



NANN Celebrates 25 Years of Caring for Neonates and Their Families

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the National Association of Neonatal Nurses (NANN). Throughout 2009, we will be highlighting our past conferences and presidents, our numerous publications, and our continued efforts to build a stronger organization. Look for anniversary reminders throughout the year and a special page at www.NANN.org.

However, we need your help to celebrate

this important milestone. Do you have photos of chapter meetings, conferences, or neonatal nursing practice from the past 25 years? If so, we would love to include them in our celebration! We would also like to see photos from the past 25 years of

- equipment used in the NICU
 - nurses in the NICU
 - neonates then—and now, all grown up!
- Please send photos to the NANN National

Office, 4700 W. Lake Avenue, Glenview, IL 60025, Attn: Marilyn Rutkowski, or e-mail photos to mrutkowski@connect2amc.com. Please note: Photos will not be returned.

We look forward to including your contributions in an upcoming issue of *NANN Central*. The photos also will be displayed at the NANN 25th Annual Educational Conference, September 23–26, 2009, in Austin, TX. Don't miss it!

from NANN's President



NANN's 25th Anniversary: A Legacy

Lori Armstrong, MSN RN

It is a troubling time for everyone right now. No one has been shielded from the uncertainty of the economy. Those of us in the healthcare industry worry about the changes that might occur because of decreasing hospital reimbursements and increasing numbers of uninsured patients.

Throughout history, challenging times have led people to appreciate the truly important things in life, which include family, friends, and health. As I consider health in terms of our patients, I am reassured by the goal of the National Association of Neonatal Nurses (NANN) to be "the advocate and leading change agent for the neonatal nursing profession to optimize care for neonates and their families." I am comforted by knowing that NANN members have a positive impact on the health of our patients and families every day.

During challenging times, people also often think about how they can continue to make a difference and leave a legacy. As neonatal nurses, we are privileged to leave a lasting impression—a legacy, if you will—with each patient and family for whom we care.

Despite the troubling times, we usher in 2009 and look forward to celebrating NANN's 25th anniversary, which is a time to reflect on the past and look toward the future. As I struggle to capture the NANN Board of Directors' excitement about the anniversary, I am completely certain of where to start: by honoring our past and NANN's founders—pioneer neonatal nurses and neonatal nurse practitioners (NNPs) who have truly made a difference in our profession and, most important, in the lives of our patients. It is from their vision that we continue on our path today.

The NANN Annual Educational Conference in Austin, TX, will kick off with a special event honoring our founding members and past presidents. In addition to celebrating at the conference this September, we will celebrate NANN's silver anniversary throughout the year (go to www.nann.org/about_us/25/index.html). We will examine the evolution of neonatal care in many areas, including ethics, transport, and resuscitation.

As 2009 progresses, you will see continued focus and progress in our four strategic growth areas:

1. education
 - annual educational conference featuring state-of-the-art science, technology updates, and leadership development
 - publication on high-alert medications
 - position statements on cobedding, use of human milk and breastfeeding in the NICU, and medication administration safety
2. research
 - research summit with Ross Laboratories
 - clinical practice guidelines template
3. advocacy
 - Nurse in Washington Internship (NIWI), a 2-day intensive internship that two members attend with NANN's support
 - NNP legislation advocacy
4. member engagement
 - enhanced chapter support
 - social networking development.

The board cannot do this alone. We need our members to join us in honoring our past and building a strong future. You can do this by volunteering, reading *ANC*, and joining us in Austin for our 25th Annual Educational Conference. I invite you to contribute to the legacy that our founders began!

NANN Develops Clinical Practice Guideline Template

On December 11, 2008, the National Association of Neonatal Nurses (NANN) Board of Directors approved a standardized format for clinical practice guidelines (CPGs). The standardized format is based on recommendations from the NANN Research Committee and is the culmination of many months of work.

Background

CPGs are found throughout the nursing profession and literature. Unfortunately, the formats used by authors may be quite different.

NANN members recognized this inconsistency and asked the organization to take a leadership position by creating a standardized format for CPGs. In response, the NANN Board of Directors asked the Research Committee to identify, discuss, and recommend a template for formatting CPGs that would promote consistency of care among end users. To help achieve this level of consistency, the model will be promoted and made available to the entire neonatal nursing community.

Under the direction of Research Committee Chair Elizabeth Damato, committee members Lorraine Baas Rubarth, Donna Dowling, Carolyn Ford, Anne Jorgensen, Robin Montvilo, and Leslie Parker researched the different approaches used to develop CPGs as well as the various classification systems for rating levels of evidence that support practice recommendations. The committee also considered whether a need existed to have a mechanism within the organization to evaluate the quality of guideline content and whether submitted guidelines followed these recommendations.

The template was based in large part on the Appraisal of Guidelines Research and Evaluation (AGREE) Instrument and

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NANNP® Corner

NANNP Takes Action on Behalf on NNPs

National Association of
Neonatal Nurse Practitioners 
A division of NANN

Robin L. Bissinger, PhD APRN NNP-BC, NANNP Council Chair

The National Association of Neonatal Nurse Practitioners (NANNP) was founded in 2007 as a division of the National Association of Neonatal Nurses (NANN). Our mission is to be a unified voice for neonatal nurse practitioners (NNPs) in promoting quality, cost-effective health care. Our purpose is to improve care to newborns, infants, and their families by establishing a forum for communication among NNPs.

Working for You

In the time since NANNP was established, we have been working on several legislative and professional issues that impact the professional and clinical practices of NNPs:

- NANNP wrote letters to the National Council of State Boards of Nursing as well as the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) Joint Dialogue Group regarding their draft of the new APRN consensus statement. In the original statement, *neonatal* was not considered a population focus. NANNP enlisted the assistance of the Faculty Special Interest Group to ensure the APRN Joint Dialogue Group understood why *neonatal* was its own population with an established practice and educational standards. We were able to achieve recognition for NNPs along with pediatric nurse practitioners and family nurse practitioners.
- NANNP, along with NANN, the National Certification Corporation (NCC), and several other NNP associations, wrote letters to the Council for the Advancement of Comprehensive Care in opposition of their work with the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) on the Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP) examination. We agreed with the American Medical Association (AMA) that the NBME should not participate in examinations for DNPs

because the medical profession is not the place from which all other health-care professions must seek authorization to practice. (This diminishes the unique contribution and role of nurses and other healthcare providers and assumes a level of knowledge of nursing care, education, and practice that is not the province of the medical profession.)

- NANNP took action on two AMA resolutions of particular concern to our members:
 - Resolution 303 was designed to protect the terms *doctor*, *resident*, and *residency* for physicians. NANN and NANNP sent a letter stating the title of doctor was common to many disciplines and is not the domain of any one group of health-care professionals. The AMA amended the resolution by stating professionals in clinical healthcare settings must clearly and accurately identify their qualifications and degree(s) to patients.
 - Resolution 214 asked that APRNs who obtain DNP degrees practice under the supervision of physicians. Our letter explained that APRNs, including those prepared at the DNP level, are independent practitioners who have proven to be highly skilled, cost-effective providers of care.

NANNP has been very active with several NNP educational issues during the past year:

- NANNP developed documents to assist members in understanding the DNP degree and its impact.
- NANNP launched two educational surveys to better understand members' thoughts about the DNP and the current NNP Education Standards. Survey results were shared at our NANNP Inaugural Faculty Summit held at NANN's Annual Educational Conference in Fort Lauderdale, FL. The feedback is being used to update the NNP Education Standards, which will be

reviewed at the second faculty summit to be held at the annual conference in Austin, TX, in September. These educational standards continue to guide our master's education and will be used to further guide education for the DNP.


In the past year, NANNP also developed and presented the first NNP Excellence Award to recognize excellence in leadership in education, research, and clinical practice.

The Year Ahead


In 2009, NANNP is working on several new initiatives to benefit our members and their practice:

- a competency and orientation standard and tool kit
- a high-frequency jet and oscillator ventilation resource guide
- tools for conducting and evaluating research.

Calls will be issued for members to serve on task forces to assist with these new endeavors. We hope you will consider sharing your expertise. At the upcoming annual educational conference, NANNP will hold our first competency skills lab for those rare procedures NNPs do not always have an opportunity to perform.

NANNP is growing, and we need your help. Health care is changing rapidly, and as advanced practice nurses, we must be actively involved to ensure that the NNP role is positioned for the future. As the national association that speaks to the issues that affect NNPs, we must ensure that NNPs become active in our organization. Please let us know what we can do to improve what you do. 

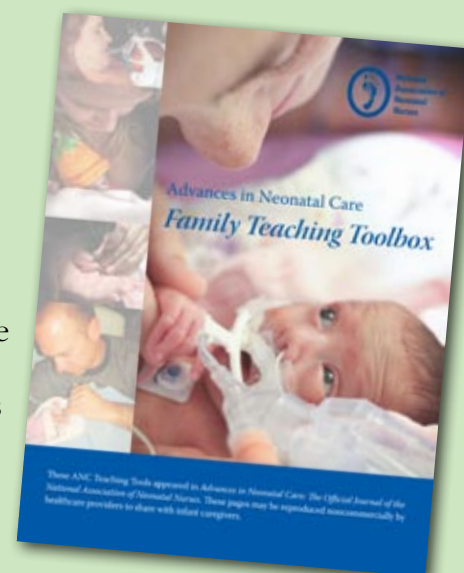
NANNP Rewards Members for Recruiting Colleagues

In a new membership drive running through August 2009, the National Association of Neonatal Nurse Practitioners (NANNP) will reward members who recruit potential new members with NANNP merchandise. In addition, the member who recruits the most new members will receive a \$300 Amazon gift certificate. To learn more about the ReMember Your Friends Campaign, please visit the Membership page at www.NANNP.org. 

Family Teaching Toolbox Now Available on NANN Web Site

Providing education and communicating complex healthcare information to parents are challenges neonatal nurses face daily. Written materials are useful to reinforce bedside teaching.

One valuable tool is NANN's Family Teaching Toolbox series, which first appeared in *Advances in Neonatal Care: The Official Journal of the National Association of Neonatal Nurses*. These articles are easy for parents to read and understand, and nurses can use them to complement parent education at the bedside and beyond. Articles in the series are now available free to NANN members and for a small charge to nonmembers at www.NANN.org. Use articles from this series to help you meet The Joint Commission standards for patient-education documentation by making customized collections of selected tools for families. Keep them in binders for unit education and reference. Visit www.NANN.org to download the articles today!



Changes Abound: Your Guide to the 2009 NANN Election Process

Members will see several changes in this year's NANN election. Perhaps the most significant change is that, for the first time, there will be two elections: one to elect the 2009 NANN Board of Directors and one to elect the 2009 NANNP Council.

Another change, brought about by the recent changes to the NANN bylaws, is that an election will be held annually. Now, half the directors will turn over each year instead of the entire board every 2 years. This change will establish continuity on the board, with several seasoned members holding seats at all times.

In addition, the NANN Nominations Committee has been restructured to reflect the diversity of the NANN membership. Committee members will serve for 2 years, and their terms will be staggered. Going forward, the committee will network with members at the NANN annual educational conference to increase interest among members to run for board positions.

So how will this work in 2009?

Dual Nomination and Ballots

The nomination process will open in March. As in years past, members are free to self-nominate or nominate their

peers. Because NANNP members are also members of NANN, they can submit a nomination for NANN, NANNP, or both. The election will begin in June, and it will be conducted online. The online ballot will allow members access to the NANN ballot or both the NANN and NANNP ballots based on their Membership ID.

NANN Board Positions

In 2009, members will elect three directors-at-large. If you have volunteered on a committee, task force, or special interest group on the national level, or have held a board position at the chapter level, you should consider running for a board position. Alternatively, if you know someone who would make an excellent candidate, please consider nominating him or her.

NANNP Council Positions

NANNP members will elect four council members in 2009. States are divided into seven districts, and the council represents all these districts. This will be the first election for the new division. Council members will serve for 2 years; the positions have been staggered with an election occurring each year. Open positions in 2009 include Districts 3, 5, 6, and 7. If

you live in one of these districts, you are eligible to run for the council. You also must be a current NANNP member in good standing to run for office. For more details, go to www.NANNP.org.

Open Districts for NANNP Election

District 3

IL, IN, MI, WI, OH

District 5

AK, AZ, CO, HI, NM, WY


District 6

CA, ID, MT, NV, OR, UT, WA

District 7

AL, FL, LA, MS, TX

It's Up to You

NANN is growing and changing in so many wonderful ways. Electing the best leaders for the association begins—and ends—with your participation. Do your part by nominating and casting votes in NANN elections. 


Brighter Tomorrows Story Contest: Your Chance to Win a Conference Registration

Enter the Brighter Tomorrows Story Contest for a chance to win a free registration for NANN's 25th Annual Educational Conference, "The Neonatal Community: Creating the Silver Lining," to be held in Austin, TX, September 23–26, 2009.

In celebration of NANN's 25th anniversary, we ask that members consider submitting stories that incorporate the 25-year theme. Examples include stories about NANN in the formative stages, comparing nursing practices or equipment from 25 years ago to today, or about patients from 25 years ago with whom you have kept in contact. All stories submitted should be relevant to neonatal nursing practice and may also relate a baby's or family's progress or describe the professional development of a neonatal nurse.

Stories must not exceed 500 words. Pictures may accompany stories as long as a patient permission form is signed and submit-

ted as well. Permission forms may be printed from the conference page at www.NANN.org. To enter the contest, e-mail your story to info@nann.org. All entries must be received by **Friday, April 24, 2009**.


The winning entry will be chosen by a drawing in May 2009, and its author will be notified immediately thereafter. The winning story will be printed in *NANN Central* and posted at www.NANN.org. Note: By submitting a story, you give NANN permission to reproduce it via the association's print and electronic media. 



Clinical Practice Guideline Template *continued from page 1*

the Conference on Guideline Standardization (COGS) statement. Both tools aim to promote quality in CPGs. The template provides instructions for writing CPGs that include specific and required content (e.g., abstract, focus, target population, and implementation considerations) as well as a rating system for the hierarchy of evidence (Levels I–VII).

Next Steps

The NANN CPG template will be posted on the NANN Web site, www.NANN.org, and made available to authors who are asked to develop CPGs for NANN. In addition, the board will create a mechanism for both identifying CPG opportunities and evaluating the quality of those submitted to NANN. 

For the latest career opportunities,

visit NANN Career Central at www.NANN.org. Click on "Education/ Jobs," then "Career Central."



Your ad could be here!

Reach 7,000+ neonatal nurses by advertising in *NANN Central*. Please call 847/375-3673 for information.

Collaboration and Outreach

NANN Participates in the Nursing Organizations Alliance

Susan Reinartz, MSN RN NNP-BC, NANN President-Elect

The Nursing Organizations Alliance (NOA) is a coalition of nursing organizations united to create a strong voice for nurses. The Alliance provides a forum for identification, education, and collaboration, building on issues of common interest to advance the nursing profession. The National Association of Neonatal Nurses (NANN) has been a member of NOA since 2003. Each November, NANN's executive director and president or president-elect join other organizations' representatives for 3 days of education, discussion, and planning. This year, the meeting was held in Albuquerque, NM, where featured topics included the critical role of nursing in driving value and quality in health care, nurses as leaders in patient safety, building alliances as a strategy to enhance advocacy, engaging younger members in the association, and enhancing organizational effectiveness.


At the meeting, Dr. Charles Denham, founder and chairman of Texas Medical Institute of Technology and chairman of Leapfrog Group Safe Practices Programs, discussed quality issues in health care. He acknowledged that healthcare providers are bombarded by

multiple quality and safety regulations as well as the demands of certifying, purchasing, and quality organizations. Sometimes these demands seem far removed from the front line of patient care. We must have leadership, resources, and a healthcare system that supports having a real impact on quality improvement. As frontline patient-care providers, nurses must be leaders in this arena.

Rosemary Gibson, coauthor of *Wall of Silence: The Untold Story of the Medical Mistakes That Kill and Injure Millions of Americans*, presented multiple examples of the pivotal role that nurses play as leaders in patient safety. Proactive examples included nurses' roles in the establishment of rapid response teams and in preventing harm from such occurrences as falls and medication errors. Nurses are leading the transformation of hospitals to build a just culture. Gibson related stories of the human cost of medical errors borne by people who were injured or killed by them. In the aftermath of medical error, families want full disclosure, non-abandonment of the patient and family, and nonabandonment of the involved clinician. Families emphasized the need to find the

root cause and prevent the same mistake from happening again. The public is becoming increasingly aware of the need to be active in the healthcare process as well as the need to be advocates for both themselves and their families. When full disclosure and root-cause analysis occur, families are likely to continue to seek health care with the same care provider or healthcare institution.

Several breakout sessions offered information to help continued association development, such as reaching out to younger members and building coalitions for advocacy. In addition, members of the Congress on Nursing Practice and Economics (CNPE), of which NANN is an organizational affiliate, met to receive an update on CNPE work, such as safe-staffing initiatives.

Membership in NOA and attendance at the annual NOA meeting have not only given NANN resources for continuing to strengthen the association, but also given NANN the opportunity to represent to the larger world of nursing the needs and concerns of neonatal nurses and the unique needs of neonatal patients. 

NANN Calendar

E-NANN

www.nann.org

OVATION Neonatal Nursing Career Path Scholarship Application Deadline

Information at www.NANN.org

March 16, 2009

NANN Annual Awards Nominations Deadline

Information at www.NANN.org

June 1, 2009

NANN 25th Annual Educational Conference

Austin, TX

September 23-26, 2009

7th International Neonatal Nurses Conference

Sponsored by the Neonatal Nursing Association of Southern Africa and the Council of International Neonatal Nurses


Durban, South Africa

www.nnasa.org.za

October 24-27, 2010

Look for chapter meeting dates at www.NANN.org.

Member News

Mary Anne Hufnagle, BS RN, is the 2008 recipient of the Pennsylvania State Nurses Association (PSNA) Courage, Commitment, and Compassion Award. She received this honor in recognition of the extraordinary professionalism and superior care she has long demonstrated in the care of neonates and their families. According to her colleagues, Mary Anne represents so clearly what it means to be a nurse. She has always been a powerful advocate for babies, parents, and nurses in the NICU. Her life work reflects caring, compassion, and commitment. Mary Anne works at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children in Philadelphia and is a member of the Delaware Valley Association of Neonatal Nurses (DVANN) chapter of NANN. 



NANN Central Online Supplement

Visit www.NANN.org to access the online supplement to this issue of *NANN Central*. Online articles include the following:

- Brighter Tomorrows Story Contest Submission, "Precious Time"
- Chapter News
- Unity Meeting Addresses Nursing, Health, and the Environment
- Getting Involved: The Nurse in Washington Internship
- Thank You, 2008 NANN Volunteers
- Don't Miss an Important E-Mail Message from NANN



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