President's Message: Growing Policy Expertise

The Jonas Policy Scholars Program, launched in 2014, has become a signature program for the Academy as a way to grow the next generation of registered nurses who are experts in health policy. I asked Dr. Deborah Gross, professor and Leonard and Helen Stulman Endowed Chair at Johns Hopkins School of Nursing, who leads this program, to provide the following report. We will soon welcome our next cohort of scholars and I hope you find yourself working with these impressive individuals.

Since 2014, we have welcomed 19 extraordinary doctoral and post-doctoral students into the Jonas Policy Scholars Program. Scholars are selected through a competitive review process to serve a 2-year term with a designated expert panel. These emerging policy leaders provide critical support to expert panels and in the process learn about the important work of the Academy and become a pipeline for our future.

We have been pleased by the enthusiasm with which the Jonas Policy Scholars have pursued this opportunity. Through the work with their assigned expert panels and mentors, the scholars are networking with leaders in their fields, helping to convene expert panel meetings, conducting literature reviews, leading twitter chats, helping to plan policy dialogues for the annual conference, and co-authoring multiple papers with their expert panel.

Several scholars are working across expert panels, leading collaborations with other Jonas Policy Scholars to develop policy products that cut across expert panel interests and goals. For example, Cohort 2 (2015-2017) Jonas Policy Scholars Jayun Xu (Health Behavior), Teresa Hagan (Women’s Health), and Toby Bressler (Acute and Critical Care) have been collaborating with their respective mentors on a Call to Action on the importance of nurses at all levels to be involved in palliative care.

Another example is Laura Brennanman (Cohort 1; 2014-2016) who used what she learned on the Psych/Mental Health/Substance Use Expert Panel to help the Florida Assistant Deputy Secretary for Medicaid Policy & Quality clarify state policies allowing reimbursement for parental depression screening under their children’s health plan.

All of the Jonas Policy Scholars are forging long-lasting relationships with one another and their mentors and have grown from their experiences. As Sunny Hallowell (Cohort 1; Breastfeeding Expert Panel 2014-2016) wrote, “We have an opportunity each year to be in a room with some of the greatest minds and are able to learn from their experiences… With many thanks for the incredible opportunity to imagine and work toward a vision of health care where nurses truly transform healthcare through policy and nursing knowledge.”

Kathy Simmonds (Cohort 1; Primary Care EP): stated “My involvement with the Jonas HP Scholar program gave me the opportunity to meet and work with some of the most respected leaders in the field – Charlene Hanson, Margaret Flinter, Lynne Dunphy and many more. This experience of getting to know people who are mover and shakers in nursing and the larger health care arena by working with them on projects of shared interest was (by far) the highlight of this experience. I have no doubt I will continue to build on these relationships as I continue to work on issues that are important to me in the fields of nursing, sexual and reproductive health, health system reform and social justice.”

Toby Bressler (Cohort 2; Acute and Critical Care EP) said “As a Jonas Scholar, I received mentorship to broaden my spheres of influence in order to advocate and transform great acts of volunteerism into sustainable programs. The Jonas Foundation has opened doors for me in ways I could not imagine. As a Jonas Policy Scholar working with the Academy I have found the community of fellows to be nurturing and supportive to the next generation of
nurse leaders. Through these connections I have worked with regional and national groups to influence public policy regarding palliative care.”

Sarah Miner (Cohort 2; Environmental & Public Health EP): “Before my participation as a policy scholar, I had no understanding of what it meant to be a board member or why it would be important. As a result of my participation, I am now a member of two boards and I collaborated on the development of an on-line health policy course for nurses, which I now teach. My participation has also contributed to my understanding of how policy will influence my own research interests and developments, and I have a better ability not only to understand that, but to articulate it when I am discussing the policy implications of my research.”

Thank you for that report, Debbie. I think we can see why Debbie and her committee are so enthusiastic about this program. Along with the Academy Board, I am committed to assuring that our policy scholars and the Academy are enriched by this experience.

Sincerely,

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

Policy Update

The Academy co-signed with the Nursing Community a strong statement opposing President Trump’s FY 2018 Budget Proposal. The President’s proposed budget calls for steep cuts to DHHS programs including the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development programs (funding is reduced from $229.472 million in FY 2017 to $82.977 million in FY2018); and eliminating funding for other Title VIII programs including the Advanced Nursing Education Grants (ANE), ANE Traineeships, and Nurse Anesthetist Traineeships; the Nurse Education, Practice, Quality, and Retention Program; the Nurse Faculty Loan Program; the Nursing Workforce Diversity Grants; and the Comprehensive Geriatric Education Grants. In addition, the President recommends a 24% reduction to NINR from $150.273 million in FY 2017 to $113.888 million in FY2018.

The Academy was pleased to co-sign a letter with the National Women’s Law Center expressing support for the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act. This bipartisan legislation promotes healthy pregnancies and economic security for pregnant women and their families and strengthens the economy.

Also, the Academy joined with FamiliesUSA, a healthcare consumer organization, in co-signing a letter expressing serious concerns with legislative proposals being considered in the Senate, including the American Health Care Act, that cut Medicaid funding through per capita caps and block grants and end the Medicaid expansion. These proposals will sharply reduce access to health care for the 74 million vulnerable children, seniors, woman, people with disabilities, working adults and others that rely on Medicaid for high quality, affordable health coverage and care.

Have you read, seen or heard a great news story this year about nurses? Please bring it to the Academy’s attention by entering it for the Johnson & Johnson Excellence in Media Award. The award recognizes exemplary journalism that reports on health care with inclusion of nurses’ contributions. Look over the award’s criteria. The deadline for entries is August 1, 2017. Submitting one is easy! Log into your account, then click “Create Academy Media Award Entry” under the Awards section of your profile page.

Council: Free NINR Webinar; Conference Registration Now Open

The Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science Early Career Special Interest Group presents the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) Funding Opportunities for Training and Career Development Webinar on August 30, 2017. Please alert your students and mentees. Registration is FREE! Click here to register.
The Council's 2017 Advanced Methods: Pragmatic Trials Conference will be held October 4-5, 2017 at the Marriott Marquis Washington, DC. Registration is now open here.

Registration is Now Open: Academy's 2017 Policy Conference

The Academy's 2017 Transforming Health, Driving Policy Conference will be held October 5-7, 2017 at the Marriott Marquis Washington, DC. Don't miss out on engaging speakers, interesting sessions, e-posters, exhibits, networking with colleagues, the Living Legends Ceremony & Dinner, and the Induction Ceremony & Soirée. Registration is now open! You can also reserve your hotel room at the Marriott Marquis today.

The Academy is now accepting abstracts for electronic poster presentations at the 2017 Policy Conference. The deadline is June 16, 2017. Click here to review guidelines and submit your abstract.

Support the Academy's Institute for Nursing Leadership

The Academy's Institute for Nursing Leadership serves as the umbrella for nurse appointments and leadership development. The Academy is a member of the Steering Committee for the national Nurses on Boards Coalition supporting the Campaign for Action's goal of achieving 10,000 nurse appointments by 2020.

This Academy initiative is supported by your generosity. If you would like to make a gift, please click here. Thanks to a generous $50,000 matching gift from the Conway-Welch Family Foundation, Inc., gifts made by June 30, 2017 are being matched dollar for dollar.

Fellow Achievements

**Linda Aiken, PhD, RN, FAAN**, was awarded the Christiane Reimann Prize by the International Council of Nurses. The honor recognizes outstanding achievement in the profession and work of international relevance. Dr. Aiken is the Claire Fagin Leadership Professor in Nursing and director of the Center for Health Outcomes and Policy Research at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing. She was inducted into the Academy in 1977.

**Linda Bearinger, PhD, RN, FSAHM, FAAN**, received the 2017 Outstanding Achievement in Adolescent Health and Medicine Award from the Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine. The award recognizes individuals for commitment to improving health and health care for young people. Dr. Bearinger began at the University of Minnesota School of Nursing in 1991 and retired in 2016. She was inducted into the Academy in 1999.

**Kim Litwack, PhD, RN, FNP, FAAN**, was named dean of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM) College of Nursing, replacing Academy Fellow Sally Lundeen, who retired last year. Prior to joining UWM in 2004 as a professor of nursing, Dr. Litwack taught at Grand Valley State University. Dr. Litwack’s recent work focuses on ambulatory care and pain management. She was inducted into the Academy in 1996.

**Patricia Maguire Meservey PhD, RN, FAAN**, outgoing president of Salem State University, recently had the College of Health and Human Services named in her honor. The naming of the Maguire Meservey College of Health and Human Services was announced at her retirement gala. In conjunction with the naming, $1 million was raised for the university’s unrestricted endowment to recognize her decade of leadership. Dr. Meservey was inducted into the Academy in 1999.
Career Opportunities

(The following are Paid Announcements)

**MGH Institute of Health Professions (Boston), Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Program Innovation, School of Nursing**

MGH Institute of Health Professions in Boston invites applications for the position of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Program Innovation in the School of Nursing. See full details by clicking here.

The MGH Institute of Health Professions is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to enhancing the diversity of its faculty and staff. Applications from protected veterans and individuals with disabilities are strongly encouraged.

**Ohio State University James Comprehensive Cancer Center & College of Nursing, Director of Nursing Research**

The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center - Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute and The Ohio State University College of Nursing invite applications for the leadership role of Director of Nursing Research. We are seeking an experienced nurse researcher who has made contributions to oncology and nursing research. Click here for the full position description and application instructions.

Advertise your employment opportunities or special announcements in FAAN Mail

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