The Academy will be accepting nominations for the COVID-19 Courage Award in Policy, Leadership, Innovation, and Science through September 8, 2020. Nurses do not need to be a Fellow to be nominated! This award was made possible through the generous support of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Learn more here.

Fellow Highlights

David Thompson, PhD, MBA, MA, RN, FRCN, FAAN co-authored an article in The BMJ titled “Nightingale’s year of nursing: rising to the challenges of the covid-19 era.”

Pamela Cipriano, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN, co-authored commentary in NAM Perspectives titled “Stigma Compounds the Consequences of Clinician Burnout During COVID-19: A Call to Action to Break the Culture of Silence.”

Rita Pickler, PhD, RN, FAAN, Tondi Harrison, PhD, RN, FAAN, and Michele Balas, PhD, RN, CCRN-K, FCCM, FAAN, co-authored an article in Nursing Inquiry titled “Losing Touch,” on the challenges of providing holistic care to patients during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Vietnam Veterans of American (VVA) published a report, developed in part by Linda Schwartz, DrPh, RN, FAAN, Special Advisor, VVA National President, titled “America's Aging Veteran Population and the COVID-19 Pandemic.”

Featured Fellow

As nurses and other frontline healthcare workers continue to fight the global pandemic—which has disproportionately impacted Black, Latinx, and underrepresented as well as vulnerable communities—ethical challenges have become an invisible barrier to care. Total health systems have been upended as they continue to grapple with a lack of knowledge surrounding the virus, questions around triage protocols, inadequate supplies, and challenges to providing equitable care. Connie Ulrich, PhD, RN, FAAN, Lillian S. Brunner Chair in Medical and Surgical Nursing and Professor Nursing at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, co-authored an article in the American Journal Of Bioethics, Empirical Bioethics titled “COVID-19: Advancing
Empirical Bioethics Research” to discuss these and other challenges frontline nurses are facing as the pandemic rages on.

The authors conclude, “Better understanding the experiences, views, values, and expectations of stakeholders across diverse communities can ensure that the bioethics community—along with policymakers, public health and healthcare systems, and research institutions—is better prepared during the months and years that lie ahead as we tackle the problems raised by COVID-19 and future pandemics.” Read more.

News & Updates from National Organizations

Number of Emergency and Medical Workers per 100,000 People Across America

The 50 U.S. metropolitan areas with the most emergency and medical workers per 100,000 people.

American Nurses Association (ANA) recorded a webinar titled “Disease Progression and Nursing Interventions” as part of the ANA COVID-19 Webinar Series.

The Associated Press (AP) published an article titled “US agency vows steps to address COVID-19 inequalities.”

International Council of Nurses (ICN) published an article titled “International Council of Nurses calls on public to support nurses.” ICN announced a new report on COVID-19 and nurses supply. Read the report.

Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF) published an article titled “It’s Back-to-School amid COVID-19, and Mothers Especially Are Feeling the Strain.” KFF published an article titled “What Do We Know About Children and Coronavirus Transmission?”

Kaiser Health News (KHN) published an article titled “Over 900 Health Workers Have Died of COVID-19. And
The Toll Is Rising.”

National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) released a consensus study report titled “Genomic Epidemiology Data Infrastructure Needs for SARS-CoV-2: Modernizing Pandemic Response Strategies.” Read the recommendations.

NASEM will host a webinar titled “Airborne Transmission of SARS-CoV-2: A Virtual Workshop” on Wednesday, August 26th and Thursday, August 27th.

NASEM’s Committee on Equitable Allocation of Vaccine for the Novel Coronavirus recorded its third meeting for public viewing. NASEM’s Standing Committee on Emerging Infectious Diseases and 21st Century Health Threats recorded three webinars titled “Overview of the Rapid Expert Consultation on Staffing Considerations for Crisis Standards of Care for the COVID-19 Pandemic.”

National Academy of Medicine (NAM) published a statement about the delay of the 2020-2030 Future of Nursing Campaign for Action in order to include recommendations related to COVID-19. In coordination, NAM will host a webinar titled “Nursing’s Role in Health Equity, Public Health Emergencies, and COVID-19 – Critical Issues for The Future of Nursing 2020-2030” on Thursday, August 20th at 2:00 PM ET.

NAM and the American Public Health Association (APHA) recorded a webinar titled “Returning to K-12 Education: Using Science to Keep Children, Teachers and Staff Safe.”


World Health Organization (WHO) updated the “COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Progress Report - 1 February to 30 June 2020.” WHO continues to release a weekly report detailing the research, funding, and efforts underway in the fight against COVID-19.

Federal Government Response

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

- CDC recorded two webinars titled “COVID-19 & Telehealth Implementation: Stories from the Field” and “COVID-19 Laboratory Reporting Requirements.”
- CDC will host a webinar titled “2020-2021 Influenza Vaccination Recommendations and Clinical Guidance During the COVID-19 Pandemic.”
- CDC continues to release guidance on a range of issues as states reopen including “Guidance for K-12 School Administrators on the Use of Cloth Face Coverings in School” and “Implementing Filtering Facepiece Respirator (FFR) Reuse, Including Reuse after Decontamination, When There Are Known Shortages of N95 Respirators.”
- CDC continues to update data on the number of COVID-19 cases and deaths in the United States.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)
CMS announced a policy that will allow issuers to offer temporary premium reductions for individuals with 2020 coverage in the individual and small group markets as a result of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) public health emergency (PHE).

CMS announced changes to expand telehealth, consistent with the Executive Order on Improving Rural and Telehealth Access that President Trump signed.

CMS implemented new procedure codes to allow Medicare and other insurers to identify the use of the therapeutics remdesivir and convalescent plasma for treating hospital in-patients with COVID-19.

CMS announced that payment is available to physicians and health care providers to counsel patients, at the time of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) testing, about the importance of self-isolation after they are tested and prior to the onset of symptoms.

CMS released its first monthly update of data that provides a snapshot of the impact of COVID-19 on the Medicare population.

CMS continues to hold calls with clinicians, hospitals, other facilities, and states in an effort to keep stakeholders updated on COVID-19 efforts. Find more general information on COVID-19.

Department for Health and Human Services (HHS)

- HHS and Department of Defense (DoD) announced an agreement with Moderna, Inc. to manufacture and deliver 100 million doses of the company’s COVID-19 vaccine candidate.
- HHS publicly posted the July through December COVID-19 Testing Plans from all states, territories, and localities on HHS.gov. To view each state’s, territory’s, and locality’s plan, visit this website.
- HHS announced the details of the next CARES Act-authorized nursing home Provider Relief Fund (PRF) distribution.
- HHS and DoD announced an agreement with the Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson, to demonstrate large-scale manufacturing and delivery of the company’s COVID-19 vaccine candidate.
- HHS announced that more than 59 million COVID-19 tests have now been completed nationally – averaging over 810,000 per day over the past seven days.
- HHS and DoD announced agreements with Sanofi and GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) to support advanced development including clinical trials and large-scale manufacturing of 100 million doses of a COVID-19 investigational adjuvanted vaccine.
- HHS released a series of public service announcements (PSAs) and announced over $8 million in digital, radio, and out-of-home advertisements to support a broader Trump Administration effort imploring Americans to donate their plasma and help save lives.
- HHS released a new report showing the dramatic utilization trends of telehealth services for primary care delivery in Fee-for-Service (FFS) Medicare in the early days of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.
- HHS, Department of Energy (DOE), and DoD announced the formation of the COVID-19 Insights Partnership, an initiative to coordinate and share health data as well as research and expertise to aid in the fight against COVID-19.
- HHS reserved the available advanced manufacturing capability and capacities of the Center for Innovation in Advanced Development and Manufacturing (CIADM) at the Texas A&M University System for use in manufacturing COVID-19 vaccines.
- HHS and DoD awarded an undefinized contract action with a ceiling of $7.6 million awarded to Hologic Inc. to expand production of custom sample collection and processing consumables for COVID-19 testing.
Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

- Dr. Stephen Hahn, MD, Commissioner of Food and Drugs, recorded a speech on the critical role of health care professionals during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- FDA will host a virtual Town Hall for clinical laboratories and commercial manufacturers that are developing or have developed diagnostic tests for SARS-CoV-2 on Wednesday, August 19th at 12:15 - 1:15 PM ET.
- FDA recorded a webinar on the FDA’s regulation of face masks and surgical masks during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- FDA authorized the first two COVID-19 serology tests that display an estimated quantity of antibodies present in the individual’s blood.
- FDA posted a new template for at-home and over-the-counter diagnostic tests for use in non-lab settings, such as homes, offices, or schools.
- FDA reissued its warning about dangerous alcohol-based hand sanitizers containing methanol, and took additional action to address concerning products.
- FDA released the sixth episode of its podcast titled “FDA Insight: Vaccines for COVID-19, Part 2.”

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

- NIH announced two Phase 3, randomized, placebo-controlled, double-blind clinical trials testing whether experimental monoclonal antibodies (mAbs) can prevent infection by SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus are now enrolling healthy adults at clinical trial sites in the United States.
- NIH announced the clinical trial testing remdesivir plus interferon beta-1a for COVID-19 treatment has begun.
- NIH launched the Medical Imaging and Data Resource Center (MIDRC), an ambitious effort that will harness the power of artificial intelligence and medical imaging to fight COVID-19.
- NIH announced an investment of $248.7 million in new technologies to address challenges associated with COVID-19 testing (which detects SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus).
- NIH announced the Phase 3 clinical trial designed to evaluate if an investigational vaccine can prevent symptomatic coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in adults has begun for the vaccine known as mRNA-1273.

National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease (NIAID)

- NIAID announced the NIH-Moderna investigational COVID-19 vaccine shows promise in mouse studies.
- NIAID launched a clinical trial to test antibody treatment in hospitalized COVID-19 patients.
- NIAID announced an experimental COVID-19 vaccine that protects upper and lower airways in nonhuman primates.

National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)

- Dr. Nora Volkow, MD, Director, published a blog titled "Research at the Intersection of HIV with Substance Use Disorders amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic."
Kristen Choi, PhD, RN and Anna Dermenchyan, MSN, RN, CCRN-K, two of the Academy’s Jonas Policy Scholars, co-authored an article in STAT titled “The nursing science behind nurses as coronavirus hospital heroes.”

The Academy will be accepting art submissions from Fellows through September 1, 2020. Learn more and submit your artwork here.