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 enhance 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 Conference 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?”

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, DNP APRN NNP-BC

Three NANNP Members Inducted as Fellows of AANP

Rebecca Siewert, DNP NNP-BC ANNP 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 Wright State University College of Nursing and Health, and continues to advance those values of quality improvement and quality/productivity measurement tools to enhance NNP practice and improve patient outcomes. Dr. Siewert has been an active member of NANN and NANNP for many years, serving in leadership roles.

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

NANNP has been very successful, with many accomplishments 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 NNP’s have become more knowledgeable about the current evidence to inform the clinical care we provide 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.

Rebecca Siewert, DNP APRN NNP-BC, ANNP, completed her NNP education and earned her DNP 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 BS 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 AFRN 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.
Oxygen is no exception. Though necessary and often beneficial at appropriate doses, elevated FiO\textsubscript{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.

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

References:

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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, 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 workforce, state policies and regulations related to maternal drug addiction, and the incidence of antibiotic-resistant organisms. Follow these and other issues on our MyNANN website at my.nann.org. Find fact sheets and other resources on advocacy issues at 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.