

Congratulations to Betsy Roth-Wojcicki who has been chosen as the WAPNAP 2011 APN of the Year award. Betsy is a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner in Pediatric Rheumatology at Children's Hospital of Wisconsin in Milwaukee, WI.

Betsy was a "trailblazer" for Advanced Practice Nursing at Children's Hospital of Wisconsin (CHOW) in Milwaukee, WI. She was one of the first PNP's to be hired in the mid-1980's, initially working as a PNP working with the Hematology/Oncology population. In the mid-1990's she transitioned to working with the Pediatric Rheumatology population, where she continues to practice. Betsy's example of Advanced Practice Nursing in both of these settings resulted in increased respect for and utilization of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners and Advanced Practice Nurses in the CHOW system, to the point that there are now over 130 Advanced Practice Nurses in this system.

Betsy is a role model in her passion and leadership activities at Children's Hospital of Wisconsin. She was one of a group of APN's who initiated the APN mentor committee. The committee assures all new APN's are assigned a mentor to assist in their transition process. She is also a co-chair of the NP/PA workforce planning committee. This group is working on NP/PA care models and assessing the environment and making recommendations for future direction at CSG (Children Specialty Group) / CHOW. Betsy is the APN link to CHOW Medical staff, serving as an advocate and leader of all the credentialed APN's. She has a voice on the Medical Executive Committee and is a member of the Joint Patient Care Committee.

Throughout her 25-plus years of advanced nursing practice, Betsy has maintained a commitment to promoting the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner profession and to mentoring Pediatric Nurse Practitioner students. Students who are placed with Betsy not only have the benefit of an expert clinician and teacher, but are fortunate to have a role model who embraces all dimensions of the Advanced Practice role. Betsy models active involvement in professional organizations, engagement in research, sharing of knowledge in the form of presentations and posters, and engagement in outreach activities. Students who are placed with Betsy have the opportunity to participate in many of these activities, for example to attend support groups with Betsy, or to participate in community outreach at the Lupus or Arthritis Foundation.

Betsy excels at developing relationships with the chronically ill clients and families with whom she interacts, and at advocating for them as a member of the interdisciplinary team with which she works. She is highly respected by her colleagues of all disciplines. I wish that every member of the award committee could have the opportunity to observe Betsy's skillful therapeutic interactions with adolescents with lupus and their families. It is hard to imagine a more knowledgeable, caring, and professional Pediatric Nurse Practitioner and role model for current and future Pediatric Nurse Practitioners.

Betsy shares her expertise with a variety of audiences. She is a frequent presenter at regional and national conferences, including presenting at NAPNAP the last two years. The entire WAPNAP membership congratulates Betsy on this well-deserved award.