

# Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner Care

Vol. 23, No. 7

Official Newsletter of ARNPs United of Washington State

July 2012

## Catherine Luria Health Monitor NP Hero of 2012



Catherine Luria, MS, ARNP receives her award as Health Monitor Nurse Practitioner Hero of the Year for 2012 from John Steimachowicz at the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners General Session. (Photo by Bob Smithing)

## Supreme Court Ruling and NP Practice

By Louise Kaplan, PhD, ARNP, FNP-BC, FAANP

The Supreme Court on June 28, 2012 upheld the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) that requires most Americans to obtain health insurance or pay a penalty. The PPACA is the most significant piece of health care legislation passed since Medicare and Medicaid were created in 1965. Highly controversial, the PPACA, when fully implemented, will allow the U.S. to become the last industrialized country in the world to have access to health care for all citizens. The Supreme Court ruling was a victory for the nearly 50 million Americans who were uninsured in 2010.<sup>1</sup> For people who are already insured, there are numerous benefits that will improve access to care, lower costs, and result in better quality.

The Supreme Court considered the constitutionality of the PPACA's "individual mandate" which requires most Americans to purchase health insurance if they are not covered by an employer or government program. The mandate was upheld by a 5-4 vote. The majority opinion concluded: "that the mandate may be upheld as within

Congress's power to 'lay and collect Taxes'"<sup>2</sup> rather than under law referred to as the Commerce Clause.

The Supreme Court also considered the provision in the PPACA to require states to expand Medicaid coverage to adults with incomes up to 133% of the federal poverty level or potentially lose all federal Medicaid funds. On a 5-4 vote, the Court supported the Medicaid expansion but not the coercive penalty if states did not participate. "What Congress is not free to do is to penalize States that choose not to participate in that new program by taking away their existing Medicaid funding."<sup>3</sup>

The implementation of the PPACA will go forward although the outcome of the November 2012 election of Congress and a president could alter the course of the legislation. In the meantime, nurse practitioners will be affected by the PPACA in many ways and have many opportunities. An increased number of NPs will be needed to provide care to an estimated 32 million people that will acquire private health insurance or coverage under Medicaid beginning in January 2014. The PPACA includes provisions that can be used to increase the number of NPs including expansion of the National Health Service Corps, funding for advanced education nursing grants, nurse loan repayment and scholarship programs, and nurse faculty loan programs.

The PPACA has already increased funding to community clinics and school based clinics, and programs such as the Medicare Independence at Home Demonstration, all of which increase employment for NPs. There are numerous aspects of the law which have already benefited individuals such as the ability to cover children up to age 26 on a parent's health plan, the elimination of lifetime limits on insurance coverage, closing the Medicare prescription drug coverage 'donut hole', and prohibiting health plans from denying coverage to children with pre-existing conditions.

States and the federal government will be designing and implementing State Health Exchanges through which individuals and small businesses will be able to buy insurance. It is imperative for NPs to be involved in this process to assure full recognition and reimbursement. The need for more providers to implement the PPACA can be used in states with a restrictive NP scope of practice to advocate for legislative and regulatory change.

1 DeNavas-Walt C, Proctor BD, and Smith JC. Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2010. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office; 2011. <http://www.census.gov/prod/2011pubs/p60-239.pdf>

2 Supreme Court of the United States. National Federation of Independent Business et al. v. Sebelius, Secretary of Health and Human Services, et al. p. 3 <http://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/11pdf/11->

[393c3a2.pdf](#)

3 Supreme Court of the United States. National Federation of Independent Business et al. v. Sebelius, Secretary of Health and Human Services, et al. p 55 <http://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/11pdf/11-393c3a2.pdf>

4 American Academy of Nurse Practitioners. Nurse Practitioner Facts. 2011. [http://aanp.org/images/documents/research/2010-11\\_NPFacts.pdf](http://aanp.org/images/documents/research/2010-11_NPFacts.pdf)

5 Ku L, Jones K, Shin P, Bruen B, Hayes K. The States' Next Challenge – Securing Primary Care for Expanded Medicaid Populations. NEJM. 2012; 364 (6): 493-495.

6 Senate Committee on Appropriations. Department of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriation Bill, 2013. p.48. <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CRPT-112srpt176/pdf/CRPT-112srpt176.pdf>

### Calling all Eastside Nurse Practitioners!

We are hoping to re-ignite the Association for Eastside Nurse Practitioners! This wonderful group is dedicated to supporting nurse practitioners working and/or living on the eastside of king county. This group is great for networking and meeting your peers! Are you interested in a leadership opportunity to become a board member? Vacancies are open and your support is needed! If you are interested in joining the group or becoming a board member please contact Stephany Nesser at [stephany\\_nesser@yahoo.com](mailto:stephany_nesser@yahoo.com)

### AANP & ACNP Consider Merging

The American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) and the American College of Nurse Practitioners (ACNP), two of the nation's most prominent professional membership associations for nurse practitioners, today announced that their respective Boards of Directors have passed resolutions allowing the organizations to potentially consolidate. The plan under consideration would allow AANP and ACNP to operate as a single organization.

According to the AANP and ACNP, the consolidation has the potential to significantly enhance the breadth and depth of work they conduct on behalf of the nation's 155,000 nurse practitioners, who play a vital role in today's health care system.

The proposed consolidation of AANP and ACNP would better position the newly formed member organization to:

- Capitalize on growth in the demand for NPs as primary, specialty and acute care providers
- Shape and direct NP policy and legislative priorities
- Achieve the goals and objectives of NPs
- Provide resources for grant writing, education and research
- Increase public awareness about issues faced by NPs
- Secure international growth

The consolidated organization will be the largest professional membership organization for NPs of all specialties, enhancing and increasing operational efficiencies.

“AANP is excited at the prospect of combining forces with ACNP. Aligning our organizations gives us the ability to speak and advocate for nurse practitioners with one collective voice,” said Angela Golden, DNP, FNP-C, FAANP, president of AANP. “There has never been a better time for the consolidation of our organizations. Health care is at the center of the national agenda and NPs are a vital part of the solution to the health care crisis facing our country today.”

“When all our due diligence has been completed, our combined strengths will result in an organization that is stronger and better able to empower the nurse practitioners who are so important in today's health care environment,” said Jill Olmstead, MSN, NP-C, president of ACNP. “We want to move forward with our message and mission for our colleagues and patients so we may continue providing accessible, high quality healthcare. ACNP believes that by combining with AANP, the NP profession will be able to participate in the political arena with greater strength and visibility.”

### State Law on Mercury Limits Temporarily Suspended

Secretary of Health Mary Selecky has again extended the temporary suspension of Washington's limit on the amount of mercury (thimerosal) in influenza vaccine. It specifically allows pregnant women and children younger than three years old who have or may be at risk of a latex allergy to receive influenza vaccine from multi-dose vials. The extended suspension applies only to 2012-2013 seasonal influenza vaccine in multi-dose vials. It expires on June 30, 2013.

Washington state law limits the amount of mercury that can be in vaccines for pregnant women and children under three. The secretary of health can suspend the law when there is a shortage of vaccine, which continues to be the case for certain groups of people during the upcoming flu season. The tip cap of the 2012-2013 single dose thimerosal-free flu vaccine that comes in pre-filled syringes may contain trace amounts of natural rubber latex. This means that children under three and pregnant women who have or may have latex allergies may be advised by their health care provider to not get vaccinated from a thimerosal-free single dose syringe. Supplies of other types of thimerosal-free flu vaccine are limited and can't be used for all people.

Suspending the thimerosal limits law removes barriers so people can choose to be protected. Pregnant women and children under three are at high risk for serious complications if they get the flu. If a health care provider is concerned about patients in these groups having

an allergic reaction to latex, this suspension allows providers and patients the opportunity to use other types of flu vaccine.

**Notification requirements:** When the mercury limits are suspended the law requires that certain groups be told they are getting a vaccine containing more mercury than is usually permitted. This notification requirement applies to pregnant or lactating women and parents or guardians of children under the age of 18 getting the vaccine. There is no single notification method required; the Department of Health has developed a sample notification form to help you with this. This and other related documents are available online

(<http://www.doh.wa.gov/PublicHealthandHealthcareProviders/PublicHealthSystemResourcesandServices/Immunization/FluVaccineMercurySuspension.aspx>).

## NP Shout Outs

### Donna Poole

Congratulations on being appointed as ARNP member of the Washington State Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission by Governor Gregoire.

*Let your colleagues know what's happening to you and your colleagues. You can submit a brief announcement about you or someone you want to brag about. They will be published at no charge on a space available basis. Send news to [care@nurse.net](mailto:care@nurse.net).*

## Classified Ads

### NP Wanted- Seattle WA

NP wanted for approximately 30 hrs per week in a multidisciplinary wound care center in North Seattle. Wound care experience preferred, but willing to train. Possible option to buy this successful practice that provides NP services to clinics. Email [olympicarnp@gmail.com](mailto:olympicarnp@gmail.com) or call 425-2757629.

### Cardiology Midlevel Practitioner - Wenatchee WA

Wenatchee Valley Medical Center in Eastern Washington is seeking an experienced cardiology ARNP to assist General Cardiologists, Interventionalists, and Cardiac Electrophysiologists for 1/3 inpatient + 2/3 outpatient practice. Cardiology skills and 3 years experience required. Inpatient experience and knowledge preferred.

Daily shifts in block rotation with two others; no call or nights. Skills to run a code if necessary. Ideal candidate has excellent communication skills, can perform independent assessments, manage multiple stressors, and perform well in multidisciplinary team.

Enjoy primary care and specialty support in our large multi-specialty. Shared electronic medical record and all ancillaries. Excellent market-driven salaries and comprehensive benefits with retirement and generous time off.

Wenatchee lies nestled in the foothills of the Cascade Mountains, where the Wenatchee and Columbia Rivers converge. Its population base (about 60,000) allows many of the advantages of urban living, yet it has a small town feel. The climate is excellent, with four pleasant seasons and an abundance of sunshine. Resting at 600 hundred feet above sea level, the greater Wenatchee area is surrounded by mountains reaching peak elevations of 9,500 feet. Huge array of daytrip options and we have plenty of shopping, entertainment and professional services for daily life.

Please send CV to Dr. Peter Rutherford, at [JoinUs@wvmedical.com](mailto:JoinUs@wvmedical.com)

### ARNP Wanted- Brewster WA

Wenatchee Valley Medical Center is seeking an experienced ARNP for family medicine at our newest clinic in Brewster, WA. Join a physician and a nurse practitioner who have been at the location for several years. Work half-time to full-time. Outpatient only practice. No call. Spanish language skills required. Enjoy sunny, 4-season climate in a small town surrounded by mountains, lakes, & rivers. If you think this is for you, please send your CV to [JoinUs@wvmedical.com](mailto:JoinUs@wvmedical.com). Learn more at [www.wvmedical.com](http://www.wvmedical.com)

## CE Opportunities

### UW Health Care and Social Work Certificates

Advance your skills, expand your network or earn contact hours and CEUs. UW Professional & Continuing Education offers the following certificate programs: Gerontology (online), Geriatric Mental Health (classroom), Medical Management (classroom), Psychological Trauma: Effective Treatment and Practice (online & classroom), Integrated Behavioral Health (online), and Infant Mental Health (classroom). Visit our website for full descriptions and start dates: [www.keeplearning.uw.edu](http://www.keeplearning.uw.edu).

### Pediatric Obesity Prevention in Primary Care FREE 1 hr AANP CE Opportunity:

Please allow me to invite you to complete an online CE program about: Pediatric Obesity Prevention in Primary Care

The program will take an hour or less, and has a research component/survey, so your participation is highly valued!

To access the program, please access the following link:

[www.unco.edu/nhs/nines/HesslerCEforWeb2011/HesslerCEforWeb2011.html](http://www.unco.edu/nhs/nines/HesslerCEforWeb2011/HesslerCEforWeb2011.html)

## Service Ads

### Seattle University NP Students Need Preceptors

Fall Qtr 9/19-12/4/12, 2 days/week

Winter Qtr 1/7-3/20/13, 2 days/week

Spring Qtr 4/1-6/10/13, 2 days/week

Fabulous preceptors are ARNPs, MDs, PAs in: Family, Geriatrics, Psychiatrics, Pediatrics, Midwifery, Women's health, Urgent Care, Specialty (eg; cardio, neuro, etc) Please contact Linda Frothinger at: 206-293-4416 or [frothil@seattleu.edu](mailto:frothil@seattleu.edu)

### Guiding the Future... Love to teach...

Precept an FNP, ANP or PNP student!

Precepting involves 1 to 2 days a week for the 10-week quarter, Fall, Winter and/or Spring.

Preceptors needed for beginning to advanced students.

Contact Fiona Shannon, [fiona@uw.edu](mailto:fiona@uw.edu) for more information on precepting University of Washington students.

## Meetings

### Puget Sound Nurse Practitioners Association

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 speaker presentation.

Annual dues are \$40/\$20 for students. \$20 per meeting for guests.

Apply for membership and find meeting information at <http://PSNPA.org>

### Private Practice NP Discussion Group

All are welcome. Meetings will be Sep/Nov/Jan/Mar/May on the third

Thursday of the month from 6:30-8:00 at FamilyCare of Kent in Kent, WA. RSVP at least 48hr in advance to [mwiley@familycareofkent.com](mailto:mwiley@familycareofkent.com) so we can order food and drinks. Address and directions on [www.familycareofkent.com](http://www.familycareofkent.com). Sponsored by NP Central.

#### West Sound Advanced Practice Association

Meets the second Thursday of the month. Meetings include networking/dinner/educational session. E-mail [Fionafnp@centurytel.net](mailto:Fionafnp@centurytel.net) for more information.

#### 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 and Continuing Education Ads of less than 66 words are \$45, of 66 to 130 words are \$75, 131-180 words are \$105, and greater than 181 words are \$175. Position Available Ads are priced per insertion. 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, more than 130 words are \$175. Ad Inserts are \$750 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, #230, Kent, WA 98031. Phone 253.852.9042. Fax 253.852.7725. Email [care@nurse.net](mailto:care@nurse.net).

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Publisher: NP Central

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#### Photograph of the Month



Photo by Bob Smithing

# Happy Independence Day!