President's Message: "Fulfilling our Commitments"

The Academy's commitment to transforming the future of health care along with the future of nursing are visible in our strategic initiatives, in our policy papers and briefs, and in our work with partners to fulfill a shared commitment for health. We also work to support the policy statements of our partners. In prior FAAN Mail I have shared some examples of all of these commitments. Today I want to share one in particular that has been a major priority of the Academy and of our President Elect, Dr. Karen Cox. A little background on the issue of childhood poverty and toxic stress.

One in five children under the age of 18 in the United States lives in poverty. If households designated as poor, near poor or low income are included, the number rises to 43% or nearly 31,000,000 children. In March, The American Academy of Pediatrics released a policy statement entitled "Poverty and Child Health in the US" (Policy Statement: "Poverty and Child Health in the US", Council on Community Pediatrics. American Academy of Pediatrics, April 2016). In this policy statement providers are encouraged to ask one simple question of families at each encounter: "Do you have difficulty making ends meet at the end of the month?" This helps identify which families would benefit from community referrals. As nurses we intuitively have known the impact of poverty on a family. However, now science shows that lack of safe housing, food insecurity, and emotional neglect causes toxic stress which in turn results in actual damage to the architecture of the brain. The conditions a child lives in the first few years of life could have a negative impact on their health and wellbeing throughout life (Mason, DJ & Cox K (2014), Toxic stress in childhood: Why we all should be concerned. American Academy of Nursing President's Message. Nursing Outlook, 62, 235-236.)

One of the Academy's strategic goals is to "lead efforts in partnership with others to address the broad range of factors that affect the health of populations". The Academy's Edge Runners whose models are designed to help with the effects of this economic disparity, particularly in childhood include:

- Patricia Gerrity and the "Eleventh Street Family Services Program" at Drexel University,
- Diane Spatz and the "10 Steps to Promote and Protect Human Milk and Breastfeeding in Vulnerable Infants",
- Ruth Lubic's "Family and Health and Birth Center" in the Developing Families Center, and
- Harriet Kitzman along with partner David Olds "Nurse Family Partnership" program.

The American Academy of Nursing has endorsed the American Academy of Pediatrics' policy statement and recommendations on Poverty and Child
Health. We encourage Fellows to review and share these recommendation broadly. Fifty years ago the will to end poverty for our oldest citizens was largely realized through Social Security and Medicare. It is time to eliminate poverty for our other most vulnerable citizens - children.

Sincerely,

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

Policy Updates

VHA Proposed Rule: The Academy is pleased that the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs published its proposed rule in the Federal Register last month to amend its medical regulations to permit full practice authority of all VA advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) when they are acting within the scope of their VA employment. This rulemaking would increase veterans' access to VA health care by expanding the pool of qualified health care professionals who are authorized to provide primary health care and other related health care services to the full extent of their education, training, and certification, without the clinical supervision of physicians. Individuals who wish to respond directly with comments may do so until July 25 https://federalregister.gov/a/2016-12338.

Choosing Wisely: The Academy last weekend announced treatment approaches that may not always be necessary or in the best interests of women and newborns. Proposed by fellow Lynn Erdman, CEO of the Association of Women's Health, Obstetric, and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN), and a member of the Academy's Choosing Wisely Task Force, "Things nurses and patients should question" include:

- Don't promote induction or augmentation of labor and don't induce or augment labor without a medical indication; spontaneous labor is safest for woman and infant, with benefits that improve safety and promote short- and long-term maternal and infant health.

- Don't prescribe opioid pain medication in pregnancy without discussing and fully weighing the risks to the woman and her fetus.

- Don't separate mothers and their newborns at birth unless medically necessary. Instead, help the mother to place her newborn in skin-to-skin contact immediately after birth and encourage her to keep her newborn in her room during hospitalization after the birth.

The Academy's full list of Choosing Wisely examples may be found at www.aannet.org/choosing-wisely.

New Academy Staff

Please welcome Barry Eisenberg to the Academy as Communications and Public Affairs Manager. Barry worked for a number of years for the Society of the Plastics Industry as the Director of Communications and Public Outreach and also at the American Chemistry Council as Sr. Public Policy Writer & Communications Manager. Most recently, he was with MedStar Washington Hospital Center as Director of Content Management.

Also welcome Katie Gissendanner as Member Engagement Manager. Katie joins us from the American Chemistry Council - Chemtrec, where she was an Account Manager. We are excited to have her implement her excellent customer service skills in this position.

Academy 2016 Policy Conference
Call for Abstracts

Submit your abstract for the Academy's 2016 Transforming Health, Driving Policy Conference. Please carefully review the submission guidelines, all abstracts must be submitted by Monday, June 24, 2016, 11:59 p.m. (EDT). Submit your abstract.

Conference Sponsorship

Support the 2016 Policy Conference! Click to view the sponsorship, advertising & exhibitor prospectus.

Council 2016 State of the Science Congress on Nursing Research

The 2016 Determinants of Health State of the Science Congress on Nursing Research will be held September 15 - 17, 2016 at the Washington Hilton in Washington, DC. Register today - Early Bird Registration is now open!

Call for Late-Breaking Abstracts

The call for late-breaking abstracts is now open! This call is designed for cutting edge, data-based research and can be for either a podium or poster presentation. The work cannot have been published or presented at a national/international meeting. Meta-analyses are acceptable; however, systematic reviews and integrative reviews would not fit with this call.

Thank You Academy Supporters

We are proud to acknowledge the generosity of our supporters and their commitment to the Academy. The list below represents Academy supporters who have made unrestricted gifts to the Rheba de Tornyay Development Fund and/or restricted gifts designated for the Institute for Nursing Leadership or Raise the Voice at the President’s Circle level of $1,000 and above from May. Each dollar raised directly supports the Academy’s mission of transforming health policy and practice through nursing knowledge.

- Bobbie Berkowitz
- Linda Burnes Bolton
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- Robert Hess
- Linda Jones
- Ramon Lavandero
- Nilda Peragallo Montano
- Michael Neft
- The Ohio State University, College of Nursing
Fellow Achievements

Judy A. Beal, DNSc, RN, FNAP, FAAN, was presented the Living Legends in Nursing award from the American Nurses Association Massachusetts in April. This award recognizes Dr. Beal's significant contributions to the profession of nursing over her 40+ year career as a nurse, nurse educator, national leader and scholar. She currently serves as Professor and Dean of the School of Nursing and Health Sciences at Simmons College, where she has been part of the faculty since 1983. Dr. Beal was inducted into the Academy in 2012.

Helen Erickson, PhD, RN, AHN-BC, FAAN, was awarded the 2016 Lifetime Achievement Award at the American Holistic Nurses Association's (AHNA) 36th annual conference earlier this month. The award celebrates outstanding lifetime achievement in the field of holistic nursing and dedication to the AHNA. Dr. Erickson is currently Emeritus Professor-Nursing at the University of Texas - Austin. She was inducted into the Academy in 1996.

Barbara Warren, PhD, RN, PMHCNS-BC, FNAP, FAAN, has been selected by the American Psychiatric Nurses Association (APNA) as its 2016 Psychiatric Nurse of the Year. The award recognizes an APNA member who demonstrates vision, perseverance, dedication, initiative and facilitation in the delivery of mental health services to individuals, families and their communities. Dr. Warren is a professor of clinical nursing at the The Ohio State University College of Nursing and director of its Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing across the Lifespan Specialty. She was inducted into the Academy in 2012.

Tara Cortes, PhD, RN, FAAN, was appointed by Secretary Burwell of Health and Human Services to the Advisory Committee on Training in Primary Care Medicine and Dentistry. Dr. Cortes is Executive Director at the Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing, and Professor at NYU Rory Meyers College of Nursing. She was inducted into the Academy in 2009.

Linda Sarna, PhD, RN, FAAN, has been elected as the first National Board Chair for the National Clinician Scholars Program (NCSP). The NCSP's goal is to cultivate health equity, eliminate health disparities, invent new models of care, and achieve higher quality health care at lower cost by training nurse and physician researchers. Dr. Sarna is the interim dean at the UCLA School of Nursing. She was inducted into the Academy in 1994.
Career Opportunities

(Following are Paid Announcements)

Associate Dean for Academics, Associate Professor, University of South Carolina

The Associate Dean for Academics is the chief academic officer, providing leadership in the strategic development and implementation of curricula that meet the needs of a diverse undergraduate and graduate student population and the demands of complex and changing nursing and healthcare systems.

Applicants should [click here](#) to apply, requisition # 010416

Advertise your employment opportunities or special announcements in FAAN Mail

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