Dear Fellows,

First, let me begin by saying it is an honor to be your President. At the Academy’s Health Policy Conference and 50th Anniversary Celebration held just two weeks ago, I had the opportunity to share with many of you the commitment I make in assuming this incredibly important leadership role. I commit that we will collectively listen more deeply, think more critically, act more boldly, and embrace the opportunities in front of us. These actions are critical to advancing our mission to improve health and achieve health equity by impacting policy through nursing leadership, innovation, and science. As a policy organization, it is incumbent upon us to be a voice that champions evidence, compassion, and equity so that the public has access to the care they need. Together, we are building on the organization’s legacy of transforming the way individuals receive and experience care so that it is culturally-sensitive, backed by innovation, and follows evidence-based research. The organization’s next 50 years will be grounded in the work we’re doing now and the accomplishments we achieve collectively. As an Academy of Fellows, we are primed to heighten our impact and influence—and we will do it together.

Second, I want to acknowledge and share my deepest compassion to everyone who is feeling pain, sadness, and uncertainty as war has broken out between Israel and Hamas. This began on Saturday, October 7, 2023, during our annual conference, and the devastation and loss of life has only escalated since then. The situation unfolding in Israel and Gaza is horrifying and tragic. The death, violence, and injuries endured both physically and mentally by innocent Israeli and Palestinian civilians will have a long-term damaging impact on the global community. We are sending our deepest support to all the nurses and healthcare providers in the region providing compassion and care so greatly needed during these dire and dangerous circumstances. As nurses we keep humanitarian needs at the center of our work. Terrorism and violence must always be condemned, we must stand together against antisemitism and all forms of hatred and brutality.

The Academy hosted a timely session at our conference on Friday, October 6 discussing Armed Conflict from Onset to Recovery: Nursing’s Impact in Healing. As an Academy we know that armed conflict, war, and the reverberations of it, have a lasting impact on communities far beyond our comprehension. Drs. Donatilla Mukamana, Candy Wilson, and Billy Rosa helped shed light on the courage, humility, and humanity that so many nurses embody as they care for and build back up the lives destroyed by the evil forces of conflict. In April, the Board approved a proposal from the Global Nursing and Health Expert Panel titled Armed Conflict & Humanitarian Crises: Policies to Promote Equity in Healing and Health. While this paper is being drafted, the Academy Board has called on the Global Nursing and Health, Trauma & Violence, Military & Veterans Health, and Bioethics Expert Panels to prepare an Academy statement that discusses the imperatives of humanitarian aid, the safety of civilian and healthcare providers, and caring for those who experience extreme trauma to advise policy makers in their decisions as armed conflict currently plagues multiple global communities.
While the heaviness of war and the uncertainty of what is to come may freeze us momentarily, what breaks us out of the ice is hope, the care we have for each other, and the shared sense of direction. At the Academy’s conference, I was in awe by how many individuals approached me and offered encouraging remarks for the future they see ahead for the organization. The Fellowship felt connected. And while I know that there is still work to be done to make all voices heard and ensure the visibility of all Fellows within the organization, it is my intent to listen and act. Next year, 2024, will mark the organization’s final arc of its three-year anniversary, focused on envisioning the future. Under my presidency, we will be working on our own statement to acknowledge where the Academy has fallen short of being an inclusive organization. This will be an important step to drive us into the next 50 years of impact and influence.

As I reflect on the conference and our 50th anniversary, I wanted to acknowledge two of the many questions that I received during and following the event. First, who were the amazing performers for the 50th anniversary reflection and celebration? We were incredibly fortunate to work with a community of vocalists called NEWorks Voices of America, the choir which provided voice that lifted us up (literally and figuratively). The soprano Victoria Purcell-Coan, tenor Roy Patten, Jr., and the NEWorks Voices of America choir, comprised of professional vocalists from throughout the DC, Maryland, and Virginia area, along with choristers from Howard University and Archbishop Carroll High School, performed under the leadership of Nolan Williams, Jr. I want to personally acknowledge their incredible contribution to this event. It is with great pride that we also had two Fellows offer an artistic voice to the celebration. I know many of you were blown away by Fellow Dr. Kenya Beard’s reflection and reading of *The Cold Within* by James Patrick Kinney. And of course, the remarkable jazz saxophone performance by Fellow Dr. Stephan Davis. We were grateful to have Fellows and community members help us ring in this momentous year.

Another question I received was sparked by our panel on Artificial Intelligence (AI). I was asked if the Academy has a position on AI. During the Academy’s Board meeting on Wednesday, October 4, the Board adopted the following statement in relation to AI and the Fellowship application:

> The American Academy of Nursing prohibits the use of generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies in preparing application responses (for both applicant and sponsor) as it violates the Academy’s value of integrity.

This will be adopted for all Academy applications (Academy Fellows, Living Legends, Honorary Fellows, and Edge Runners). Additionally, the Board approved the creation of an AI Task Force to further consider the organization’s policy on the use of AI. A proposed charge for the Task Force will come to the Board later this year and the work will launch in 2024. Please be sure to review the Fellowship application guidelines, which also includes information regarding the Academy’s deferral policy for new Fellow inductees. As communicated on September 22, 2023, we have made modifications to reviewing international applications by creating a special subcommittee of the Fellow Selection Committee and will now require one Fellow to hold membership in the American Nurses Association as outlined in the Academy’s bylaws.
I want to close with great appreciation to the volunteer leaders who made this year’s conference such a resounding success. Dr. Joanne Disch, Chair of the 50th Anniversary Committee and its members; Drs. Ellen Kurtzman, Chair, and Maria Danet Lapiz Bluhm, Vice Chair, of the Policy Conference Planning Advisory Committee and its members; and Drs. Gaudria Banister, Chair and Hussein Tahan, Vice Chair of the Institute for Nursing Leadership National Advisory Council and its members. I also want to acknowledge the Academy’s professional staff who helped ensure this year’s event was outstanding.

Finally, again, I want to recognize Dr. Ken White and his incredible leadership and friendship over the last two years. As the Academy’s first male president, he broke a glass ceiling in our organization. He created a culture of belonging, challenged all of us to be Nurses Out Loud, and embraced inclusivity at every turn. I look forward to him bringing his rich talents to serving as Chair of the Nominating Committee and Living Legends Task Force in his role as immediate Past-President. I know Dr. Debra Barksdale our new President-Elect and myself, as well as the new and returning Board members, look forward to the next two years of progress together.

Sincerely,

Linda D. Scott, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, FNAP, FAAN
President

Rheba de Tornyay Development Fund

We are proud to acknowledge the generosity of our supporters and their commitment to the Academy. The list below represents supporters who have made either restricted or unrestricted gifts to the Rheba de Tornyay Development Fund at the President’s Circle level of $1,000 and above in the month of September. All gifts to the Academy support the organization’s policy work and help make sure our voice is influencing policy actions that directly impact health and health care.

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Your gift, at a level that is meaningful to you, is truly appreciated and is a critical investment in the future of health policy. The Academy is an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and your financial gift is tax deductible to the fullest extent allowable by law.

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Academy News & Upcoming Events

2023 Health Policy Conference

Celebrating 50 Years of Leadership, Policy, and Partnerships

American Academy of Nursing  |  October 5–7

The 2023 Health Policy Conference took place on October 5-7, 2023 in Washington, DC. At the conference, the Academy recognized 6 nurse leaders as Living Legends, honored 7 remarkable Award Recipients, awarded 4 Edge Runner models, and inducted 4 Honorary Fellows as well as 260 new Fellows into the Academy.
Fellow Achievements

**Cherry Beasley**, PhD, MS, FNP, RN, CNE, FAAN, Acting Deputy Provost, and the first nursing faculty member at University of North Carolina Pembroke, is retiring after dedicating 31 years to educating students and service to the nursing profession.

Dr. Beasley was inducted into the Academy in 2020.

**Patricia Benner**, PhD, RN, FAAN, has been named the recipient of the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s Margreeta Madden Styles President’s Award.

Dr. Benner was inducted into the Academy in 1985 and named a Living Legend in 2011.

**Susie Breitenstein**, PhD, RN, FNAP, FAAN, was appointed The Ohio State College of Nursing’s Senior Associate Dean for Research and Innovation.

Dr. Breitenstein was inducted into the Academy in 2017 and has been a CANS member since 2010. She currently serves on the Child, Adolescent, and Family as well as the Psychiatric, Mental Health, and Substance Use Expert Panels.
Marilyn Dubree, MSN, RN, NE-BC, FAAN, is retiring from her role as Executive Chief Nursing Officer of Vanderbilt University Medical Center. Dr. Dubree was inducted into the Academy in 2022. She serves on the Building Health Care System Excellence Expert Panel.

Betty Ferrell, PhD, RN, MA, FAAN, FPCN, CHPN, Director and Professor of Nursing Research and Education at City of Hope National Medical Center in Duarte, California, has been named the recipient of Villanova University’s Mendel Medal. Dr. Ferrell will present the Mendel Medal lecture, titled “Spiritual Care as an Essential Domain of Quality Patient Care,” on Friday, November 17.

Dr. Ferrell was inducted into the Academy in 1989, named a Living Legend in 2021, and has been a CANS member since 2009.

Karen B. Lasater, PhD, RN, FAAN, Associate Professor, University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing’s Department of Biobehavioral Health Sciences, has been appointed the Jessie M. Scott Term Chair in Nursing and Health Policy.

Dr. Lasater was inducted into the Academy in 2021. She currently serves on the Building Health Care System Excellence and Quality Health Care Expert Panels.

Irene Macyk, PhD, MSN, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN, has been appointed as Executive Director of South Shore University Hospital, Northwell Health, effective Winter 2023.

Dr. Macyk was inducted into the Academy in 2021.

Cindy L. Munro, PhD, RN, ANP-BC, FAAN, FAANP, FAAAS, Dean of the School of Nursing and Health Studies at the University of Miami will step down in May and undertake a year of sabbatical.

Dr. Munro was inducted into the Academy in 2005 and has been a CANS member since 2008. She serves on the Acute and Critical Care Expert Panel.

Barbara L. Nichols, DNSc (Hon), MS, RN, FAAN, has been selected as the inaugural recipient of the University of Wisconsin–Madison School of Nursing’s Canary Savage Girardeau Award for Health Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion.

Dr. Nichols was inducted into the Academy in 1986 and named a Living Legend in 2010. She serves on the 50th Anniversary Planning Committee.
Joy A. Richards, RN, PhD, FAAN, VP Patient Experience & Chief Nurse Executive, University Health Network, is retiring after 43 years in nursing.

Dr. Richards was inducted into the Academy in 2019.

Diane Von Ah, PhD, RN, FAAN, has been named to The Ohio State University College of Nursing’s prestigious Mildred E. Newton Endowed Professorship.

Dr. Von Ah was inducted into the Academy in 2014 and has been a CANS member since 2008. She currently serves on the Aging and Women’s Health Expert Panels.

Roberta Waite, EdD, PMHCNS, ANEF, FAAN, Dean of the Georgetown University School of Nursing, received the President’s Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Black Nurses Association.

Dr. Waite was inducted into the Academy in 2011. She currently serves on the Psychiatric, Mental Health, and Substance Use Expert Panel.

Fellow Highlights

Congratulations to the American Academy of Nursing Fellows honored by the Friends of the National Institute of Nursing Research at their 30th Annual Nightingala:

- **Margaret Heitkemper**, PhD, RN, FAAN, Ada Sue Hinshaw Nurse Scholar Award
- **Cheryl Himmelfarb**, PhD, RN, FAAN, Faye Glenn Abdallah Leadership Award
- **Kathryn H. Bowles**, PhD, RN, FAAN, FACMI, Welch/Woerner Path-Paver Award
- **Dianne Morrison-Beedy**, PhD, RN, WHNP, CGNC, FFNMRCRS, FNAP, FAANP, FAAN, President’s Award
- **Paule V. Joseph**, PhD, EMBA, CRNP, FAAN, Protégé Award
- **Veronica Barcelona**, PhD, MSN, RN, PHNA-BC, former Jonas Policy Scholar, Protégé Award

**Melissa Batchelor**, PhD, RN-BC, FNP-BC, FGSA, FAAN, was featured in a segment "Fighting Ageism and "The Golden Bachelor" Impact" on Good Morning Washington.

**Roxana Chicas**, PhD, RN, FAAN, is featured in a Medpage Today article, "Heat-Related Illness Among Farmworkers: How Nurses Can Help," several of the points made during the panel discussion she presented during the 2023 Health Policy Conference.

**Linda S. Franck**, PhD, RN, FRCPCH, FAAN, is the lead author of the *Journal of Public Health Management and Practice* article, "A Qualitative Analysis of Low-Income Pregnant and Parenting Caregivers' Experiences With Home Visiting in California During the First 2 Years of the COVID-19 Pandemic."

**Deborah Gross**, DNSc, RN, FAAN received an R01 award for the project "Strengthening Parenting, Young Children's Social-Behavioral Competence, and Kindergarten Readiness in Schools Serving Low-Income Communities."

**Elizabeth Gatewood**, DNP, RN, FAAN, was quoted in Government Technology’s article “VR Gaining Traction in Nursing, Medical Education Programs.”

**Charlene Harrington**, PhD, RN, FAAN, was cited in the Mirror’s article “Nursing Homes Will Have Staff Requirements For the First Time. What Will Change?”

**Pam Jones**, DNP, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN, is the project director of a four-year, $2.8 million Health Resources and Services Administration Bureau of Health Workforce grant focused on a primary care nurse practitioner
In Memoriam

Judith Lothian, PhD, RN, LCCE, FACCE, FAAN, Professor, Seton Hall University, passed away on September 11, 2023.

Dr. Lothian was a nurse, professor, scholar, researcher, editor, childbirth educator, advocate for birthing women, world traveler, mentor, and matriarch. She started her nursing career in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at New York Hospital. Dr. Lothian was an internationally recognized expert on birth and breastfeeding, serving as the Chair of the Certification Council for Lamaze International, and associate editor of the Journal of Perinatal Education, and as co-author of The Official Lamaze Guide: Giving Birth with Confidence. She began her career at Seton Hall in 2000 as an associate professor in the undergraduate College of Nursing and in 2016 was promoted to full professor in the graduate department of the College of Nursing, serving as chair of that department for almost ten years.

Dr. Lothian was inducted into the Academy in 2015.

Read more

Albert A. Rundio, Jr., PhD, DNP, RN, APRN, NEA-BC, FNAP, FAAN, Clinical Professor of Nursing Emeritus, Drexel University College of Nursing and Health Professions, passed away September 28, 2023.

Dr. Rundio began his career over 50 years ago as an orderly in the Emergency Room at Shore Medical Center, where he worked while attending nursing school, eventually becoming the Vice President of Nursing. Dr. Rundio served in various positions at Drexel University later in his career while practicing as a nurse practitioner in several chemical-dependency treatment centers throughout southern New Jersey. He was awarded the Governor’s Nursing Merit Award for Advanced Practice Nursing in New Jersey in 1999 and was a past president of the International Nurses Society on Addictions.

Dr. Rundio was inducted into the Academy in 2015.

Read more

Employment Opportunities

Dean, School of Nursing and Associate Vice Chancellor of Nursing Affairs, University of California, San Francisco (UCSF)

UCSF, one of the world’s premier institutions devoted to life sciences in healthcare, seeks the next Dean of the School of Nursing and Associate Vice Chancellor of Nursing Affairs. UCSF is dedicated to advancing health worldwide through cutting-edge biomedical research, top-ranked graduate education, and excellence in patient care. UCSF has retained Isaacson, Miller (IM), a national executive search firm, to assist in the search. Inquiries, nominations, and referrals can be submitted via the IM website: https://apptrkr.com/4492272.
Applicants must also apply and provide the required materials (CV, statement of diversity, and cover letter) via the UC website at [https://aprecruit.ucsf.edu/JPF04686](https://aprecruit.ucsf.edu/JPF04686).

UCSF seeks candidates whose experience, teaching, research, or community service has prepared them to contribute to our commitment to diversity and excellence. The University of California is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, age or protected veteran status.

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