

# Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner Care

Volume 11, Number 2

Official Newsletter of ARNPs United

February, 2000

## Legislative Update

by Jerri Henry

Our two active bills, SB 5805 (Completion of Prescriptive Authority) and SB 5739 (Preparing Death Certificates) are both alive and well, and as of Jan. 28th, awaiting a final vote in the Senate before proceeding to the House. The House is where we had problems last year as Representative Linda Evans Parlette, Republican Co-Chair of the House Health Care Committee, refused to hear "scope of practice" issues; therefore, SB 5805 did not receive a hearing. On January 24<sup>th</sup>, I met with Representative Eileen Cody, Democratic Co-Chair of the Health Care Committee, who assured me that after meeting with Rep. Parlette our bills will obtain hearings this session. This change is due to the great grassroots effort by Mike Gregory and the Legislative Committee in collecting letters of support from physicians living in Rep. Parlette's district, as well as other physicians (including Glen Stream, MD, President of Washington Academy of Family Physicians) and supporters around the state. We owe them a great deal of thanks. In addition, I have also had an opportunity to meet with Senator Alex Deccio, ranking Republican of the Senate Health and Long Term Care Committee, who is the "champion" of our Prescriptive Authority bill. He clearly sees this bill as his priority legislation this year, and will do all he can to assist us in getting it passed.

At this time, we are looking ahead to the next big step, which is the House Health Care Committee hearing on our bills. Like Sen. Deccio, Rep. Cody recommended that ARNPs provide testimony at the hearing, particularly from rural ARNPs and MDs. This hearing will be held within the last two weeks of February. If you are interested in giving testimony, and live in a rural area, please contact me at home 253.859.1767 as soon as possible.

### **"Cutting Edge" NP Smithing Receives Award at ACNP National Summit**

Robert T. Smithing, MSN, ARNP, a nurse practitioner from Kent, Washington, envisions a future where NPs are listed as primary care providers in managed care plans and where a nationwide network of NP-managed health care centers provides expanding access to care while decreasing costs. "Our secret is out. They (legislators, consumers, insurance companies) know about us now," said Smithing.

Sound far-fetched? Maybe not. When it comes to anticipating the effects technology will have on health care, Smithing has always been on target. In fact, he was one of the first NPs in the nation to see the potential of the Internet. It was for this type of vision and many other accomplishments that Smithing

received the Sharp Cutting Edge Award at the American College of Nurse Practitioners' (ACNP) 2000 National Summit at the Hyatt Regency in Washington, DC, February 5 through 8. Recipients of the Sharp Cutting Edge Award demonstrate effective efforts "above and beyond the call of duty" on behalf of the nurse practitioner community. Nancy Sharp, MSN, RN, FAAN, for whom the award was initiated in 1996, presented the award to Smithing during a luncheon sponsored by Eli Lilly and Company.

Smithing is president and co-founder of Internet Wizards, Inc., an Internet access site for NPs and consumers, and Nurse Practitioner Support Services, an Internet Wizards subsidiary that provides information for and about NPs. He also co-founded another business enterprise, Health Connections, a comprehensive health and medical practice that used family NPs to provide primary care to clients of all ages. Valley Medical Center bought Health Connections in 1996. The NP founded and began an Internet mailing list, NPinfo, which reaches thousands of NPs every day. Smithing, who is currently in clinical practice at Valley Medical Center in Kent, will be going to Stryker FamilyCare in April. He is a clinical faculty member of the University of Washington in Seattle.

Smithing received his master's degree from the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing in 1981, but he has been in clinical practice since 1978, when he started as an emergency medical technician at LaSalle Ambulance Services in Buffalo, NY. His first clinical practice as a family nurse practitioner was from 1982 to 1984, when he served in the National Health Service Commissioned Corps as senior assistant nurse officer at the NHSC Field Station CAMcare in Camden, NJ.

Smithing has edited and written for more than a dozen nursing and nurse practitioner publications. His CV lists more than 50 speaking presentations nationwide on a number of topics. Other honors and awards include the Lead Goose leadership award from ARNPs United (Washington state's NP association), the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners/Washington State Award for Excellence of Care and Outstanding Contribution in Practice 1991, and the Ruth T. McGrorey Leadership Award from the State University of New York at Buffalo. In his hometown of Kent, Smithing is a member of the Meridian Junior High PTA, and a soccer coach, among many other community activities.

Despite all this, Smithing is probably best known for his technological expertise and knowledge of computers. As Sharp pointed out while delivering the award, Smithing was the first to bring the Internet to the attention of ACNP and to point out its countless applications. It's not only ACNP that has noticed Smithing's important

contributions: The multimillion-dollar surgical instrument manufacturer Stryker Corporation approached Smithing and his wife and business partner, Maddy Wiley, MSN, ARNP, to help them open 150 NP-managed clinics across the United States. Smithing said he and Wiley are "looking for a few good NPs" to work at these clinics. The first clinic is set to open April 3. "We can do this. Our time is now," Smithing said.

### Webpage Voices Concern over Labor & Industries

by Nick Mason

In 1972 the Washington State Legislature approved advanced registered nurse practitioners' (ARNP) requests to practice independently and to prescribe legend drugs. This allowed ARNPs to establish practices independent of physician supervision. It is interesting to note that this fact is reported on the Washington State Medical Association's "Scope of Practice" webpage at <http://www.wsma.org/howwework/HODscope.htm>.

However, despite the fact that ARNPs are "independent" since 1972, this hasn't translated into policy for several Washington State agencies and departments. Chief amongst these is the Department of Labor and Industries. Through restrictive signature policies (which have no basis in law with the exception of one form) and practices that effectively implement physician supervision of ARNPs, the Washington Department of Labor and Industries continues to have a negative and unlawful impact upon the scope of practice of ARNPs in the state of Washington.

I have created a webpage at <http://www.crcwnet.com/~nickjudy/opinion/opinion.html> to address these facts. This webpage encourages concerned ARNPs to add their names to a growing list of endorsements. Ultimately, we are intent upon submitting our concerns to the Office of the Attorney General for a Formal Opinion. Together, the ARNPs of Washington State will eventually achieve the intent of the 1972 Legislature.

### AAP Recommends Reinstitution of the First Dose of Hepatitis B Vaccine for All Infants at Birth to 2 Months Of Age

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) published an article titled "Reinstitute hepatitis B vaccine for all infants" in the November 1999 issue of "AAP News," the official news magazine of the AAP. The article written by Margaret B. Rennels, MD, FAAP, states that physicians who may have stopped vaccinating infants at birth against hepatitis B due to concerns over thimerosal, should now resume hepatitis B vaccination of infants with thimerosal-free vaccine "optimally at birth and no later than two months of age."

Hepatitis B vaccine that is thimerosal free is available and should be used for these newborns according to the "AAP News" article. As has been recommended since 1991, all infants born to women who are hepatitis B

surface antigen (HBsAg) positive or to women whose HBsAg status is unknown at the time of birth MUST receive the first dose of hepatitis B vaccine no later than 12 hours of age, even if thimerosal-free vaccine is not available.

Full text of Dr. Rennels' article:

<http://www.immunize.org/news.d/aap1-00.htm>

More information about thimerosal in vaccines:

<http://www.cdc.gov/nip/news/thimerosal.htm>

<http://www.immunize.org/genr.d/thimer.htm>

<http://www.hepatitiscontrolreport.com/v4n2.html>

From IAC Express, #135, January 31, 2000

### Propulsid (cisapride) New Warning Regarding Serious Cardiac Arrhythmias

Serious cardiac arrhythmias including ventricular tachycardia, ventricular fibrillation, torsades de pointes, and QT prolongation have been reported in patients taking Propulsid. From July 1993 through May 1999, more than 270 such cases have been spontaneously reported, including 70 fatalities. In approximately 85% of these cases the events occurred when Propulsid was used in patients with known risk factors. These risk factors included the administration of other drugs which caused QT prolongation, inhibited the cytochrome P450 3A4 enzymes that metabolize cisapride, or depleted serum electrolytes; or the presence of disorders that may have predisposed patients to arrhythmias. In approximately 0.7% of these cases, the events occurred in the absence of identified risk factors; in the remaining cases, risk factor status was unknown. Because the cases were reported voluntarily from a population of unknown size, estimates of adverse events frequency cannot be made.

Health professionals are notified of important changes in the Propulsid labeling to reflect new safety information, including recommendations for performing diagnostics tests prior to any Propulsid use.

Highlights of the changes include the following:

- A 12-lead ECG should be obtained before Propulsid is administered.
- Propulsid should not be initiated if the QTc value exceeds 450 milliseconds.
- Propulsid is contraindicated in patients with electrolyte disorders (hypokalemia, hypocalcemia and hypomagnesemia). Serum electrolytes should be assessed in diuretic-treated patients before initiating Propulsid and periodically thereafter.

From MedWatch:

<http://www.fda.gov/medwatch/safety/2000/propul.htm>

<http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/ANSWERS/ANS00999.html>

## Classified Ads

### Occupational Health Nurse Practitioner

One of region's fastest growing multi-specialty groups seeks certified NP with serious interest and experience in occupational medicine. Current knowledge of FAA, DOT, WISHA, OSHA and labor & industries a plus. This is a full-time position at 5 days per week/no call. Position based in our rapidly expanding Workplace Wellness Clinic that serves employees from over 500 businesses. Located just 50 minutes north of Portland, Oregon in a family-oriented community noted for its many parks, excellent library, vital performing arts theatre, and proximity to the great PNW outdoors. This practice is ideal for a NP who wants to join a practitioner driven organization committed to quality and compassionate care. We offer competitive compensation and outstanding benefits. Contact Anne Bennett, PeaceHealth Medical Group, Longview, WA Phone: 360-414-7596; Fax: 360-414-7550 or E-mail: ABennett@PeaceHealth.org.

### Clinical Coordinator

Open immediately at GONZAGA UNIVERSITY, a Jesuit institution located in the beautiful Inland Pacific Northwest. Join our innovative nursing program that has a well-established distance learning program. The Clinical Coordinator holds a non-tenure track faculty position. Responsibilities include coordinating clinical placements, guiding students in creating individualized clinical programs, networking with rural placement projects and other FNP programs, and facilitating collaboration among preceptors and clinical faculty. The position involves some travel and clinical supervision of FNP students. There are also opportunities for classroom teaching and clinical practice. Position requirements: Master's-prepared (FNP preferred) with a minimum of 1 year practice experience as an NP. Eligibility for Washington State ARNP license. Highly developed organizational skills and excellent written and verbal communication skills are essential. Applications accepted until position is filled. Appointment begins June 1, with part-time availability after March 15 preferred. Gonzaga University offers a competitive salary and excellent benefits. Gonzaga University is an AA/EEO employer that practices mission-centered hiring. Send letter of interest and curriculum vitae to: Dr. Susan Norwood, Chairperson, Department of Nursing, Gonzaga University, 502 E. Boone Ave, AD Box 38, Spokane, WA 99258-0038. Phone: 509-323-6646. Email: [norwood@gu.gonzaga.edu](mailto:norwood@gu.gonzaga.edu)

### Neonatal Nurse Practitioner

Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center is dedicated to compassionately meeting the medical, surgical, and developmental needs of children. Our state-of-the-art facility is fortunate to have attracted a pool of talented doctors, nurses, and staff that have earned national recognition for the hospital. Right now, we have opportunities for the right individual to join our fantastic staff. We are currently looking for Neonatal Nurse Practitioners. We are looking for NNPs who appreciate diverse work experiences and opportunities for career development in our level III Infant ICU at Children's and NICU at the University of Washington, and in level II community hospitals, including Group Health-Central in Seattle and possibly Providence General in Everett. While on rotation in the Infant ICU or NICU, you will work with the attending neonatologist and pediatric residents in caring for our sickest patients, and, in addition, lead the infant ground transport team. While on rotation in community hospitals, you will also be working independently in the level II nursery and delivery rooms, with neonatologists available as consultants. Full-time and part-time (60%+) positions are available, and shifts are generally 12 or 24 hour. This position requires a current Washington State Licensure as ARNP with Prescriptive Authority (Master's degree required) and current national certification as NNP. If you are interested in improving the lives of infants and their families on a daily basis, forward your resume to: Children's Hospital & Regional Medical Center, CL-31, HR, 4800 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA 98105. Fax: (206) 368-4820. For more info, visit us on the web at [www.seattlechildrens.org](http://www.seattlechildrens.org). EOE.

### Family Nurse Practitioner

A large multispecialty group is seeking two experienced FNPs to work in our Yakima practice. These individuals would have responsibilities caring for chronically ill internal medicine patients on a full-time basis. You would provide patient care, education, and work collaboratively with MDs on patient treatment plans in an office, hospital, and extended care setting. The ideal individuals must enjoy long term patient relationships and must be highly flexible, creative, and possess an eagerness to learn skills in specialty care. Send letter of interest and CV to: Human Resources, P.O. Box 2965, Yakima, WA 98907. Telephone: (509)575-7666. Fax: (509) 575-7671. Email: [shallauer@imay.com](mailto:shallauer@imay.com)

### Clinical Director

-Chelan-Douglas Regional Support Network is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Clinical Director. Qualifications should include Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner or Master's Degree in behavioral sciences, social work, or related field. Must qualify as a Mental Health Professional with at least five years of direct care experience in a mental health setting with increasingly responsible duties or positions. Preference will be given to persons with knowledge of Washington State or other public mental health service systems, familiarity with managed care, quality management, and working with inpatient psychiatric hospitals. CDMHP, supervisory or program management experience a plus. Bilingual in Spanish encourage to apply. Starting Salary: \$48,649. EOE. Closes March 15, 2000. Please send letter of application and resume to: Marty Driggs, CDRSN/PHP, 636 Valley Mall Parkway, Suite 200, East Wenatchee, WA 98002.

## Continuing Education

### New Approaches in Allergic Rhinitis, Asthma, Osteoarthritis and Osteoporosis

Sunday, April 30, and Monday, May 1, 2000 Merv Griffin's Resort Hotel and Givenchy Spa, Palm Springs, California. Tuition: \$125 by 3/15/2000, \$175 after 3/15/2000. CE hours: Approximately 10 contact hours total. This two day conference will cover topics in the recognition, treatment, and outcomes of allergic rhinitis, asthma, osteoarthritis, and osteoporosis. Experts will present on evidence-based approaches to the treatment of common clinical problems encountered in primary care practice. It will be targeted to primary care physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and pharmacists. Contact Penny Evans for more information. Phone: 206.616.4587, email: [penny@u.washington.edu](mailto:penny@u.washington.edu)

### Reproductive Health 2000:

#### A Clinical Update on Women, Men, and Families

September 13-16, 2000, Swissotel Chicago, Illinois. The Association of Reproductive Health Professionals (ARHP) will host its annual meeting, Reproductive Health 2000, September 13-16, 2000 in Chicago, Illinois. This CME conference is designed for primary care physicians, nurse practitioners, nurse midwives, registered nurses, pharmacists, physician assistants, researchers, public health professionals, and health educators. It is being sponsored with AVSC International, National Abortion Federation (NAF), Planned Parenthood® Federation of America (PPFA), and National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health (NPWH). Two concurrent pre-conferences, Men's Reproductive Health and Women's Health in the Perimenopause will be held September 13<sup>th</sup>. Men's Health will feature sessions on reversible male contraception, no-scalpel vasectomy, and testicular self-exams. Women's Health in the Perimenopause will offer sessions on osteoporosis, alternative therapies, and mature sexuality. The general educational sessions will take place September 13<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> and will feature didactic lectures with question and answer sessions immediately following. Lecture topics will include STDs, abortion, contraception, domestic violence, and much more. Program information is available on ARHP's web site at [www.arhp.org](http://www.arhp.org). Please contact ARHP to receive a printed program, exhibit information or for any other additional information. Association of Reproductive Health Professionals (ARHP), 2401 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Suite 350, Washington DC, 20037-1718, phone: 202-466-3825, fax: 202-466-3826, e-mail: [conferences@arhp.org](mailto:conferences@arhp.org), web site: [www.arhp.org](http://www.arhp.org).

Meeting Announcements

Advance Practice Nurses of SW Washington will meet Wednesday, February 16, at City Grill, 164th and Mill Plain, Vancouver at 6:30 pm. Speaker Debbie Dahlquist, WHCNP, "Menopause, The Best of Times, The Worst of Times, The Best of Times." CEU available. RSVP Mary Deal (360) 992-2110

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 & Continuing Education Announcements 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 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 \$540 for one issue. All ads are subject to space limitations and editing. Call for detailed rate information. Mail copy to ARNP Care, 212 Railroad Ave N, Kent, WA 98032. Phone 253.852.9042. Fax 253.480.0002. Email care@nurse.net

Healthy Humor: Marry not a tennis player, for love means nothing to them.

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Publisher:

Nurse Practitioner Support Services

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Subscriptions are \$20 per year. tax included. Ad rate sheet available on request.



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