



**American Academy of Nursing**  
*transforming health care policy and practice through nursing knowledge*

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## **Dr. Karen Cox Takes Helm as American Academy of Nursing President**

*COO of Children's Mercy Kansas City to Guide Strategic Direction of Association*

Washington, D.C. (November 30, 2017) – **Karen Cox, PhD, RN, FAAN**, was inducted as president of the American Academy of Nursing at the organization's annual business meeting last month. Dr. Cox, the V. Fred Burry, MD and Sandra Hobart Burry Chair in Nursing Advocacy and Leadership, is executive vice president and chief operating officer at Children's Mercy Kansas City (Mo.), one of the leading tertiary care children's hospitals in the nation.

Inducted as a fellow of the Academy in 2005, Dr. Cox previously served on its Board of Directors as president-elect (2015-2017). She also has chaired the Academy's Audit Committee and Choosing Wisely Task Force. Elected by the Academy fellows, Dr. Cox succeeds outgoing President **Bobbie Berkowitz, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN**, dean, Columbia University School of Nursing.

"Dr. Cox's strong leadership abilities, extensive operations background, and passion for public policies that benefit children's health and families enables her to serve both the nursing profession and our Academy," said Academy CEO Cheryl Sullivan. "Cox continues the outstanding line of nurse leaders who have steered the Academy's policy work for more than 40 years."

"It is an honor and privilege to serve as the Academy's president," said Dr. Cox. "This organization is well-positioned to positively influence the health of individuals and the health care system itself. I look forward to working with our 2,500 outstanding nurse leaders on Academy priorities to ensure that all people have the opportunity to lead healthy and dignified lives."

Dr. Cox led the effort for Children's Mercy Kansas City to receive Magnet designation by the American Nurses Credentialing Center in 2003 -- the first hospital in Missouri and the region to receive this mark of excellence. She was named a fellow in the Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nurse Fellowship Program (1999-2002), and is also a fellow of the American College of Health Care Executives. Dr. Cox started her healthcare career as a licensed practical nurse, and went on to earn an Associate Degree in Nursing from Excelsior College, a BSN from the University of Kansas, and an MSN and PhD from the University of Missouri–Kansas City (UMKC). She is a member of the UMKC Board of Trustees.

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The American Academy of Nursing ([www.AANnet.org](http://www.AANnet.org)) serves the public and the nursing profession by advancing health policy and practice through the generation, synthesis, and dissemination of nursing knowledge. The Academy's more than 2,500 fellows are nursing's most accomplished leaders in education, management, practice, and research. They have been recognized for their extraordinary contributions to nursing and healthcare.

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