and vibrant Student group – if you are currently studying to become an Advanced Practice Nurse. If you are interested in joining the sub-groups, contact our secretary Marie-Lyne Bournival [mlbnetworkicn@gmail.com](mailto:mlbnetworkicn@gmail.com). Detailed information about membership and about the various groups can be found on our website [here](#).

I want to pass on a huge thanks to all of our past members and Alumni. They are the backbone of this Network, without their past work and current support, we would not be where we are today, thank you! There is an interview included in this Bulletin with one of our most experienced Alumni, Madrean Schober, who is actually one of the founders of this Network– go and check it out! We are also proud to present some of the most recent research journal publications from members:

Sastre-Fullana P, Gray DC, Cashin A, Bryant-Lukosius D, Schumann L, Geese F, Rae B, Duff E, & Bird B (2020). Visual analysis of global comparative mapping of the practice domains of the nurse practitioner/advanced practice nursing role in respondent countries. *Journal of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners*. [published online ahead of print, 2020 Jul 29]. doi:10.1097/JXX.0000000000000458 <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32740335/>

Beauchesne MA, Honig J, Sevilla S, Carryer J, Debout C, DeKeyser Ganz F, East LA, Fraser D, Hibbert D, Scanlon A, Spooner P (2020). A snapshot of clinical educational experiences for advanced practice nurses worldwide. *The Nurse Practitioner*, 46(9), 14-22. doi 10.1097/01.NPR.0000694700.16463.c7 <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32773497/>



*Congratulations to all co-authors!*

Best wishes,

*Daniela*

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## **Interview with Dr Madrean Schober, awarded FAANP Loretta C. Ford award**

By Ivy Muya BScN, RN/Marie-Lyne Bournival



Dr Madrean Schober was awarded the prestigious Loretta C. Ford Award by the Fellows of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners (FAANP) and was inducted into the Fellows of the American Academy of Nursing (FAAN).

As president of Schober Global Healthcare Consulting, Dr. Schober provides consultancies to governments, academic institutions and health care clients. Her expertise includes healthcare policy, curriculum design and programme development for nursing while serving as an educator, mentor, writer and lecturer worldwide. With a mentorship and guidance portfolio to over 40 countries, Dr Schober has supported the concept of Advanced Practice in Nursing and its development and implementation of specific roles. As the 1999–2000 Virginia Henderson Fellow for the International Council of Nurses (ICN), and the 1994–2014 international relations liaison for AANP, Dr Schober's most outstanding contributions to the NP movement have been in the area of international networking. A leader in the development of the ICN NP/APN Network, Schober works to promote a visible presence of APNs globally.

### **Madrean the Educator:**

Madrean has worked as faculty in countries such as Singapore, Hong Kong, Pakistan, Bahrain and Oman. Madrean says "...most countries underestimate the complexities of introducing a new professional to the provision of healthcare services. Strong champions and leadership supportive of APNs are likely to lead to a successful outcome..."

### **Madrean the Advocate:**

Her most outstanding contributions to the NP movement have been in the area of international networking for insightful care to diverse populations and strategic planning for improved access to health care for all. Some professional affiliations include, and not limited to, the Aga Khan University, Karachi, Pakistan; Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong, China; National University of Singapore: Alice Lee Centre for Nursing Studies; and the World Health Organization (WHO).

#### **Madrean the Global Health Care Policy Development Advisor:**

“... currently I am working as an external advisor to ICN in the development of ICN guidelines for Nurse Anesthetists and for Nurse Prescribing...”. In addition, she is supporting representatives of Latin American countries to form a network to support development of APNs in 11 countries in Latin America. In addition, she provides support to APN master’s students in France and PhD students in Japan, Ireland, and Singapore.

When asked what approach would be practical and adaptive enough to APN development in low and medium income countries (LMIC), Dr Schober replied, “...In LMICs, it is most important to identify and focus on the country’s population which will receive care from the APN and to identify who is supportive of promoting APNs. In most LMICs, it is necessary to obtain governmental support and cooperation. Always significant, but a challenge, is seeking and finding qualified human resources and identifying appropriate funding to educate and employ these nurses...It is important to note that APN implementation is sensitive to the nursing, medical, healthcare and government cultures of the country in which the idea is emerging.”

Celebrating the year of the nurse in Madrean’s own words: “The advent of the APN concept has contributed to a professional maturing for nursing. Nurses will continue to be more visible in the provision of healthcare services and will be pivotal to the development of health policy developed with the needs of the world’s populations in mind”.

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## **11th ICN NP/APN Network Conference, Halifax, Nova Scotia Canada, 30 August – 2 September 2021**

By Ruth Martin-Misener NP, PhD, FAAN; Tracy Kinch, MN NP; Carolyn Mitchell, MN-NP, DNP; Josette Roussel, RN, M.Sc, M.Ed; Anne Keller and Sini Hämäläinen



It is an understatement to say, but this has certainly been an unusual and unpredictable year! The global COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve and shows no sign of slowing its spread. We continue to watch the situation carefully and, in collaboration with ICN, are making plans to adapt the 2021 conference accordingly.

Given the projected natural history of the pandemic, the resulting travel restrictions, and economic impacts, we are making plans for a virtual conference. This planning is still in its very early days and we will have more specific details to share with you in the near future. Even though we cannot welcome you in person to our beautiful port city, we will welcome you on a world-class virtual platform that will enable a next-best experience.

The conference continues to be a perfect time for us to come together to learn from each other as advanced practice nursing continues to spread and scale up in more and more countries throughout the world. The pandemic has shown the world the indispensable value of the role nurses and advanced practice nurses

have in responding to catastrophic events. The 2021 ICN NP/APN Network conference will be a time to celebrate and honour these contributions and to learn from each other.

We are excited about the inaugural awards that will be presented at the conference for the first time to recognise excellence. The nomination process for these awards will soon be announced. Now is the time to start thinking about who, from your many deserving colleagues, you might like to nominate. Information about the four award categories is listed below.

Our conference theme is highly relevant for the complex and challenging times we are living in: *Envisioning advanced practice nursing beyond 2021: wider reach, bigger impact*. The pandemic is changing us all; how we live, and work will never be the same. NP/APN 2021 will be a time for us to come together to reflect on and share our experiences and discover the opportunities the pandemic is creating. The conference sub-themes build on ICN's strategic priorities and the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals to examine progress and future directions for nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists and other advanced practice nurses towards addressing the current and future health needs of populations. Now, more than ever, people around the world need the specialized expert knowledge, skills, and capabilities of advanced practice nurses.

We are honoured that our high-profile keynote speakers from around the world remain committed to presenting at the conference and are thrilled that so many of you have submitted concurrent oral and poster presentations on key health issues and advances in healthcare. The conference programme is being revised to fit an online format; you can be sure it will still bring something for everyone including oral and poster presentations, networking opportunities and some pre-conference workshops. Now more than ever, we need not only to learn from each other but to be with each other to recharge and regenerate ourselves.

We thank you for your patience as we work through the details and cannot wait for you to see what is in store! For up to date information about the conference and to register, please visit our website [www.npapn2021.com](http://www.npapn2021.com) and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Instagram](#). We look forward to gathering together online as a global advanced practice nursing community. We hope that the online format will enable more people from around the world to attend. #NPAPN2021

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## ICN NP/APN Network Education Excellence Award

The purpose of the award is to recognize significant contributions of an advanced practice nurse to advanced practice nursing education either nationally or internationally. The award is provided to an advanced practice nurse who has made outstanding contributions to advanced practice nursing education with a lasting legacy of impact during their professional career.

The nominee:

- Has made a sustained national and/or international contribution to advanced practice nursing education during his/her professional career.
- Serves as an inspiration in the advanced practice nursing community at a national level, through his/her contributions to advanced nursing practice *education*.
- Has garnered national and/or international recognition for his/her contributions.
- Has been a leader in education for advanced practice nursing and whose achievements will be a source of historic pride for future generations of advanced practice nurses.

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## ICN NP/APN Network Research Excellence Award

The purpose of the award is to recognise significant contributions of an advanced practice nurse to advanced practice nursing education either nationally or internationally. The award is provided to an advanced practice nurse who has made outstanding contributions to advanced practice nursing *research* with a lasting legacy of impact during their professional career.

The nominee:

- has made a sustained national and/or international contribution to advanced practice nursing education during his/her professional career
- serves as an inspiration in the advanced practice nursing community at a national level, through his/her contributions to advanced nursing practice *research*
- has garnered national and/or international recognition for his/her contributions
- has been a leader in education for advanced practice nursing and whose achievements will be a source of historic pride for future generations of advanced practice nurses.

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## ICN NP/APN Network Leadership Excellence Award

The purpose of the award is to recognise significant contributions of an advanced practice nurse to advanced practice nursing education either nationally or internationally. The award is provided to an advanced practice nurse who has made outstanding contributions to advanced practice nursing *leadership* with a lasting legacy of impact during their professional career.

The nominee:

- has made a sustained national and/or international contribution to advanced practice nursing education during his/her professional career
- serves as an inspiration in the advanced practice nursing community at a national level, through his/her contributions to advanced nursing practice *leadership*
- has garnered national and/or international recognition for his/her contributions
- has been a leader in education for advanced practice nursing and whose achievements will be a source of historic pride for future generations of advanced practice nurses.

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## ICN NP/APN Network Practice Excellence Award

The purpose of the award is to recognise significant contributions of an advanced practice nurse to advanced practice nursing education either nationally or internationally. The award is provided to an advanced practice nurse who has made outstanding contributions to advanced practice nursing *practice* with a lasting legacy of impact during their professional career.

The nominee:

- has made a sustained national and/or international contribution to advanced practice nursing education during his/her professional career
- serves as an inspiration in the advanced practice nursing community at a national level, through his/her contributions to advanced nursing practice
- has garnered national and/or international recognition for his/her contributions
- has been a leader in education for advanced practice nursing and whose achievements will be a source of historic pride for future generations of advanced practice nurses.

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## ICN NP/APN Network COVID Campaign

By Marie-Lyne Bournival

As the world navigates itself through 2020 much has been said about the COVID-19. It is undeniable that, globally, nurses have been and are still at the forefront of the pandemic. Seeking to give a voice to nurse practitioners and advanced practicing nurses, the ICN NP/APNN is launching: **“COVID-19 VIDEO - WE’RE LISTENING”**

The purpose of this initiative is to provide NPs and Advanced Practice Nurses with the opportunity to share stories about advanced practice care experiences during the current COVID-19 pandemic. Through shared videos, participation in "COVID-19 - We're listening" serves to highlight the global work conducted daily by these important clinicians. For all inquiries including submissions of videos (English, Français and Español), please contact NP/APNN Secretary Marie-Lyne Bournival on [mlb.networkicn@gmail.com](mailto:mlb.networkicn@gmail.com). Please share through your network!

You can also find up to date information on the ICN [COVID-19 portal](#).



*Photo: COVID-19 Clinical Lead Nurses Kereana Isofeo-Harris and Lian Kairua. Whanau Ora Community Clinic - He Waka Tapu, Christchurch, New Zealand.*

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## **The ICN Advanced Practice Nursing Guidelines**

By Josette Roussel, Daniela Lehwaldt, Melanie Rogers, Varsha Singh/ Sini Hämäläinen

The ICN NP/APN Network offers the following recommendations on how to best utilise advanced practice nurses in their work. The purpose of the Advance Practice Nursing guidelines is to facilitate a common understanding of Advanced Practice Nurse (APN) roles for everyone, which includes but not limited to APNs, healthcare systems, governments, other healthcare professionals, policy makers and even the consumers who may not have appropriate understanding of this role. The ICN NP/APN Network supports ICN's position to recognise APNs as one of the solutions to lead and deliver accessible, safe and efficient care during COVID-19 and beyond.



INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES

**GUIDELINES  
ON ADVANCED  
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The ICN NP/APN Network offers the following recommendations on how to best utilise advanced practice nurses in their work. The purpose of the Advance Practice Nursing guidelines is to facilitate a common understanding of Advanced Practice Nurse (APN) roles for everyone, which includes but not limited to APNs, healthcare systems, governments, other healthcare professionals, policy makers and even the consumers who may not have appropriate understanding of this role. The ICN NP/APN Network supports ICN's position to recognise APNs as one of the solutions to lead and deliver accessible, safe and efficient care during COVID-19 and beyond.

Experts from the ICN NP/APN Network worked closely with ICN to develop these Guidelines on Advanced Practice Nursing, which were published in April 2020. APNs enhance and expand healthcare services and interventions to influence clinical care outcomes, provide direct care services to patients and communities. The roles, build on nursing principles, bring together the best of nursing and medicine to provide the optimal capacity to enhance and maximise comprehensive services to individual, community or population.

These guidelines were published at the most significant time, while the world is still grappling with COVID-19 which has greatly impacted entire nursing profession and healthcare in general. The guidelines are really timely this year as 2020 is designated as the International Year of the Nurse and Midwife. APNs are currently providing care across all regions of the globe. There is an increased interest in establishing these expanded nursing roles to meet the growing healthcare needs and complex care of populations in the world. Nurses working in advanced practice nursing roles are currently providing healthcare services in new models of care and creating new opportunities to meet unmet holistic needs and care demands during the pandemic.

APNs are leading many of the community efforts for COVID-19 as well as providing specialty care for those in need of intensive care services. APNs are offering virtual care services in order to ensure continuity of care to the most vulnerable patients who are self isolated at the present time.

Melanie Rogers, Chair of the Core Steering Group from the ICN NP/APN Network, consistently advocates for APNs to be allowed to work at their full level of capacity. Currently only 24 countries have advanced prescriptive authority. For APNs to provide the care they are trained for; the prescriptive authority is essential. Additionally, restrictions to practice impede the timely delivery of care to the most vulnerable. APNs work within their scope of practice and are accountable for their code of conduct and for their own practice. They must be allowed to use their autonomy, especially at this time.

The ICN NP/APN Network believes that the full potential for APNs can be enabled by:

- appropriate governance in terms of policy, legislation, regulation and credentialing; especially title protection
- removal of restrictions that create barriers to full role enabling during COVID-19, e.g. APN clinical autonomy, prescribing authority and professional leadership
- promotion of role clarity for advanced practice nursing roles
- identifying how APNs contribute to the delivery of healthcare services and the delivery of different care models
- the development of educational curricula specific to the APN roles
- development of national, European and global frameworks for APN
- representation of APNs at National Nurses Associations and at high level policy and healthcare decision making agencies
- systematic formal structure to supporting these nurses in establishing advanced practice (clinical nurse specialist and nurse practitioner) roles and levels of practice
- offering guidance to employers, organisations and healthcare systems implementing the CNS and NP roles/level of care

Optimising the roles of APNs during the COVID-19 pandemic crisis and beyond is critical. The ICN Network calls on governments, regulatory authorities and employers to address these practice barriers that prohibit these nurses from working to their full scope of practice.

The guidelines are available [here](#).



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