

Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner Care

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Official Newsletter of ARNPs United of Washington State

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Join Us At Conference

It's that time of year again! Time to register for our region's *stellar* annual advanced practice conference, designed by and for nurse practitioners in all specialties! This year's conference is October 1-4 in downtown Seattle. "Being able to sustain this national conference in our own backyard for the past 30 years reflects loyal support from the whole advanced practice community!" says Maddy Wiley, co-chair of the planning committee. As one participant wrote in 2007, "I was here last year and had so much fun I came back with two of my colleagues!" This conference is known for its outstanding speakers, specialty tracks, practice-oriented workshops, and excellent organization. New this year is a poster session on Thursday. Back by popular demand is an art show, "The Art of Advanced Practice," showcasing the work of attendees. (Bring your priceless creations!)

This year's keynote speakers are Louis Kuritzky (Wednesday evening, "5 Things I Wish I Knew Last Year"), Ed O'Neil (Thursday, "The Role of the Nurse Practitioner in Emerging Health Care Reform"), and Margaret Fitzgerald (Friday, "Hot Topics in Nurse Practitioner Practice!"). Call UWCNE at 206.543.1047 for more information or go to www.uwcne.org (<http://www.uwcne.org/secure/display3.asp?SKU=08130-A-C>) for a detailed brochure and online registration.

The Doctor of Nursing Practice Degree

By Louise Kaplan, PhD, ARNP

In 2004, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) adopted a position that all advanced practice nursing education, should occur at the doctoral level by the year 2015. This practice focused education leads to the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree. According to AACN, there are nearly 80 DNP programs accepting students and more than 140 additional nursing programs considering starting a DNP. The University of Washington DNP program started in January 2007 and is the only DNP program in the state. It has options for advanced practice nurses who complete a post-master's program and for nurses with BSN degrees who will become advanced practice nurses including nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, nurse midwives, and community health practitioners. Several other universities in Washington, including Washington State University and Seattle University, are planning DNP programs that will begin over the next year or two. Many programs will continue to offer master's degrees along with the DNP.

Why Obtain a DNP?

The DNP will prepare advanced practice nurses with competencies in clinical care, practice inquiry, teaching, health policy, and leadership for practice in an increasingly complex health care environment. Factors that contribute to this increasing complexity include an aging population, an increase in chronic health problems across the lifespan, and health disparities. The AACN defines advanced practice broadly and includes direct care of individual patients, management of care for individuals and populations, administration of nursing and health care organizations, and the development of health policy.

The DNP program is designed to prepare nurses to integrate evidence-based research into practice and results in a capstone project, while the PhD program focuses on nursing science development, research methods, and conducting a research project and results in a dissertation or research papers. Both PhD and DNP programs set high standards and focus on advancing the nursing profession. A few of the benefits of a DNP program include knowledge to improve evidence-based nursing practice and patient care, stronger leadership skills for quality improvement and changing health systems, enhanced knowledge of health policy for increased participation as advocates for change, and the ability to use information systems and technology to advance nursing practice.

The AACN's document *The Essentials of Doctoral Education for Advanced Nursing Practice (2006)* provides information about the DNP and core requirements for educational programs to assure consistency and set standards. It can be accessed at: <http://www.aacn.nche.edu/DNP/pdf/Essentials.pdf>. The AACN also has a set of 'Frequently Asked Questions' that provides additional information about the DNP and can be accessed at: <http://www.aacn.nche.edu/DNP/dnpfaq.htm>.

Some currently licensed advanced registered nurse practitioners (ARNPs) are concerned that the educational transition to the DNP will require them to obtain a DNP. Current Washington State nursing rules require a graduate degree for licensure as an ARNP. This means that both the master's and DNP degrees are accepted as meeting eligibility for licensure. Any post-BSN DNP student will be able to obtain a license as an ARNP since the DNP degree is a graduate degree. The Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission is not considering any change to that requirement at this time. National certification is also required for licensure as an ARNP in Washington State. National certification

organizations currently require either a master's or DNP degree for an individual to be eligible to take the certifying examination. The DNP degree is not required by any certifying organization at this time.

If there are any questions that I can answer for you about the DNP, please contact me at kaplanla@wsu.edu.

When Is a Rash Not Just a Rash? When It's Measles

We've all seen the little kid zooming around the waiting room. What if that child had measles? How many of your patients and staff would be exposed? How much time would you spend notifying patients about that exposure, and how many of your staff would be furloughed from work for weeks because they were exposed, but not immune, to measles? The numbers add up quickly. If you want to avoid that scenario, read on. The recent measles outbreak in Grant County illustrates the wide-ranging effects of one measles case. The Grant County index case, who developed measles symptoms about 2 weeks after attending a conference in King County, transmitted the infection to other family members. One of the subsequent cases went on a school field trip while contagious, exposing hundreds of school kids and some health care workers.

Where did some of these children go when they became ill with a fever and rash? Right—a health care facility like yours. And if you are unprepared, you too could have someone with measles expose you, your coworkers, and your patients—in waiting rooms, exam rooms, and treatment rooms.

So here's how you can be prepared.

Be sure that your staff are immune to measles. Persons are considered immune if they have one of the following:

- documentation of health care provider diagnosed measles
- laboratory evidence of immunity to measles (rubeola)
- written documentation (including dates) of 2 doses of live measles vaccine. *Self-reported doses or parental history of vaccination alone are not acceptable.*

Although most people born before 1957 are immune to measles, not all are. During 1985–1992, 27% of the measles cases in health care workers were in persons born before 1957 (*MMWR*, 46(RR18), p. 10).

Therefore, you should consider MMR vaccination for unvaccinated workers born before 1957 who do not have a history of measles disease or lab evidence of immunity.

Measles spreads through respiratory droplets and airborne transmission. Review airborne precautions for

your facility with your staff, including reception staff, so they understand their important role in infection control.

Screen patients calling for appointments, to identify those with febrile rash illnesses.

Arrange “special handling” for patients who may have measles: direct them to a different entrance (avoiding the waiting room), schedule them as the last appointment of the day, evaluate them in a vehicle, or have them wear a mask before entering the building.

Post visual alerts (in appropriate languages) at your front entrance instructing patients and the persons who accompany them to cover their coughs and to inform health care personnel of symptoms of a respiratory infection when they first register for care.

Screen arriving patients for rash illnesses. Rapidly isolate them from other patients as noted above. Only staff immune to measles should enter the room of a suspected measles patient.

Provide tissues and alcohol-based hand rub for patients.

Minimize number of staff who have contact with patient.

Wear personal protective equipment while examining the patient.

Remember that measles transmission can occur in closed rooms (exam room, bathroom) for up to 2 hours after a person with measles has been in the room.

Measles is not the only disease that could infect patients and staff in your facility. When you implement the steps above, you'll be well on your way to limiting the spread of other respiratory illnesses such as influenza, pertussis, and SARS. You'll be glad you did.

Persons who work in medical facilities are 13 times more likely to be exposed to measles than the general population. During 1990–1991, 668 of the 1,788 measles cases reportedly acquired in medical settings occurred among health care workers. Five hundred sixty-one (84%) of those 668 were unvaccinated, 187 (28%) were hospitalized, and 3 died (*MMWR* 46 (RR-18), p. 10). And in 15 of the 75 measles outbreaks reported during 1993–1996, transmission occurred in a medical facility (www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/pinkbook/downloads/meas.pdf, p. 141).

Classified Ads

Tacoma, WA - Full and Part-time FNP

MultiCare Express, a part of MultiCare Health System, is a retail based practice located in area pharmacies. The express clinic will offer high quality care for simple illnesses such as sore throats, URI, UTI, sinusitis with point of care testing and some common immunizations. This is a great opportunity to practice autonomously in a unique set-

ting. Master of Science degree in nursing and national certification as a Family Nurse Practitioner is required. MultiCare Health System offers competitive compensation/benefits as well as flexible full-time and part-time schedules. For more information please contact Provider Services @ 800-621-0301 or send CV to blazenewtrails@multicare.org.

Please reference opportunity #643-798-800

Gig Harbor, WA - ARNP - Medical Aesthetics

Gig Harbor MultiCare Healthy Reflections Medical and Day Spa is seeking on-call medical aesthetics nurse practitioners to support our client's desires to restore, rejuvenate or enhance their image through education, medical aesthetic procedures and products. This is the ideal position for a provider who wants to set their own work schedule. Candidates must be eligible for licensure & certification in Washington State. Excellent compensation, benefits, and group stability makes this an ideal choice for the provider who is looking to experience the best of Northwest living; from big city amenities to the pristine beauty and recreational opportunities of the great outdoors. For more information regarding this fantastic opportunity, contact Provider Services @ 800.621.0301 or send your CV to blazenewtrails@multicare.org. Please reference opportunity #717-900

Tacoma, WA - ARNP or PA-C

Tacoma Family Medicine (TFM) seeks a full-time nurse practitioner or physician assistant to work in a collaborative practice providing comprehensive primary healthcare in all aspects of family practice. TFM is a fully accredited Family Medicine Residency Program and a proud member of the University of Washington's Family Practice Network. Candidate must be eligible for licensure and certification in Washington State. Excellent compensation, benefits, and group stability makes this an ideal choice for the provider who is looking to experience the best of Northwest living; from big city amenities to the pristine beauty and recreational opportunities of the great outdoors. For more information regarding this fantastic opportunity, contact Provider Services @ 800.621.0301 or send your CV to blazenewtrails@multicare.org. Please reference opportunity #723-889

Western WA - Urgent Care ARNP

Full-time opening for a nurse practitioner to provide quality healthcare to patients of all ages in one of our Urgent Care-Centers located within 40 minutes of downtown Seattle. Experience in urgent care and family practice is preferred. Candidates must be qualified for licensure & certification in Washington State as a NP. You will enjoy excellent compensation and benefits, flexible shifts and system-wide support, while practicing your own patient care values. You'll live the Northwest lifestyle and experience the best of Northwest living, from big city amenities to the pristine beauty and recreational opportunities of the great outdoors. For more information regarding this opportunity, contact Provider Services @ 800.621.0301 or send your CV to blazenewtrails@multicare.org. Please refer to opportunity #729-910

Puyallup, WA - Orthopedic ARNP

Good Samaritan Hospital, part of MultiCare Health System, seeks ARNP to join a growing orthopedic and sports medicine group in an office based practice with potential for first assist surgical opportunities. Competitive salary, a full array of benefits and a great location makes this an ideal choice for the provider who is looking to experience the best of Northwest living; from big city amenities to the pristine beauty and recreational opportunities of the great outdoors. For more information, contact Provider Services @ 800.621.0301 or send CV to blazenewtrails@multicare.org. Refer to opportunity #739-894/895. "MultiCare Health System is a drug free workplace"

Tacoma, WA - ARNP - Adult Medicine

Family Practice/Geriatrician seeks an Adult Nurse Practitioner to work in a collaborative practice providing comprehensive primary

healthcare in all aspects of family practice, geriatrics and nursing home care. The provider will work two days in the clinic and two days rounding in the nursing homes. Candidates must be eligible for licensure & certification in Washington State. Excellent compensation, benefits, and group stability makes this an ideal choice for the provider who is looking to experience the best of Northwest living; from big city amenities to the pristine beauty and recreational opportunities of the great outdoors. For more information regarding this fantastic opportunity, contact Provider Services @ 800.621.0301 or send your CV to blazenewtrails@multicare.org. Please reference opportunity #714-881

Tacoma, WA - Pediatric ARNP

Excellent opportunity to work with subspecialist pediatricians, in addition to general pediatricians. Responsible for well child/preventive care and acute care visits. Hospital privileges for normal newborn care. Will have own panel of patients and will help with overflow acute care for entire practice. Electronic Health Record (EPIC) utilized. Competitive salary with excellent benefits. Productivity bonus may apply. Visit our website at www.pedsnw.net. Please email resume to dtaniguchi@pedsnw.net or call 253.383.5777, ext. 3009

Yakima, WA - ARNP

The Yakima Heart Center is a busy and growing single cardiovascular group practice with 14 physicians and 5 mid-level practitioners. We are located in sunny Central Washington close to mountains for hiking and skiing. We are currently seeking applicants for an ARNP position for a blended clinic and hospital practice. Cardiology practice experience preferred. Rounding is 1 in 6 weekends. Excellent salary and benefits. Email your resume to: jobs@yakimaheartcenter.com, mail to: Human Resources, Yakima Heart Center, 406 S. 30th Avenue, Yakima, WA 98902, or fax to 509.248.2890.

Seattle, WA - Hemophilia Dept. NP

The Puget Sound Blood Center is an independent, volunteer-supported nonprofit regional resource providing blood and tissue, research, and education of high quality and value. We have proudly served donors and patients for over 60 years.

Join 3 other clinical nurse specialists in providing patient education and outpatient care for over 600 patients with hemophilia or other inherited bleeding disorders. This position will give you the opportunity to follow patients and their families long term. Position involves taking history, explaining lab results to the patient and family, evaluating bleeding problems and arranging for treatment and/or consulting with hematologist. Teach new families about their bleeding disorder, train patients and families self-infusion skills, provide in-service education to health care providers and school personnel. Develop treatment plans for surgeries and dental extractions in conjunction with hematologist, assist hospitals and clinics to implement treatment plans appropriately, and instruct patients on continuing care. Requirements include RN, with Masters Degree in nursing or related health care discipline preferred. Must be willing to rotate telephone call with 3 other nurses. Interested applicants should send a cover letter and resume to: HumanResources@psbc.org or Fax: 1.866.286.8495. More info at www.psb.org. The Puget Sound Blood Center is an EEO/AA employer dedicated to workforce diversity.

CE Opportunities

Pacific NW 31st Annual Conference for Advanced Practice in Primary and Acute Care

October 1-4, 2008 • 6.0-21.5 contact hours • Washington Washington State Convention & Trade Center, Seattle, WA Enhance your clinical competencies • Acquire new assessment and management skills • Examine critical issues in health care at the state and national level • Foster a strong coalition of providers in advanced practice • Learn about new products, services, and pharmacotherapeutic agents at this highly-acclaimed conference.

For information call CNE, 206-543-1047 email: cne@u.washington.edu

Web: uwcne.org. The URL for the Advanced Practice in Primary and Acute Care brochure: <http://www.son.washington.edu/cne/conf/PDFs/08130-A-C.pdf>

Meetings

Join us! Puget Sound Nurse Practitioners Association is a non-profit organization supporting ARNPs in Puget Sound since 1998. We meet every other month and offer a social hour/networking and a CME talk. Annual dues are \$35/\$17.50 for students. Apply for membership and find meeting information at <http://PSNPA.org>

Ad Information

Copy deadline is the second Tuesday of the month prior to publication. Ads may be accepted later than this on a space-available basis. Position Available Ads of less than 66 words are \$45, of 66 to 130 words are \$75, and greater than 130 words are \$105. Position Available Ads are priced per insertion. Continuing Education Announcements of less than 65 words are \$70, of 66 to 130 words are \$105, or 131 words or greater are \$130. Continuing Education Announcements are per offering for up to three (3) consecutive insertions. New Product Announcements per product for one insertion of 130 words or less are \$75. Ad Inserts are \$550 for one issue. All ads are subject to space limitations and editing. Call for detailed rate information. Mail copy to ARNP Care, 10024 SE 240th St, #102, Kent, WA 98031. Phone 253.852.9042. Fax 253.852.7725. Email care@nurse.net.

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