President’s Message: "How Can I Participate?"

In my FAAN mail message last month, I introduced the Academy leadership and asked that when called upon to participate with the Academy, you’ll say yes! I am committed to engaging our Fellows in the work of the Academy because this is where we can make a major difference in policy that impacts our profession and the health care system and population health. In order to participate, you need to know how and what. Therefore, in the upcoming columns we’ll choose the work of a particular initiative or Expert Panel to highlight in hopes that your interest is peaked.

For this month I want to feature the Environmental and Public Health Expert Panel. I am featuring this expert panel because they have had an incredibly productive year after undergoing a re-visioning of their area of emphasis and as a result changed their name and recruited new members. They also were successful in their request for a Jonas Policy Scholar and are in the process of working on two policy papers: “Recommendations to Reduce the Burden of Environmentally Associated Disease” and “Assuring a Strong Foundation for our Nation’s Public Health System”. Both papers are in development as either a policy brief or a manuscript. They joined with two other expert panels, Building Health Systems Excellence and Acute and Critical Care, to host a Policy Dialogue at this year’s Academy policy conference. The title was “Leveraging Community Benefit to Reduce the Prevalence of Violence, Poor Nutrition, and Adverse Childhood Events”. As a result, the development of a brief from that policy dialogue is under development. They have energized their members and established themselves as “the’ vision for environmental and public health within the Academy.

Sound interesting; want to join? You can join the membership of any of the Academy's Expert Panels on our website (http://www.aannet.org/expert-panels). Although this panel has been extraordinary, they are not alone and I will visit with others over the coming months.

Sincerely,

Bobbie Berkowitz, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN
President

Policy Updates
On September 3, 2015, the Office of Civil Rights of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) proposed new regulations that explicitly state that the prohibition of sex discrimination in Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act includes gender identity, transgender status, and the provision of gender-transitional care. The proposed rules state that sex-specific healthcare may not be denied based on a patient’s transgender identity and that any categorical exclusion for gender transition-related care would be discriminatory on its face.

The American Academy of Nursing, in its comments, commended DHHS for issuing the proposed regulations on non-discrimination in health programs and activities, and indicated its strong support for their adoption and implementation.

The Code of Ethics for Nurses calls on nurses to practice with respect for the inherent dignity, worth, and unique attributes of every person. The proposed regulations help ensure that transgender persons receive the healthcare they need -- and deserve -- from all personnel and in all settings. The Academy recognizes that nurses as members of the largest healthcare profession, are frontline personnel when transgender persons seek to access health care. Accordingly, the Academy is committed to support standards of practice and professional development that respect, support and protect transgender persons in accordance with these regulations.

The Academy welcomes the opportunity to work with other healthcare professional organizations and DHHS to ensure that Section 1557 is implemented effectively.

2015 Annual Policy Conference

Thank you to those who attended the 2015 Transforming Health, Driving Policy Conference October 15th-17th in Washington, DC.

Conference photos and videos have been posted to the conference website.

If you have not yet done so, please use the link below to complete the conference evaluation.

The evaluation will be accessible until November 30, 2015. We appreciate your thoughtful input and value your suggestions. If you have trouble accessing the evaluation, please email Karen Vasilak.

Complete the Evaluation

AcademyHealth: Opportunity to Work With the Nation’s Leading Delivery Systems
The U.S. health system has dramatically evolved over the last few years – train with leading delivery systems using evidence to improve health and the performance of the health system. AcademyHealth’s Delivery System Science Fellowship offers a year-long learning opportunity for highly-qualified, post-doctoral researchers to gain more applied experience in a delivery system setting.

As part of this unique fellowship experience, individuals with a background in health services research or related fields are placed within leading delivery systems to apply and enhance their analytic skills and obtain hands-on training and professional development opportunities.

For the 2016 cycle, AcademyHealth is offering placements at eight prestigious host sites:

- Geisinger Health System
- Hofstra North Shore-LIJ School of Medicine
- Intermountain Healthcare
- Kaiser Permanente Southern California
- Mayo Clinic
- New York University Langone Medical Center
- Palo Alto Medical Foundation Research Institute
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Quality Enhancement Research Initiative (QUERI) and Health Services Research & Development Service (HSR&D)

Practice areas and roles at the specific host sites will depend on the Fellows’ experience and areas of interest, as well as institutional special interests. Please visit the DSSF Host Site webpage to learn about the unique professional development opportunities offered by each host site.

If you or others in your network are interested in learning more or applying for the 2016 Delivery System Science Fellowship, please visit www.academyhealth.org/dssf for more information, including Fellow testimonials and application information.

Applicants are required to submit a brief Intent to Apply form. Once the form is submitted, candidates will receive a confirmation email with a link to the full application, which requires an analytic writing sample, CV, statement of interest, and two letters of support. All application materials must be submitted by Friday, January 8, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. ET.

Application Deadline: Friday, January 8, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. ET

For questions, please contact DSSF staff at dssf@academyhealth.org.

November is Family History Month
Fellow Achievements

Susan Bauer-Wu, PhD, RN, FAAN, has been appointed as the president of the Mind & Life Institute, a non-profit founded by the Dalai Lama nearly 30 years ago to bridge the sciences, humanities and contemplative traditions to alleviate suffering and promote human flourishing.

Angela M. McNelis, PhD, RN, FAAN, ANEF, CNE, has been appointed by Indiana Governor Mike Pence to serve on the statewide Mental Health and Addiction Services Development Program Board. Dr. McNelis is a Professor of Nursing for the Department of Community & Health Systems at Indiana University.

G. Rumay Alexander, EdD, RN, FAAN, has been appointed by Chancellor Folt as her Special Assistant to the Chancellor effective Jan. 1, 2016. A Carolina faculty member since 2003 and an award-winning, national leader in diversity and other workplace issues, Dr. Alexander will continue in her role as the director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs in the School of Nursing and as chair of the Faculty Committee on Community and Diversity. She will

Christine Kovner, PhD, RN, FAAN, has been appointed to the CGFNS Board of Trustees for a 4 year term effective January 1, 2016. Dr. Kovner is the Mathy Mezey Professor of Geriatric Nursing at the College of Nursing at New York University (NYU).
use her new role to more closely integrate new and related initiatives that are arising across campus to accelerate diversity, inclusion, and family and work-life balance.

**Have news to share? Let us know**

### Career Opportunities

(Following are Paid Announcements)

**McMahan-McKinley Endowed Professorship in Gerontology, The University of Tennessee, Knoxville College of Nursing**

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville College of Nursing seeks an academic leader to hold the inaugural McMahan-McKinley Endowed Professorship in Gerontology. This nine-month, full-time position will teach, conduct and expand geriatric research, collaborate on geriatric initiatives including the Pat Summitt Alzheimer’s Center, and engage in internal and external activities. Open until filled. See search profile: [http://tinyurl.com/mmUTK-GeronEEO/AA/Title VI/Title IX/Section 504/ADA/ADEA](http://tinyurl.com/mmUTK-GeronEEO/AA/Title VI/Title IX/Section 504/ADA/ADEA)

**Associate Dean and Director of the School of Nursing, Georgia State University**

The Byrdine F. Lewis School of Nursing and Health Professions at Georgia State University in Atlanta seeks applications and nominations for the Associate Dean and Director of the School of Nursing. The Associate Dean and Director is the academic leader and program administrator for the School of Nursing. Full details available at:


**Kadlec Distinguished Chair in the College of Nursing, Washington State University Tri-Cities**

Washington State University Tri-Cities invites applications and nominations of doctoral-prepared faculty who will hold an endowed Kadlec Distinguished Chair in the College of Nursing. Faculty of these four nine-month, tenure-track/tenured positions will hold the rank of Assistant, Associate, or Full Professor, dependent upon their qualifications. Application review begins Dec. 1. See Search Profile for complete information at:
