

## Highlights from NANN's 30th Annual Educational Conference

Dana Lunde, DNP RNC APRN NNP-BC, Program Planning Committee Chair



NANN's highly successful annual educational conference marked some new and exciting changes. The introduction of a speed networking session, which had over 50 participants, provided a fun new way to meet colleagues from across the nation. Newly designed concurrent sessions focused on a mix of evidence-based clinical and advanced practice topics as well as up-to-the-minute research and quality improvement projects. Repeat offerings of concurrent sessions gave all attendees an opportunity to participate and advance their knowledge. An interactive question-and-answer period moderated by members of the Program Planning Committee during each paper session allowed participants to share clinical experiences and enhanced the discussion of best practices. Designated concurrent sessions highlighted the work of NANN's small grant recipients and NANNP's speaker exchange with the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners to promote collaboration among neonatal and pediatric advanced practice nurses.

The changes to this year's conference brought many excellent speakers to the Phoenix desert.

Dr. Patricia Bondurant, vice president of nursing at Texas Children's Hospital's Newborn Center, was the opening keynote speaker. Dr. Bondurant shared her knowledge and expertise concerning leadership at the bedside and also in the boardroom. Her presentation



was filled with enthusiasm and passion for nursing as she inspired all of us to take charge and lead the way in our ever-changing healthcare environment.

Mary Coughlin, MS RN NNP, was invited back to do another general session this year. Her presentation focused on the trauma we experience as critical care neonatal nurses. In her presentation she emphasized the importance of taking care of ourselves and gave us some great tools to write a personalized prescription to preserve and protect our professional integrity as nurses.

Dr. Cynthia Clark, professor in the School of Nursing at Boise State University, was the closing speaker. Dr. Clark ended the conference in a different way this year. She shared her work regarding the concept of civility

and how it relates to nursing. Her presentation focused on the basis of incivility and its effect on the healthcare environment in which we all work. She encouraged us to go back and change the culture of nursing in our institutions especially for our patients and their families.

The fun did not stop with our keynote speakers because our time in Phoenix was packed with many opportunities for learning and growing as neonatal nurses. The exhibit hall showcased new products and cutting-edge technology to improve our work at the bedside. NANN's eight special interest groups convened over breakfast to network and discuss challenges in their current areas of interest. Many new

ideas for improving our practice were shared during the author-attended poster viewing. Knowledge was gained on safe handling of infant feedings and the risks of oxygen toxicity during our corporate satellite symposia. Finally, the NANN business meeting educated us on the state of affairs and future of our organization.

We experienced the heat of the southwest desert and all Phoenix had to offer in the way of dining and entertainment, and enjoyed the time socializing with our friends and colleagues. Next year, the 31st Annual Educational Conference will be held in Dallas, and I hope you will join me there October 22–25, 2015, for another educational, engaging, and inspirational conference!



from NANN's President

## Neonatal Nursing: Our Future Is Now

Pam Spivey, MSN RN CCNS

I am so excited to be serving as your president. For 28 years, NANN and its members have been instrumental in my professional growth as a neonatal nurse. Now I have the privilege of leading NANN with you and exploring how we can further amplify our voices as we continue to learn, grow, and shape neonatal nursing in this ever-changing healthcare environment.

NANN is your connection to the strongest and most vibrant community of neonatal nurses. Nurses who care so deeply for the patients and families they serve. Nurses who rally together formally and informally to ensure our voices are heard at the local, regional, national, and international levels. Nurses who think out loud, ask the questions, and test our practices so that we continue to advance care.

NANN is the oldest organization that supports the professional needs of neonatal nurses throughout their careers through excellence in practice, education, research, and professional development. We witnessed this firsthand at our 30th Annual Educational Confer-

ence in Phoenix. Opening keynote speaker Dr. Patricia Bondurant challenged us all to use our strong voices to lead change and positively influence the care that our patients and families receive. General session speaker Mary Coughlin, MS RN NNP, reminded us that we "bear witness" to powerful, often stressful experiences that impact our lives and that, in order to remain resilient, we must practice self-care. Our closing keynote speaker Dr. Cynthia Clark shared a personal story of her son being in a NICU 30 years ago. The room was quiet as she read the card that she wrote so many years ago to the nurses who cared for her son. Then she showed us a picture of him now, which was awesome! What an impact each of the speakers made during the conference—and continue to make as we share our experiences with our colleagues.

While at the conference, we also had the opportunity to renew friendships, create new relationships, and network with one another. If you didn't get a chance to join us at "speed networking," don't worry. I'm sure we will have this activity again. I met so many new folks and got to laugh and catch up with others.

Thanks to the Program Planning Committee, led by Dana Lunde, for a fun night of networking. To Sandy, Ann, Chelsie, Gray, Tracy, Chris, Kim, and many others whose names I didn't get a chance to write down (yes, I took notes): It was great talking with you and seeing you throughout the week.

As we all get back to our families, friends, and work, let's pause and reflect on this amazing profession, neonatal nursing. Let us honor those who have laid the foundation and celebrate the people and processes that have brought us to this pivotal time in health care. The future of neonatal nursing is now. Our voice is strong and influential. Let's move forward, continuing to make a difference in the lives of the most fragile patients and their families.

"Let whoever is in charge keep this simple question in her head: (not, how can I always do this right thing myself, but) how can I provide for this right thing to be always done?"  
— Florence Nightingale, *Notes on Nursing: What It Is, and What It Is Not* (1859, pp. 40–41)



## Legacy of Significance

Suzanne Staebler, DNP APRN NNP-BC

The NANNP Council has worked tirelessly during the past 2 years to lay the groundwork for the future of neonatal APRN practice. The most important piece of this work was the publication of the white paper *The Future of Neonatal Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Practice* in March 2014, which can be found at [www.nannp.org/uploads/file/Future\\_of\\_APRNs\\_white.paper\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.nannp.org/uploads/file/Future_of_APRNs_white.paper_FINAL.pdf). For a complete overview of the State of the Association, visit the members-only page of the NANNP website.

The Council was able to record the business meeting and make it available to those who could not attend, thanks to our friends at NICUniversity. I also want to send a shout-out to Icaria, Pediatrix, and Linkous and Associates. With their support of our organization, we were able to have our business meeting over lunch and discuss timely information related to our practice at the Leadership Summit.

I would like to take a moment to introduce NANNP members to Susan Meier, DNP APRN NNP-BC. Meier assumed the role of chair of the NANNP Council at the end of NANN's 30th Annual Educational Conference. She is an NNP for Pediatrix in the Denver area and part-time faculty in the NNP program at Regis University. She has been on the council for the past 3 years and was instrumental in the research and writing of the NANNP position statement on our scope of practice and the aforementioned white paper, both published this

year. I am very excited that Susan chose to take on this role as NANNP Council chair and journey into the new territory NANNP will explore in the next few years. Be sure to keep close tabs on what's happening because there will be many opportunities for you to share your expertise as we venture into an unknown future, shaped by healthcare reform and removal of scope-of-practice barriers.

As I wrap up my leadership term as the NANNP Council chair, I reflect not only on the past 2 years as chair, but also on my 20 years of leadership within NANN. In 1994, I was asked to serve on the Advanced Practice SIG, which started my journey of volunteer leadership within the organization. I have served in many capacities within NANN and NANNP, from program committee member and task force chair to Board of Directors member and treasurer during Chapter 11 reorganization from 2000 to 2004. I have seen many facets of the organization, and as I look back, I wouldn't trade a single moment. Yes, there were times of intense frustration with too much to do, but I have been a part of some amazing projects and initiatives as a member of the organization. Most importantly, I have met some fabulous colleagues and made some incredible friends across the years, and that has been the *true* value of belonging to this professional association.

If I were asked to sum up my leadership experiences in just one word, that word would be *significance*. NANNP has been very successful, with many accom-

plishments during the 7 years since our founding. But do our accomplishments carry significance? This is always a question we must ask, especially when in leadership positions. Many times, our tiny, fragile patients get lost in the midst of the politics and financial discussions, but *they* are really the reason we do what we do every day.

So has NANNP held significance for the profession? Have we positively impacted each other and challenged ourselves to do more and be more? Have we been significant in the lives of our colleagues and friends, mentoring those around us and growing with them? Has the care we've provided made a significant impact on our patients, their families, and their health? It is my hope that NNPs have become more knowledgeable about the current evidence to inform the clinical care during my term as NANNP Council chair. I hope that my legacy will be defined by my passion and by the significance NANNP was able to achieve—for you as individual members, for our tiny patients, and for the profession of neonatal advanced practice nursing.



Susan Meier, DNP APRN NNP-BC, began her term as NANNP Council Chair in September 2014.

## Three NANNP Members Inducted as Fellows of AANP



Rebecca Siewert (center) with her sponsor (right) and FAANP chair Elizabeth Barker (left)



Rosalie Mainous (second from left) with her sponsors and FAANP chair elect Mary Ellen Roberts (far right)



Suzanne Staebler (center) with her sponsor (right) and FAANP chair Elizabeth Barker (left)

Until this year, only one neonatal nurse practitioner (NNP) had been inducted as a fellow into the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (AANP). Established by AANP in 2000, the Fellows of AANP (FAANP) is dedicated to the global advancement of nurse practitioners (NPs) and the high-quality health care they deliver. Members of FAANP are recognized NP leaders who have made outstanding contributions to NP education, policy, clinical practice, and/or research. FAANP also seeks to engage current leaders and develop NP leaders of the future to further the NP profession and enhance AANP's mission.

At the 2014 induction ceremony, held at the Gaylord Opryland in Nashville, TN, three NANNP members were inducted as fellows. NANN celebrates these three new Fellows and looks forward to future inductions from our membership!

### Rebecca Siewert, DNP NNP-BC ARNP FAANP

Dr. Siewert is an associate clinical professor and coordinator of the NNP program at the University of Iowa College of Nursing. She also holds a faculty position at the University of Missouri–Kansas City, teaching in its NNP program. Dr. Siewert completed her undergraduate education at St. Xavier University in Chicago, earned her MS from the University of Illinois at Chicago, and completed her NNP education and earned her DNP from

Rush University in Chicago. Dr. Siewert is currently an NNP at the University of Iowa Children's Hospital. Her present research focuses on implementation of a nurse-delivered counseling technique (listening visits) for NICU mothers who have postpartum depression and anxiety. Dr. Siewert has spoken at local, national, and international conferences. She is an active member of NANN; NANNP; Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses; AANP; and Sigma Theta Tau International. Dr. Siewert is active with the Ronald McDonald House Charities and the March of Dimes.

### Rosalie Mainous, PhD APRN NNP-BC FAANP

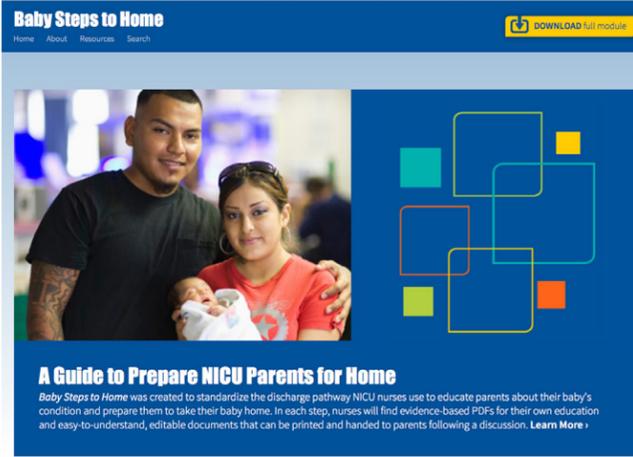
Dr. Mainous has been a nurse for over 35 years and is trained as an NNP. She received her PhD in nursing from the University of Kentucky with a focus in neonatal research and was recognized as one of the university's top 50 graduates. An alumna of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Executive Nurse Fellow program, Dr. Mainous was a contributor to the Institute of Medicine report, *The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health*, and continues to advance those recommendations at every opportunity. Now dean of the Wright State University College of Nursing and Health, she is the administrator for five NP concentrations, having just started an NNP program in response to regional need. Dr. Mainous has been an active member

of NANN and NANNP for several years, serving in many leadership roles.

### Suzanne Staebler, DNP APRN NNP-BC FAANP

Dr. Staebler is an extraordinary clinician, advocate, and nationally recognized leader in the field of neonatal advanced practice nursing. She holds a BSN from Baylor University, an MSN from the University of Texas Health Science Center, and a DNP from Texas Christian University. Through her early involvement in neonatal professional organizations, Dr. Staebler has become a pioneer for guiding policy development and implementation at both general nursing and advanced practice nursing levels. Her exceptional leadership provided a platform for the NNP profession as a highly respected APRN subspecialty encompassing critical, acute, and primary care of infants. One of Dr. Staebler's most outstanding contributions was her development of quality improvement and quality/productivity measurement tools to enhance NNP practice and improve patient outcomes. Dr. Staebler has been an active member of NANN and NANNP for many years, serving in leadership roles for the past 20 years. She completed her term as NANNP Council chair at NANN's 30th Annual Educational Conference.

# Standardize Your NICU's Discharge Teaching with *Baby Steps to Home*



*Baby Steps to Home* is the first standardized, evidence-based discharge pathway designed for nurses! This free online resource is available to all hospitals across the country. It is designed to help nurses provide parents with information appropriate for their baby's condition and progress toward discharge.

*Baby Steps to Home* includes

- 10 steps of discharge covering 25 topics from common diagnoses to follow-up appointments
- downloadable evidence-based PDFs for nurses
- parent handouts that explain the condition, include questions for parents to ask their baby's healthcare providers, and provide practical information and tips
- customizable parent handouts in English and Spanish that allow you to include your hospital's logo and other specific information.

*Baby Steps to Home* is available at [www.babystepstohome.com](http://www.babystepstohome.com) and is supported by an educational grant from MedImmune, LLC.

## NANN thanks these companies for their support of the 30th Annual Educational Conference:

### Gold Level



### Silver Level



### Bronze Level



### Educational Grants



## In support of other initiatives during 2014, NANN acknowledges these companies:



Research Institute and NANNP Membership Grant Program



Research Institute



NANNP Luncheon and Business Meeting, Workforce Survey



Attendee Scholarships, Research Institute, Research Summit



CNE*Now!*



NANNP Leadership Summit

## These companies supported satellite symposia with CNE during NANN's 30th Annual Educational Conference:



## Are You Seeking Certification Maintenance?

If you are a neonatal intensive care nurse (RNC-NIC) or neonatal nurse practitioner (NNP-BC), you know that the Continuing Competency Initiative of the National Certification Corporation (NCC) is proceeding. In order to meet specific certification maintenance requirements, the NCC developed core competency areas for both RNC-NICs and NNPs.

If you are an RNC-NIC, there are four core competency areas: general assessment, physiology and pathophysiology, pharmacology, and professional practice. NNPs have five core competency areas: physical assessment, physiology and pathophysiology, general management, pharmacology, and professional practice.

NANN has coded specific continuing nursing education (CNE) activities with competency codes for your convenience. This will help you identify and determine which activities you need to maintain your certification through NCC or elsewhere. As a reminder, no CNE earned can be applied toward NCC certification maintenance until specialty assessment has been completed.

NANN products, such as Developmental Care CNE Learning Modules and *Essentials of Neonatal Nursing*, are coded appropriately per the NCC requirement. For more information regarding certification maintenance and coded NANN products, visit [www.nann.org/ncc](http://www.nann.org/ncc).

It is possible to have too much of a good thing...

**Oxygen is no exception.**  
Though necessary and often beneficial at appropriate doses, elevated  $\text{FIO}_2$  levels can put patients at risk for hyperoxia and may result in the formation of reactive oxygen species, cytotoxicity, and damage to lung tissue.<sup>1-4</sup>

**References:** 1. Kulkarni AC, Kuppasamy P, Parinandi N. Oxygen, the lead actor in the pathophysiologic drama: enactment of the trinity of normoxia, hypoxia, and hyperoxia in disease and therapy. *Antioxid Redox Signal*. 2007;9(10):1717-1730. 2. Lakshminrusimha S, Steinhorn RH, Wedgwood S, et al. Pulmonary hemodynamics and vascular reactivity in asphyxiated term lambs resuscitated with 21 and 100% oxygen. *J Appl Physiol*. 2011;111(5):1441-1447. 3. Kannan S, Pang H, Foster DC, et al. Human 8-oxoguanine DNA glycosylase increases resistance to hyperoxic cytotoxicity in lung epithelial cells and involvement with altered MAPK activity. *Cell Death Differ*. 2006;13(2):311-323. 4. Yee M, Vitello PF, Roger JM, et al. Type II epithelial cells are critical target for hyperoxia-mediated impairment of postnatal lung development. *Am J Physiol Lung Cell Mol Physiol*. 2006;291(5):L1101-L1111.

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## Advocacy Update

# Health Policy & Advocacy Committee Activities at NANN Annual Conference

Joyce Stein, BSN RN



Once again, the NANN Annual Educational Conference in Phoenix was a great opportunity for networking and education. The Health Policy & Advocacy Committee (HPAC) would like to thank all of the nurses who attended our events during the conference. The committee again sponsored a booth in the exhibit hall. Our theme this year honored the 50th anniversary of the passage of

the Nurse Training Act of 1964. This important piece of legislation continues to be relevant today with its reauthorization of funding for Title VIII Workforce Development Programs every year. These programs are crucial to the advancement of the nursing workforce through support of educational scholarships and loans for nurses and faculty. One lucky conference attendee went home with a copy of the newly published *Health Policy and Advanced Practice Nursing: Impact and Implications*, which was raffled off at our booth.

We thank everyone who signed up to become a state liaison or to learn more about health policy. We will be contacting you soon with the next steps toward taking an active role in nursing advocacy. If you missed the opportunity to visit our booth, visit our advocacy page, [www.nann.org/advocacy](http://www.nann.org/advocacy), to view our advocacy agenda for 2014.

On the second day of the conference, HPAC hosted its annual roundtable breakfast. This is an opportunity to learn more about the committee, share personal advocacy stories, and identify advocacy issues for the committee to monitor. Some of the issues identified for 2015 were staffing ratios, NNP workload, state policies and regulations related to maternal drug addiction, and the incidence of antibiotic-resistant organisms. Follow these and other issues on the MyNANN website at [my.nann.org](http://my.nann.org). Find fact sheets and other resources on advocacy issues at [www.nann.org/advocacy](http://www.nann.org/advocacy).

Learning opportunities regarding advocacy in neonatal nursing were abundant throughout the conference, from the opening session through the closing session with Dr. Cynthia Clark. Examples were given of advocating at the bedside, in the workplace, and at the legislative level. The authors of *Policy & Politics in Nursing and Health Care* said it best: "All nurses have the opportunity and ability to engage in policy and politics. One needs only the desire to learn" (Mason, Leavitt, & Chaffee, 2007, p. 45). HPAC looks forward to helping you learn and take the next steps to engage actively in policy and politics.

Mason, D. J., Leavitt, J. K., & Chaffee, M.W. (2007). *Policy & politics in nursing and health care* (5th ed.). St. Louis, MO: Saunders.



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## Calendar

### Pharmacology Webinar

December 11, 2014

Antimicrobial Use and  
Stewardship

### Nurse in Washington Internship (NIWI)

March 15–17, 2015

Washington, DC

### NANN's 10th Annual Research Summit

March 24–26, 2015

Scottsdale, AZ

### 19th Annual NICU Leadership Forum

April 26–30, 2015

Palm Springs, CA

Look for chapter meeting dates at [www.nann.org](http://www.nann.org).

## 2014 NANN Award Recipients

### NNP Excellence Award

Cindi Acree-Hamann, DNP APRN NNP-BC

### Leadership Award

Kirtley Ceballos, MSN RNC PCNS-BC CLC

### Navigator Award

Anne Salice, MSN RN PNP NNP-BC

### Robyn Main Award

Barbara Labuda, MSN RNC-NIC

### Lifetime Achievement Award

Carole Kenner, PhD RN FAAN

### Lifetime Achievement Award

Terri Cavaliere, DNP RN NNP-BC

### Distinguished Service Award

Lori Baas Rubarth, PhD APRN NNP-BC

### Chapter of the Year

Southeastern Michigan Association of  
Neonatal Nurses

### Membership Recruitment & Retention

South East Florida Association of  
Neonatal Nurses

### Community Service Award and Fund- raising Efforts Award

Central California Association of  
Neonatal Nurses

### Chapter Communications Award and Educational Offerings Award

Delaware Valley Association of Neonatal  
Nurses

### Research Abstract Award

Carol Wallman, DNP APRN NNP-BC

### Clinical Abstract Award

Carrie Ellen Briere, MS RN CLC

### Small Grant Awards

Tamara Meeker, MSN CRNP NNP-BC

Ann Phalen, PhD CRNP NNP-BC

Ashley Weber, PhD(c) MS RN