March has arrived, and I hope you’re seeing early signs of spring. The natural cycles and rhythms of seasons help us keep things in perspective, reflect the patterns of growth and change in our own lives, and teach us about the pacing and flow of energy; songs like “It Might As Well Be Spring” illustrate that. And as every year goes by, we experience the seasons a little differently; “Summertime” may not always mean “...when the livin’ is easy.”

March provides a particular opportunity to rethink something important: developmental disabilities, and how we understand and talk about them. In declaring March to be Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, President Reagan said, “For many of these people with developmental disabilities, there is now the prospect of a brighter future and greater opportunity. Americans are becoming increasingly aware that such disabilities need not keep individuals from realizing their full potential in school, at work or at home, as members of their families and of their communities.” This year, the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) has chosen an inspirational theme for 2023: “Beyond the Conversation”—moving from discussion to action. They hope to “raise awareness about the inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in all facets of community life...and of the barriers that people with disabilities still sometimes face in connecting to the communities in which they live.”

That theme—“Beyond the Conversation”—conveys an important call to action to advance inclusion and togetherness for people who have developmental disabilities. It also invites reconsideration of what goes into a conversation about disabilities—the words and phrases we use. As a society, we have made uneven progress on the language used to discuss disabilities (just as we have made uneven progress in the language we use regarding people’s identities). The American Psychological Association reminds us that “disability represents a form of diversity” and that “how to sensitively refer to members of diverse groups is important.”
People of good will can differ on “people first” versus “identity first” language—“person with a disability” or “disabled person.” What matters most is to use the language that an individual person prefers.

How far have we come in how we think, talk, and act regarding disabilities in general, and developmental disabilities in particular? How much do we understand about the physical, learning, language, or behavioral differences that define them? The Centers for Disease Control estimates that one in six American children has a developmental disability or delay—attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), autism spectrum disorders, cerebral palsy, Tourette’s syndrome, or an intellectual, learning, or language disorder. Do we know enough about them and their experience, not only in childhood, but also as they mature and become adults?

Systems, social norms, or labels can be limiting to a person’s success when their strengths cannot shine. “Normal” and “abnormal,” for example, suggest a polarity that does not exist in real life; human beings, and their brains, work in different ways. The terms “neurotypical” and “neurodivergent” are descriptive without the judgment, critique, and good/bad implications of “normal” and “abnormal.” I wonder how often we think about how a neurodivergent individual may change our thinking or how we enhance our programs to welcome and celebrate the potential and contributions of people with developmental disabilities.

The importance of welcoming and affirming individuals with disabilities has a long history. In 1973, the Academy’s founding year, President Nixon signed the Rehabilitation Act [Pub. L. 93-112] into law; Section 504 of that act protects individuals from discrimination because of their disability. As noted by the Department of Health and Human Services, it guards against discrimination of “service availability, accessibility, delivery, employment, and the administrative activities and responsibilities of organizations receiving Federal financial assistance.” In the 50 years since then, we have become more conscious of protection from discrimination—and now we need to move beyond protection, like moving “beyond the conversation,” to truly celebrate people with disabilities and ensure that they can take full advantage of the educational, vocational, and social opportunities available to anyone else.

Closer to home, in the Academy’s Equity, Diversity and Inclusivity statement, we define diversity as affirming all the ways in which people differ. Inclusivity refers to the welcoming and active engagement of all voices within every aspect of the organization and with an intentional emphasis on acknowledging those who experience or have experienced marginalization or disenfranchisement. So this month in particular, I challenge all of us to pause and consider how we create disability inclusion in our personal and professional lives. What policies do we need to amend? What expectations do we need to re-assess? How do we become better champions of change?

The Academy is celebrating 50 years of history as our society celebrates 50 years of Section 504. Some of us may remember 1973 for the Vietnam war, or the infamous presidential claim “I am not a crook.” But as a policy organization, it is equally important to reflect on how we have come to support a community of individuals and celebrate their diversity—and on the work yet to be done. As the NACDD encourages us, let’s move “beyond the conversation” and continue to shape policies that uphold our vision of healthy lives for all people.

Sincerely,

Kenneth R. White, PhD, AGACNP, ACHPN, FACHE, FAAN
President

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**Board Approved Actions and Discussion Items**

- Approved the charge for and launched the International Task Force work to examine current trends in international applications for Fellowship to better understand the short and long-term impact for the organization. As part of the Task Force’s charge, the work will focus on:
  - Making recommendations to improve the evaluation of international applications.
  - Considering potential long-term trends in, and strategies for, international membership and how the Academy should respond in its efforts to create a diverse and inclusive membership, while maintaining the integrity of the Academy’s governing documents.
  - Reviewing the responsibilities and expectations of Fellows as outlined in the bylaw and make recommendations on ways to enhance international Fellowship engagement.
Approved four policy dialogues for the 2023-2024 series to be hosted by the Health Equity Expert Panel; Informatics and Technology Expert Panel; LGBTQ Health Expert Panel; and the Psychiatric, Mental Health, and Substance Use Expert Panel.

Approved the Violence Expert Panel’s name change to the Expert Panel on Trauma and Violence.

The Academy began working with a consulting firm to assess fundraising and development strategies.

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 February. 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.

Joanne Disch
William Holzemer
Susan Jeska*

*Founders’ Circle Member

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Academy News & Upcoming Events

FELLOW DUES RENEWAL

Grace Period through April 1st

Please contact Claire Holland at cholland@aannet.org with any questions.

DEMystifying THE GRANT REVIEW PROCESS

MARCH 8, 2023

Hosted by the CANS Mid-Career Special Interest Group and CANS Science Committee

REGISTER
Ifeyinwa Asiodu, PhD, RN, FAAN, Associate Professor at the UCSF School of Nursing, has been appointed to the National Academies of Sciences Engineering and Medicine’s Committee on Developing a Framework to Address Legal, Ethical, Regulatory and Policy Issues for Research Specific to Pregnant and Lactating Persons.

Dr. Asiodu was inducted into the Academy in 2021. She currently serves on the Breastfeeding Expert Panel.

Christopher Lance Coleman, PhD, MS, MPH, BS, AS, FAAN, PMHCNS-BC, Mark & Maureen Miller Head & Professor, Purdue School of Nursing, West Lafayette Campus, has been named Dean of the Oakland University School of Nursing, Rochester, MI. Dr. Coleman will begin his tenure in late spring 2023.

Dr. Coleman was inducted into the Academy in 2007 and has been a CANS member since 2021. He currently serves on the Health Equity Expert Panel.

Terri Marin, PhD, NNP-BC, FAAN, FAANP, Associate Professor, Augusta University, was promoted to Associate Professor with Tenure and named Neonatal Editor for the Journal of Neonatal and Perinatal Nursing. Dr. Marin has also been named the Distinguished Scholar Fellow for the National Academies of Practice.

Dr. Marin was inducted into the Academy in 2020.

Karen S. Moore, DNP, APRN, ANP-BC, FNP-C, FAANP, FAAN, Associate Professor, St. Louis University, has been awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to develop a DNP curriculum in Ireland.

Dr. Moore was inducted into the Academy in 2019. She currently serves on the Global Nursing and Health; Emerging and Infectious Disease; and Health Equity Expert Panels.
Mary A. Nies, PhD, RN, FAAN, FAAHB, Special Assistant to the Dean College of Health for Grant Writing, Professor Tenured, Joint Appointment MPH Program, Idaho State University College of Health, has been named the recipient of the Western Institute of Nursing’s 2023 Distinguished Research Lectureship Award.

Dr. Nies was inducted into the Academy in 1994. She currently serves on the Health Behavior Expert Panel.

JoNell Efantis Potter, PhD, RN, FAAN, Professor of Clinical Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences at the University of Miami, Miller School of Medicine, has been appointed to the National Academies of Sciences Engineering and Medicine’s Committee on Developing a Framework to Address Legal, Ethical, Regulatory and Policy Issues for Research Specific to Pregnant and Lactating Persons.

Dr. Potter was inducted into the Academy in 2017.

Sarah Szanton, PhD, RN, FAAN, Dean, Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing, testified before the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee for a hearing titled "Examining Health Care Workforce Shortages: Where Do We Go From Here?"

Dr. Szanton was inducted into the Academy in 2014 and has been a CANS member since 2020. She currently serves on the Expert Panel on Aging.

Do you have an achievement to share? Submit your news through the FAAN Mail Submission Form.

Fellow Highlights

Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing has established a Term Professorship for Rising Faculty (Rising Professorship). This three-year period of funding for emerging and distinguished faculty has been awarded to Kamila Alexander, PhD, MSN/MPH, RN, Teresa Brockie, PhD, MSN, RN, FAAN, Yvonne Commodore-Mensah, PhD, MHS, RN, FAHA, FPCNA, FAAN, Laura Samuel, PhD, MSN, RN, FAAN, and Janiece Taylor, PhD, MSN, RN, FAAN.

The Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing at Case Western Reserve University hosted a conversation with nursing experts Barbara Nichols, DHL, MS, RN, FAAN, Betty Smith Williams, DrPH, RN, FAAN, and May Wykle, PhD, RN, FAAN, FGSA, as part of the school’s Black History Month celebrations.

The National Advisory Council on Nurse Education and Practice (NACNEP) published the report "Preparing the Nursing Workforce for Future Public Health Challenges." Fellows who are members of NACNEP include Meredith Kazer, PhD, APRN-BC, FAAN, Janice Phillips, PhD, RN, CENP, FAAN, and Carolyn Porta, PhD, MPH, RN, SANE-A, FAAN, FNAP.
The New York University Rory Meyers College of Nursing and Howard University College of Nursing and Allied Health Sciences will host a dinner and research symposium in honor of the legacy of Bernadine Mays Lacey, EdD, RN, FAAN, and her contributions to health equity on March 28. Register here.

Kelly McGlothen-Bell, PhD, RN, IBCLC, and Jacqueline M. McGrath, PhD, RN, FNAP, FAAN, are coauthors of the article, "Applying a Reproductive Justice Lens to Enhance Research Engagement Among Systematically Underrepresented Childbearing Women" published in the Journal of Nursing Research.

Kathleen Brewer-Smyth, PhD, RN, MSN, CRRN, FAAN authored the book Adverse Childhood Experiences: The Neuroscience of Trauma, Resilience and Healing throughout the Life Course.

Linda Burnes Bolton, DrPH, RN, FAAN, is featured in the profile "A People Person" by Diverse Issues in Higher Education.

Stephen Ferrara, DNP, FNP-BC, FAANP, FAAN, has been named one of the 2023 Health Care Power 100, New York's leaders who are saving lives across the state.


Charlene Harrington, PhD, RN, FAAN, was quoted in MarketWatch’s article “At One of the Nation’s Largest Nursing Homes, Impending Transfer of Residents Puts Them at Risk, Advocates Say.”

Orlando Harris, PhD, MPH, FAAN, is the first author of the paper, "Understanding the Concept of Trust and Other Factors Related to COVID-19 Vaccine Intentions Among Black/African American Older Adults Prior to Vaccine Development" published in Qualitative Research in Health.

Susan Hassmiller, PhD, RN, FAAN, has coauthored the book Taking Action: Top 10 Priorities to Promote Health Equity and Well-Being in Nursing. Fellows Kupiri Ackerman-Barger, PhD, RN, CNE, ANEF, FAAN, Gaurdia Banister, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN, Cyrus Batheja, EdD, MBA, BSN, RN, PHN, FAAN, David C. Benton, PhD, RN, FFFF, FRCN, FAAN, J. Margo Brooks Carthon, PhD, APRN, FAAN, Billy A. Caceres, PhD, RN, FAHA, FAAN, Garrett K. Chan, PhD, RN, APRN, FAEN, FPCN, FNAP, FCNS, FAANP, FAAN, Pamela F. Cipriano, PhD, RN, FAAN, Robin Cogan, Med, RN, NCSN, FAAN, Yvonne Commodore-Mensah, PhD, MHS, RN, FAAN, FAHA, FPNA, Martha A. Dawson, DNP, RN, FAAN, Mary Joy Garcia-Diaz, DNP, RN, FAAN, Rosa Gonzalez-Guarda, PhD, MPH, RN, CPH, FAAN, Wallena “Lena” Gould, EdD, CRNA, FAAN, FAAN, Ernest Grant, PhD, DSc(h), RN, FAAN, Paule V. Joseph, PhD, RN, FAAN, FAAAH, Donna Meyer, MSN, RN, ANEF, FAADN, FAAN, Rear Admiral Aisha K. Mix, DNP, MPH, RN, NHPD-BC, FAAN, Adriana Perez, PhD, CRNP, ANP-BC, FAAN, FGSA, Dame Anne Marie Rafferty, DPhil (Oxon), FAAN, FRCN, Cynda Hylton Rushton, PhD, RN, FAAN, Kathleen Sanford, DBA, RN, FAAN, FACHE, Linda D. Scott, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, FNAP, FAAN, Sarah L. Szanto, PhD, RN, FAAN, Sylvia Trent-Adams, PhD, RN, FAAN,FNAP, Antonia M. Villarruel, PhD, RN, FAAN, Rachel (Rae) Walker, PhD, RN, FAAN, Jing Wang, PhD, MPH, RN, FAAN, Maureen T. White, MBA, RN, NEA-BC, FNAP, FAAN, Launee Woolforde, EdD, DNP, RN, NPD-BC, NEA-BC, FAAN, and Deborah T. Zimmermann, DNP, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN were contributing authors.

Oi Saeng Hong, PhD, RN, FAAN, is the senior author of the article "Association of Occupational Stress With Tinnitus Among Career Firefighters in the United States," published in the Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine.

Kim Kuebler, DNP, APRN, ANP-BC, FAAN, authored the articles “The nurse’s role in medication safety” and “Opioids: Follow the Evidence” in American Nurse.

Christine Miaskowski, PhD, RN, FAAN, and Yoshimi Fukuoka, PhD, RN, FAAN, are among the co-authors of the paper, “Quality of Life Among Colorectal Cancer Survivors Participating in a Pilot Randomized Controlled Trial of a Web-Based Dietary Intervention With Text Messages,” published in Supportive Care in Cancer.

Wendy Miller, PhD, RN, CCRN, FAAN and Barbara Glickstein, MPH, MS, RN, FAAN, are quoted in the Washington Post article "Why are nurses quitting? Ask the nurse no hospital will hire."

Lixin (Lee) Song, PhD, RN, FAAN, has received a Translational Science and Technology Acquisition and Retention (STARS) award in the amount of $600,000.
Barbara Brodie, PhD, RN, FAAN, Madge M. Jones Professor Emerita, University of Virginia, passed away February 9, 2023.

During her tenure at the University of Virginia, Dr. Brodie led the development of new Masters and Doctoral (PhD) programs in nursing. She was the guiding force in establishing UVA's Center for Nursing Historical Inquiry (now the Bjoring Center) and served as its founding director in 1991. Dr. Brodie received many awards for her accomplishments in nursing.

Dr. Brodie was inducted into the Academy in 1990 and named a Living Legend in 2009.

Antonia M. Villarruel, PhD, RN, FAAN, and Julie Sochalski, PhD, RN, FAAN, have authored a commentary "Advancing Primary Care with Underserved Communities: A Case Study of the Leonard A. Lauder Community Care Nurse Practitioner Program" in NAM Perspectives.

In Memoriam

Employment Opportunities

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