President’s Message: Gun Violence is a Public Health Issue

The mass shooting at Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida has renewed concern for the safety of our children. This time the conversation appears to be qualitatively different—thanks to the voices of the teens impacted. They are outraged, passionately irreverent truth-tellers and more than a little disappointed that the adults who are responsible for keeping them safe have failed them.

We also need to remember that children in many of our urban cores are victims of gun violence. Though these instances claim smaller amounts of victims at one time, and do not get the same media attention as mass shootings, in total the number of victims from these incidents is often comparable to that of mass shootings.

It’s time we reframe gun violence as a public health issue, much like we did 20 years ago with tobacco use. The conversation then was not about taking away people’s right to use tobacco products, but rather informing the public of the risks and implementing evidence-based polices.

On February 16th the Academy issued a press release calling on Congress to launch a bipartisan National Commission on Mass Shootings and to immediately consider seven actions and identifying strategies to implement. We believe this commission can help develop bipartisan solutions that can be supported.

On February 23rd the Academy drafted a letter addressed directly to Congress and called for other organizations to sign on in support. We had a tremendous response with 96 organizations as cosigners. Thanks to all of those organizations willing to support this specific call.

But several organizations felt that calling for a commission is “kicking the can down the road.” The reason for calling for a commission is to ensure that the solutions are comprehensive. This is a complicated issue and the policy solutions must be based on evidence. The Academy wants policy change but it must be comprehensive and it must be soon. The kids are counting on us.

Sincerely,
Karen Cox, PhD, RN, FAAN
President

Policy Update

Following the American Academy of Nursing's press release last week calling for a National Commission on Mass Shootings to be charged with identifying certain strategies for common sense gun laws, a number of fellows asked how they could be involved. We asked that organizations be represented on a letter to Congressional leadership. The Academy is grateful to the fellows who reached out to the 96 organizations that joined with the Academy in co-signing the letter and in sharing a commitment to keep children, parents, families, teachers, responders, and administrators safe. Thank you. Read the letter and the list of 96 organizations here.

Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science

The Council is accepting abstracts and symposia submissions for the 2018 State of the Science Congress on Nursing Research. The conference will be held September 13-15, 2018 in Washington, DC. The online abstract submission process ends March 11, 2018. Click here for more information.

March 1, 2018
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The Council is also accepting nominations for the Brilliant New Investigator and
Outstanding Nurse Scientist Awards. Applications for both are due April 1, 2018.

The Council is also seeking nominations for the following elected positions:

- Councilor for Finance and Records (1 position; 3-year term)
- Nominations Committee (2 positions; 2-year term)

The terms for these positions begin September 15, 2018. The deadline for
nominations is March 20, 2018. Read about eligibility, position responsibilities, and
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Support the Academy

Please click here to donate to the Rheba de Tornyay Development Fund!

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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.

Fellow Achievements

Laurie A. Badzek, LLM, JD, RN, FAAN, was named dean of
Penn State’s College of Nursing. Currently director of the
University of North Carolina Wilmington School of Nursing, Dr. Badzek will begin her new role on July 1. She specializes in

Ann K. Cashion, PhD, RN, FAAN, has been appointed Acting
Deputy Director of the National Institute of Nursing Research
(NINR). Since 2013 Dr. Cashion has been NINR Scientific Director. Before coming to NIH, she was a professor at the University of
Tennessee Health Science Center College of Nursing. An expert on the genetic/genomic and environmental components
associated with outcomes of organ transplantation. Dr. Cashion was inducted into the Academy in 2006.

Rachell A. Ekroos, PhD, FNP-BC, AFN-BC, FAAN, was selected for the Executive Steering Committee of the National
Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and the National
Institute of Justice’s (NIJ) Evidence Management Project. The
Committee will expand on NIST/NIJ’s work related to best
drives for handling, preservation, retention, and tracking of
forensic evidence. Dr. Ekroos, assistant professor at the
University of Nevada, Las Vegas School of Nursing, was inducted into the Academy in 2017.

Ruth Kleinpell, PhD, FAANP, FCCM, FAAN, received the
Independence Foundation Chair in Nursing Education at
Vanderbilt University. Dr. Kleinpell serves as assistant dean for
clinical scholarship. She directs the school’s Scholarly Practice
Program, focusing on support of clinical teaching faculty in
scholarship initiatives and clinical excellence. Her own research
interests include telemedicine, ICU nursing care, and elder care.
Dr. Kleinpell was inducted into the Academy in 2004.

Patricia Morton, PhD, RN, ACNP, FAAN, dean of the University
of Utah College of Nursing, was one of 12 Utah women recently
honored at the 2018 Sundance Film Festival Utah Women’s
Leadership Celebration. She was selected for her leadership in
health care and her advocacy for nursing education. Prior to her
current position, Dr. Morton served for 33 years as a faculty
member of the University of Maryland School of Nursing. She was
inducted into the Academy in 1999.

Donna Nickitas, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, CNE, FNAP, FAAN, has
been appointed dean of the Rutgers School of Nursing–Camden,
effective July 1, 2018. Currently she is a professor at City
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decision making. She also serves as the director of the American
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Career Opportunities

Click here to view our current job postings.

Oregon Health and Science University, School of Nursing -- Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

The OHSU School of Nursing seeks a visionary academic leader for the role of Sr. Associate Dean for Academic Affairs (SADAA) who can readily align with our values of integrity, diversity, collaboration, innovation, and excellence. The SADAA serves as the Chief Academic Officer in the School of Nursing with responsibility for programs of excellence in teaching and learning.

Click here for a full position description and application instructions.

Southern Arkansas University - Embree Chair, Department of Nursing

Southern Arkansas University, a comprehensive regional public university serving Southwest Arkansas, invites applications and nominations for the Embree Chair of the Department of Nursing. This administrative position is an 11-month, tenure/tenure-track appointment that starts July 1, 2018. For best consideration, submit applications by March 26, 2018.

Click here for complete details and the application process. AA/EOE

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