



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
CLINICAL NURSE SPECIALISTS

Practice & Policy Newsletter

Message from the NACNS President

November/December 2008

President-Elect Barack Obama faces numerous challenges as he takes office in January 2009. The mortgage crisis has precipitated a decline in world markets; the Iraq war continues to absorb large amount of resources and health care costs continue to rise. Many of us hope to see health care reform hit the national agenda early in the 111th Congress. The opportunity for reform of the health care system may now be possible since there is a Democratic House and Senate. NACNS is engaged and working with the larger nursing community to ensure that nursing has a say in the health care reform debate that is sure to surface early in the Obama Administration.

Sue Sendelbach, PhD, CCNS, FAHA
2008 NACNS President

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NACNS NEWS

Clinical Nurse Specialist Foundation Student Scholarship Applications Currently Being Accepted

The Clinical Nurse Specialist Foundation is accepting student scholarship applications through **Dec. 1, 2008**. Students in master's and PhD nursing programs are eligible to apply for the four scholarships available this year.. All applications will be reviewed by a Foundation panel and scholarship winners will be notified by December 31, 2008. The application can be found at www.nacns.org.

CNS Core Competencies Updated

A national task force has reviewed the NACNS core CNS competencies and CNS practice competencies developed by specialty nursing organizations. The outcome is an updated set of core practice competencies that will be circulated for endorsement by stakeholder organizations. Contact NACNS for a copy of the competencies at nacns@nacns.org

Registration opens this month for 2009 NACNS Conference- Clinical Nurse Specialist: Vision, Value, Voice

The 2009 NACNS Conference, *Clinical Nurse Specialists: Vision, Value, Voice*, will be held **March 5 – 7, 2009** at the **Renaissance Grand & Suites Hotel in St. Louis, Missouri**. The 2009 sponsor and exhibitor information is now available and registration will open soon. For more details: www.nacns.org

ANCC Core CNS Exam Review Course Tuesday, March 3, 2009

NACNS and ANCC are pleased to offer this review course that will prepare participants for the CNS core certification exam which will be available in September 2009. The course is also open to individuals who don't plan to take the exam but are interested in obtaining continuing education contact hours and information about CNS practice. Tuesday, March 3, 2009 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM **PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.** To register, contact ANCC at <http://www.nursecredentialing.org/Certification.aspx> or email: joanne.evans@ana.org

NACNS Annual Meeting - Call for Student Posters

Student poster abstracts will be accepted until December 1, 2008. Instructions for submitting abstracts and the electronic submission form can be accessed on the conference page of the NACNS website www.nacns.org.

Hill & Agency News

ANA Launches GeroNurseOnline.org

The American Nurses Association (ANA) has launched a re-designed Web site, GeroNurseOnline.org that is designed to serve as a comprehensive, rich resource for nurses. It was developed through the Nurse Competence in Aging Initiative, to provide information regarding nursing care of older adults. The Nurse Competence in Aging Initiative has been funded by a grant from the Atlantic Philanthropies to the American Nurses Foundation.

- Career opportunities in geriatric nursing;

- Links to 55 specialty nursing associations' clinical offerings in geriatric care and geriatric websites;
- Resource organizations and related resource materials;
- Hospital competencies for caring for older adults for use in nurse orientation and evaluation;
- Online courses to prepare for ANCC gerontological certification; and
- ANA advocacy work on behalf of geriatric nurses.

Go to www.geronurseonline.org and explore this site.

2008 National Sample Survey of Registered Nurses – Please Respond

The Division of Nursing's 2008 National Sample Survey of Registered Nurses, an important measure of the number and characteristics of actively licensed registered nurses in the U.S., has been sent to approximately 55,000 RNs this year. This survey is a measure of the demographics of the nurse workforce. It is important to the profession that individuals that were randomly selected respond to the survey. Currently, the response rate has lagged behind that of the 2000 and 2004 sample surveys.

If you have received the announcement invitation or survey via mail or electronic mail, please take the time to fill out this important survey that helps describe today's registered nurses and their ages, current salaries, work settings, educational preparation, specialty areas of practice, and retirement plans. Untold numbers of researchers await the publication of the final report and public datasets in 2009. Please consider the importance of this opportunity and respond to the survey if you received it.

American Academy of Nursing's (AAN) Raise the Voice Campaign Puts Nurse innovators in the Media

Funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the AAN is engaged in a campaign to raise the visibility of innovative nurses that make a difference in health care. The *Raise the Voice* Campaign makes distinct efforts to put *Raise the*

Voice “Edge Runners” in front of the media. Nurses that are working on innovative health care projects and can articulate the financial and health care outcomes are potential Edge Runners. If you would like to consider this opportunity, please go to www.aannet.org and click the “Public Affairs” tab.

ANA CEO Announces Retirement

On November 5, 2008, ANA’s CEO Linda Stierle, MSN, RN, NEA-BC, announced her retirement from full-time employment. Since her employment in April, 2000 Linda Stierle has worked to implement programs designed to meet the vision and goals of the association. With a staff of nearly 200 individuals, Stierle has Prior to her distinguished career at ANA, Stierle retired as a Brigadier General in the United States Air Force Nurse Corps where she served as the twelfth Chief of the Nurse Corps. Stierle began her military career in 1970 as a staff nurse in intensive care. During her career she held various clinical and management positions including chief nursing officer at Wilford Hall Medical Center, Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas, the Air Force’s largest medical center with 1,000 beds and at the 48th Tactical Fighter Wing Hospital, Royal Air Force in Lakenheath, England.

HPV-Related Cancer Statistics Announced by CDC

Twenty-five thousand cases of human papillomavirus (HPV)-associated cancers occurred in 38 states and the District of Columbia annually during 1998-2003, according to studies conducted by [CDC](http://www.cdc.gov). The report, “Assessing the Burden of Human Papillomavirus (HPV)-Associated Cancers in the United States (ABHACUS),” was published online and appears in the Nov. 15, 2008, supplement edition of *Cancer*.

This will serve as baseline data to measure the impact of HPV vaccine and cervical cancer screening programs in reducing the incidence of cervical cancer and other HPV-associated cancers and pre-cancers..

The top HPV-associated cancer sites were cervix, oral cavity and oropharynx, anus, vulva, penis, and vagina. HPV is the name of a group of viruses that includes more than 100 different types. More than

30 of these HPV types can be sexually transmitted. Most people with HPV infection do not develop symptoms or health problems. Some HPV types can cause cervical cancer and other less common cancers, such as cancer of the vulva, vagina, anus, and penis. Other HPV types can cause genital warts. More information on this study can be found at: www.cdc.gov .

The Rate of New Cases of Diabetes is on the Rise

The rate of new cases of diagnosed diabetes rose by more than 90 percent among adults over the last 10 years, according to a study by the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](http://www.cdc.gov).

The data, published in CDC's [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](http://www.cdc.gov), show that in the past decade, the incidence (new cases) of diagnosed diabetes has increased from 4.8 per 1,000 people during 1995-1997 to 9.1 per 1,000 in 2005-2007 in 33 states.

This study demonstrates that health care providers must continue to promote effective diabetes prevention efforts that include lifestyle interventions for people at risk for diabetes. Changes such as weight loss combined with moderate physical activity are important steps that individuals can take to reduce their risk for developing diabetes.

NINR Announces P01

NINR Program Projects in Symptom Management Research and Program Projects in Health Promotion/Disease Prevention Research (P01) is open for application until April 17, 2009. This program project grant mechanism is designed to support research in which the funding of several interdependent projects as a group offers significant scientific advantages over support of these same projects as individual regular research grants. This FOA supports applications to develop interdisciplinary biobehavioral nursing research methods in Symptom Management Research OR Health Promotion/Disease Prevention Research. For more information, please go to: <http://www.ninr.nih.gov/ResearchAndFunding/DEA/OEP/FundingOpportunities/RequestannFile.htm>

Flu Information Searches on Google May Provide Data on Flu Demographics

The *New York Times* recently reported on a new contribution that search engines may provide to society – a methodology to track the spread of flu and potentially other diseases. Culturally, individuals go to a search engine to assess their symptoms. This mass of individuals seeking information on their condition may actually emerge as a methodology to track disease earlier than the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This data may help speed the public health response and potentially decrease the spread of contagious diseases such as the flu. Goggle.org, the philanthropic arm of Google, is developing a database based on the trends noted in its search engine in efforts to track the flu. Early information suggests that Goggle Flu Trends may provide information about the flu a week to 10 days before they are reported by the CDC. To read the full *New York Times* article: http://www.nytimes.com/2008/11/12/technology/internet/12flu.html?_r=2&ref=health&oref=slogin&oref=slogin

Survey Finds Medicaid Enrollment on the Rise

A weakening economy is blamed for increased enrollment in Medicaid for 2008. States are expecting even larger increases for fiscal year 2009, according to a new 50-state survey released On September 29, 2008 by the Kaiser Family Foundation's Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured (KCMU). Whenever there is increased enrollment, states must find ways to contain costs. The double impact of the economy and larger enrollment may result in the potential for program cutbacks as states confront the combined impact of more enrollees and fewer available resources.

The survey finds that Medicaid enrollment across the country grew 2.1 percent in fiscal year 2008. States also experienced spending growth of 5.3 percent, up significantly from the previous two years. For fiscal year 2009, states expect to see even larger increases in Medicaid enrollment (3.5 percent) and spending (5.8 percent). To read more about this study, please go to: <http://www.kff.org/newsroom/kcmu092908nr.cfm>

Wonderful Websites

This new feature of the NACNS newsletter has been developed in order to feature excellent websites for your practice.

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

<http://www.rwjf.org>

This website provides extensive information from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation related to health and health care improvement. RWJF offers webinars and other resources for health care professionals.

March of Dimes

<http://marchofdimes.org>

This website is the official website of the March of Dimes. It is designed to provide health care provider and consumer information on pregnancy, babies and prematurity. March of Dimes published information on current research findings, public health campaigns and activities to raise money to decrease prematurity in the United States.

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