

E-Chapter Newsletter

Letter from E-Chapter President

by Christine Hallas



National Association of
Pediatric Nurse PractitionersSM
eCHAPTER

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Happy New Year e-Chapter! 2021 has arrived and with it so has hope in the form of vaccinations. As we all continue to practice in an ever-changing environment, I would like to take this time to remind each of you how incredible you are and the work you do with children and their families is invaluable. In a time of such isolation, it can be hard to remember the extraordinary networks we have cultivated over the years and the benefits of our efforts.

A recent article in Harvard Business Review discussed the widespread feeling of a loss of agency amongst leaders. The following terms were prevalent: heavy, emotional amputation, mental fog, pandemic fatigue, work/life blur, and endless wait. As leaders in pediatric healthcare, it is important to lean on our shared communities for support. While our families, friends, and patients lean on us we need to be mindful to acknowledge and address our own experiences. Your membership in the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners includes opportunities for this support via SIGs, online forums, and chapters. And although the pandemic has quieted many of our activities, the e-Chapter remains committed to providing opportunities for networking and professional development.

Here are some of the activities currently happening and soon to be announced in detail:

- conference stipend award (deadline is soon!); get your updates and CEs through the 4-day virtual conference!
- Of the Year Awards: let's acknowledge YOU! Student of the year, Preceptor of the Year, Nurse Practitioner of the Year, and Founder's Award (deadline for submission soon!)
- Planned conference (virtual) social hour! Watch your email for details!
- We have donated an item for the Virtual Foundation Auction....be sure to cruise the items for some great deals and cool finds!
- Community Service Project: details are being finalized; watch for the email describing this and your opportunity to participate
- watch for the Call for Nominations! Elections for e-Chapter Board members are coming up in May and the following will need to be filled: Treasurer, President-elect
- Open invitation: we are always happy to hear from members interested in joining any of the committees: education, legislative, communication, and soon to come-mentoring! Regardless of your experience, if you have ANY inkling, reach out! We can talk and find what sounds like the best fit to you!

I invite you all to join me in becoming more energized as we move towards what is hoped to be the end of this pandemic. Join me as we strive to gain ownership over our loss of agency. As experts in pediatrics and advocates for children, we can lean on and support each other.

With hope and gratitude,
Christine Hallas, DNP, APRN, CPNP-AC
e-Chapter President

Legislative News

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued a fifth amendment to the Declaration under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act (PREP Act) to add additional categories of qualified health care personnel who may prescribe, dispense, and administer FDA-approved COVID-19 vaccinations. Health care providers who are licensed and certified in a state to prescribe, dispense and administer the vaccine are now authorized to do so in any other state or U.S. territory. If a provider's license or certification expired in the last five years, and was active and in good standing, they may prescribe, dispense and/or administer COVID-19 vaccines. These healthcare professionals will need to complete CDC COVID-19 Vaccine Training and on-site observation with a currently practicing healthcare professional.

This expansion of COVID-19 vaccinators across state lines was created to help states and U.S. territories meet the urgent demand for vaccines and protect communities as quickly as possible. More information regarding the PREP Act amendment can be found at [HHS PREP Act Declaration](#)

Register for the
National
Conference by
February 15th for
the early bird rate.

National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners 42nd National Conference on Pediatric Health Care

Due to the COVID-19 global pandemic the NAPNAP conference will once again only be offered in a virtual format. Please plan to join NAPNAP for the [42nd National Conference on Pediatric Health Care](#) being held virtually March 24 - 27, 2021. Registrants will have on-demand access through July 31 to more than 80 unique evidence-based learning experiences in timely primary, acute and specialty care topics developed and presented by experts in their fields. Conference participants have the opportunity to connect with fellow pediatric health care leaders from across the nation while earning needed continuing education credits and staying up-to-date on the latest products and services to enhance daily practice. [Intensive workshop](#) presentations will be offered live online on March 23, but space is limited, so [register early](#).

* Register by **Monday, February 15th** to save and receive the Early Registration rate.

Please watch for an announcement regarding our e-Chapter virtual social event.

If you are presenting at this year's conference- concurrent session, speed session, workshop, or poster- please email us at the e-Chapter to let us know so we can spread the word to all our members. napnapechapter@gmail.com

Flu Season Update

Currently, we are experiencing a mild influenza season in the Northern Hemisphere. This is consistent with what was seen in countries like Australia, in the Southern Hemisphere, that had winter and seasonal influenza season before the United States. Along with a mild influenza season, there has also been a very mild RSV season so far. This coincides with the trend seen in Australia. Western Australia reported a 98% decrease in RSV in children and a 99% decrease in influenza for their winter 2020, even though their schools were open. However, the concern is there may be a spike in cases later in the season which was what happened in the Southern Hemisphere. How this shift in infection rates will impact next year's flu season is unknown. One virus that seems to not be affected by the pandemic is Rhinovirus. In fact, one study found that subjects with a rhinovirus infection were 70% less likely to get a common coronavirus infection at the same time. Furthermore, very few patients have presented with both rhinovirus and COVID-19 co-infections. This has led to speculation that the fast-growing rhinovirus is able to outcompete COVID-19 and prevent it from spreading. Overall, there remain many unknown variables and the outlook for the remaining winter season will continue to evolve.

Jones, N. (2020). How COVID-19 is changing the cold and flu season. *Nature*, 588, 388-390
<https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-020-03519-3>

<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/usmap.htm>



Where Have All the Patients Gone? TeamPeds: Experts Live On Facebook

As mentioned above there has been a dramatic decrease in the number of sick children. Prior to the pandemic there were more than 30 million emergency department visits per year for patients under the age of 18, but during the pandemic that number has decreased dramatically with no corresponding increase in urgent or primary care visits. So, where have all the patients gone? Join the main NAPNAP membership page on Facebook for the next [TeamPeds: Experts Live on our Facebook page](#) **Feb. 16 at 7 p.m.**, when Pediatric Emergency Care SIG Chair Nicole Koepke, MSN, CPNP-PC will explore these and other issues confronting both pediatric providers and families.

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*Experts in pediatrics and
advocates for children.*National Association of
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We are on Facebook!
Look under Groups for
NAPNAP e-Chapter
(private group)

First Nurse Practitioner Named Acting U.S. Surgeon General

President Joe Biden appointed Rear Admiral Susan Orsega, MSN, FNP-BC, FAANP, FAAN as the *first nurse practitioner* to serve as the nation's acting U.S. Surgeon General. Adm. Orsega worked at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases of the National Institutes of Health before becoming chief nurse officer of the USPHS in 2016. She is an expert in public health emergency and disaster care. She was inducted into the American Academy of Nursing in 2016. Adm. Orsega will serve as surgeon general pending the Senate confirmation of Dr. Vivek Murthy. Previous nurse Surgeon Generals have included Sylvia Trent-Adams (2017) and Richard Henry Carmona (2002).

Award Season is Here! Nominations are Open

We are all experts in pediatrics and every day we advocate for children. This past year has been fraught with challenges. Do you know an e-Chapter member that should be recognized for their dedication and excellence? Is that member you? Self-nominations are encouraged. Consider yourself for Practitioner of the Year or Preceptor of the Year. You deserve it!! There are four awards this year.

Nurse Practitioner of the Year
Preceptor of the Year
Student of the Year
Founders Award

Nominations are due this **Friday, February 12th**.

Please see the Awards information document sent with this newsletter for more details on criteria for awards and how to apply. Please email napnapechapter@gmail.com with any questions.