President's Message: When Enough is Enough

During the week of June 19th, six members of the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS resigned their positions citing their inability to effectively carry out their responsibilities. Created in 1995 by President Bill Clinton, this Council has served in an advisory capacity to the President and has provided input to the Secretary of the US Department of Health and Human Services on issues relating to policies and research that benefit the advancement of HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention. The Council has also served in an advisory capacity to the National HIV/AIDS Strategy. Fellow Lucy Bradley-Springer, PhD, RN, ACRN, FAAN, is one of the Council members who resigned.

According to news reports, the six members resigned in protest of the Trump Administration’s lack of focus and attention given to either the Advisory Council or national HIV/AIDS policy. The Academy’s commitment to advocacy and the development of evidence-based policy related to HIV/AIDS has long been a priority. So it is with a mixture of sadness and dismay that I read about the neglect on the part of our current administration of such a critical priority for our nation’s health.

Service to the nation is an honor and privilege. The Academy regularly recommends fellows for service on local, state, and national boards and commissions and government appointments. These opportunities to serve are essential to assuring that nursing remains part of the dialogue and advocacy around health policy. To squander the expertise of individuals who step up to serve is discouraging, not only to those individuals who have agreed to serve but to the organizations that lose their expertise. When service is ignored or trivialized or is no longer an effective pathway to change, we must take a different approach. I applaud the determination of individuals who publicly transmit their concerns and make different choices for advocacy. Many pathways exist for being a part of policy conversations and to participate in advocacy on behalf of the populations we serve. Federal service is certainly one way to promote the policies and programs that the nursing profession cares about, but we have opportunities at all levels of government and through public and private organizations to promote the health of our nation.

I admire the courage of our fellow, Dr. Bradley-Springer, for taking a stand when enough is enough. Public service is not without its challenges and rewards, but public service that is void of meaningful impact is a disservice to committed individuals who have stepped up.

Sincerely,

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

Policy Update

The American Academy of Nursing urges the United States Congress to keep America covered. The Better Care Reconciliation Act will have a negative impact on the elderly and disabled who are able to live independently with home and community-based care, and on children who deserve preventive health care to start school healthy and strong and ready to learn. Click here to read the full Academy statement.

The policy brief Opioid Misuse Epidemic: Addressing Opioid Prescribing and Organization Initiatives for Holistic, Safe and Compassionate Care, prepared by the Psychiatric, Mental Health & Substance Abuse Expert Panel, will be published in the July/August issue of Nursing Outlook.
There is less than one month to go in our annual effort to highlight a great news story about nurses or with a nursing perspective. Please bring such stories 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 for the Advancement of Nursing Science: Conference Registration Now Open

The Council’s 2017 Advanced Methods: Pragmatic Trials Conference will be held October 4-5, 2017 at the Marriott Marquis Washington, DC. The conference will provide participants with grounding in pragmatic trial strategies pertaining to design, approaches, analyses, human subject considerations, funding, and dissemination. Registration is now open here.

The Academy’s 2017 Transforming Health, Driving Policy Conference will be held October 5-7, 2017 at the Marriott Marquis Washington, DC. The conference will identify ways nurses are transforming health and building a better care delivery system. This three day conference will showcase the extraordinary work nurses are undertaking to drive policy changes that meet the health needs of individuals and populations. Don’t miss out on engaging speakers, interesting sessions, the Living Legends Ceremony & Dinner, and the Induction Ceremony & Soirée.

Click here to register at the reduced Early Bird Rate through July 26th. You can also reserve your hotel room at the Marriott Marquis today.

Support the Academy

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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 nursing 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. With a donation of $1,000 or more, you become a member of the President’s Circle. Members of the President’s Circle are invited to an exclusive reception hosted by the Academy President during the annual policy conference.

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Fellow Achievements

Susan A. Matney, PhD, RNC-OB, FAAN, received the 2017 LOINC Award for Distinguished Contributions. LOINC is a commonly used universal code system for identifying medical test results. The award honors individuals whose work advances the interoperability that ensures that medical data can be recorded, electronically exchanged and used to improve health. Dr. Matney is a senior medical informaticist at Intermountain Healthcare. She was inducted into the Academy in 2010.

James R. Walker, DNP, CRNA, FNAP, FAAN, was elected to serve as chair of the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs. Dr. Walker is an associate professor and director of the doctor of nursing practice program-nurse anesthesia at Baylor College of Medicine’s School of Allied Health Sciences. In 2014, he received the Outstanding Educator of the Year Award from the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists. He was inducted into the Academy in 2014.

Have news to share? Let us know

Career Opportunities

(The following are Paid Announcements)

Texas A&M University, Dean of the College of Nursing

Texas A&M University invites nominations and applications for the position of Dean of the College of Nursing. This is an opportunity for a proven nurse leader to build upon a solid foundation, propel the College forward, and make a dramatic impact on health care in Texas and beyond. The Dean will expand and diversify revenue sources and play a leading role in recruiting, mentoring, and retaining diverse and talented faculty. Candidates must be an RN with a graduate degree in nursing, and hold a doctoral degree. [Click here for a complete position description and application instructions.]

Advertise your employment opportunities or special announcements in FAAN Mail

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