

Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner Care

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Official Newsletter of ARNPs United of Washington State

February 2005

ARNPs Storm the Steps of the Capitol

by Susan Caverly

Every year it seems that ARNPs have more presence at Nurse Lobby Day. This year it was extremely empowering to see the strength of nursing numbers and to have ARNPs assume a prominent role. ARNPs United worked closely with the other nursing organizations to assure that Nursing spoke with one voice and made the best possible impact given the limited time legislators have during session. WSNA started the day with their legislative agenda and a keynote that addressed the discrepancies in the polarized views of medical liability reforms.

Heather Bradford and Marty Couret, the ARNPs United daring duo of our legislative committee, planned and presented the ARNPs United break-out session. They provided information about the ARNPs United legislative agenda, facts about ARNP practice, ARNP facts, tips for talking with legislators, and then demonstrated a typical scenario between an ARNP and a policy maker. Heather arranged appointments with 74 legislators so that ARNP time would be used to our best advantage. ARNPs who were experienced in Lobby Day activity were teamed up with first-timers and we were all dispatched to the appointments.

More than 90 ARNPs plus a number of other nurses interested in advanced practice issues came to our break-out session! If you couldn't participate this year you were well represented. ARNPs met with more than half of the house and senate in a single day. Even more importantly, the legislators were interested in what ARNPs think about health care issues. We used our broad range of expertise to educate them about our practice and to explain the importance of eliminating the joint practice agreement for schedule II-IV drugs. Our message was patient oriented and focused on access to affordable health care. Red and white magnets proclaiming "ARNPs Care for the Health of Washington" were provided to the legislators we visited and these are still on display in their offices!

Perhaps the most wonderful aspect of the day was the coincidence of Lobby Day with the Senate Health and Long Term Care Committee Hearing on SB 5516 – the Senate bill to eliminate the joint practice agreement. The hearing room was flooded with ARNPs and nurses. Our bill was the last on the agenda for the day and it was evident that the Senators understood the significance of the issue and the political factors that were at play. A panel of ARNPs comprised of Louise Kaplan (WSNA), Patti Varley (ARNPs United), and Donna Poole (AAPPN) testified

regarding the rationale for removing this barrier to our practice. They were well organized and convincing. The WSMA lobbyist was asked to testify first as he was the only individual contesting the bill. He was unable to state a single substantive reason for not moving the bill forward. The mood in the room was beyond words. Those of us who have spent years shepherding this issue have never been so uplifted by a Senate hearing! We all owe a great deal to the efforts of the legislative committee, the ARNPs who testified, and the ARNPs who took time from their practice to assure the success of the day!

Moreover, if this wasn't all grand enough, ARNPs United co-hosted the nursing luncheon under the Dome of the Capitol and the afternoon reception where nurses and legislators informally mingled. ARNPs' United contributed financially as well as with our energy this Lobby Day. We took a place beside WSNA and the CRNA organization, which have in the past borne the financial burden of Lobby Day events.

ARNPs United, *your* organization is working hard to make *you* visible, to protect *your* practice, and put forth *your* interests! Are *you* a Member? Please join us!

Hanford Community Health Project

In January 2005, the Hanford Community Health Project (sponsored by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry – ATSDR) will be launching a major public awareness campaign to educate people concerned about past exposure to radioactive iodine (I-131) released from the Hanford Nuclear Reservation. As a health care provider in Washington state, you should expect a marked increase in inquiries about exposure to I-131.

Between 1944 and 1972, I-131 was released from the Hanford Nuclear Reservation. The majority of these releases occurred between 1944 and 1951. The releases were related to the production of plutonium for use in nuclear weapons.

It's estimated that children, who were up to five years old and lived in Adams, Benton, or Franklin counties in Washington state at the time of the releases, received the highest doses of I-131. Today, these are adults between the ages of 54 and 65. Much of this exposure came through consumption of contaminated milk produced by cows (and goats) grazing on the contaminated pastures downwind of Hanford.

Public health researchers have conducted extensive epidemiological research around the releases of I-131 at Hanford and the potential link to thyroid disease.

The Hanford Thyroid Disease Study, published in June 2002, did not show any association between Hanford's I-131 releases and the occurrence of thyroid diseases. Results of the study were published in the December 1, 2004 issues of the Journal of the American Medical Association.

Other epidemiological studies, including investigations at Chernobyl and the Marshall Islands have shown that exposure to radioactive iodine is associated with an increased risk of developing thyroid cancer and other thyroid related diseases. Despite the findings of the Hanford Thyroid Disease Study, downwinders remain concerned about the releases and there is a demonstrated need in the community for more educational resources.

Health care providers should be prepared to respond to inquiries about exposure to I-131 and any potential health risks involved. The Hanford Community Health Project (HCHP) offers a wide range of educational materials that will assist you in educating and evaluating patients who inquire about exposure to I-131. These materials can be accessed at www.hanfordhealth.info.

There is also an opportunity for free Continuing Medical Education (CME) credit. Health care providers can download the ATSDR Case Study in Environmental Medicine (CSEM) Radiation Exposure From Iodine 131. This self-instructional publication qualifies for Continuing Medical Education (CME) credit. The case study can be downloaded on the HCHP Web site.

The HCHP site, www.hanfordhealth.info, contains educational materials and links around exposure to I-131 for both patients & health care providers. This includes a new streaming video that addresses the psychological aspects of exposure and how to help patients cope.

JPA Elimination Within Reach!

by Heather Bradford & Marty Couret

HB 1479, which aims to eliminate the joint practice agreement for schedule II-IV medications, was voted out of the House Health Care Committee and is now with the House Rules Committee. This is a powerful committee and often bills die there without so much as a vote. Legislators appreciate and listen to their constituents, so help assure that the voice of ARNPs is heard.

Rep. Morrell and Rep. Clibborn sponsored our bill, so thank them! Then ask them to help move it out of the Rules Committee for a full House of Representatives vote.

If you find yourself talking to your representative's legislative assistant, be sure to give them your name

and tell them you live in the legislator's district. The legislative assistants can be our best advocates with our representatives and are the information pipeline for them. **Tell them the number and name of the bill (HB 1479). Ask for their vote in favor of our bill without amendment.**

If you don't know what district you live click this link to find out at

www.leg.wa.gov/DistrictFinder/Default.aspx

David Keepnews Appointed to CPT Committee

David Keepnews, JD, PhD, RN has been appointed by the American Medical Association Board of Trustees to serve on the Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) Health Care Professionals Advisory Committee (HCPAC) for a two-year term. As a member of the HCPAC, Dr Keepnews will serve as a resource to the CPT Editorial Panel by giving advice on procedure coding and appropriate nomenclature as relevant to the nursing services; suggesting revisions to CPT; assisting in the review and further development of relevant coding issues and in the preparation of education materials pertaining to CPT.

Product Announcement

The convenience you want. The accuracy you demand.

"Paper" prescriptions are becoming obsolete! New technologies are rendering the old-fashioned prescription pad – and the opportunities for errors, fraud, and counterfeiting they bring with them – a thing of the past.

Provider – Using Assured Script Technologies software, the participating provider can electronically transmit patient and prescription information directly to the closest Assured Pharmacy. Software encryption ensures complete privacy as well as total accuracy in all transmissions.

Patient – Patients may pick up their prescriptions in person, have them shipped via UPS or enjoy free same-day courier delivery within 15 miles. Again, complete privacy is assured!

Pharmacy – Upon input of the prescription, the Assured Script Technologies software "red flags" any possible drug-to-drug, drug-to-food and drug-to-allergy interactions. The pharmacist then fills the prescription per your specific instructions and in compliance with all local, state, and federal regulations.

www.assuredscript.com, Assured Pharmacy, Totem Lake, 12701 124th Ave NE, Kirkland, WA 98034, (p) 425.820.2168 (f) 425.820.2247

Continuing Education

Complimentary Continuing Education

FnP Associates is pleased to announce **complimentary** continuing education programs for NPs available on the web. The programs are:

Pain: Current Assessment, Management, and Treatment – This program is approved for 6.0 contact hours in pharmacology, www.npcentral.net/ce/pain

Treating the Common Cold: An Expert Panel Consensus Recommendation for Primary Care Clinicians – It is approved for 1.8 contact hours in pharmacology. This is an evidence – based set of recommendations for managing cold symptoms,

www.npcentral.net/ce/cold

Frequent Heartburn: An Evidence-Based Approach to Cost-Effective Management – Developed in collaboration with the American Academy of Physician Assistants, this program is accredited for 1.0 contact hours. www.npcentral.net/ce/heartburn

Register, read the article, take the post-test, fill out the evaluation, and print out your CE certificate! Do these at your own pace. **It's easy!** These Independent Study Activities are approved by the Washington State Nurses Association, an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation. FrP Associates, LLP is a nurse practitioner owned business dedicated to advancing and supporting the role of the NP in health care.

Strengthening Stepfamilies

When: March 18th, 2005, 9:00am - 4:30pm. Location: Shoreline Conference Center, Shoreline, WA. Approved for 8.1 contact hours. Cost: \$125.00 Presenter: Elizabeth Einstein MA, MFT

Whether your involvement is personal or professional, stepfamily living creates special challenges that require special knowledge and skills. Through lecture and group experience, Strengthening Stepfamilies delivers tools for successful transitions. Elizabeth Einstein is one of the country's leading educators in the dynamics of stepfamily relationships. She has written and spoken extensively on the subject. Each attendee will receive \$20-\$25 worth of stepfamily education materials.

For more information, or to register 206.441.6892 or www.cascadia-training.org

Spring Training for Primary Care Providers

When: **March 9-12, 2005**. Location: Doubletree LaPosado Resort, Scottsdale, Arizona. Nursing CEUs available 13.2 (Physician CME Hours and Pharmacy hours also available) Registration fee \$350 includes a dinner for attendees and families with a speaker from a major league baseball team. For more information contact: Jeri L. Sackett, CMP at 425.261.3690 or jeri.sackett@providence.org

Association of Advanced Practice Psychiatric Nurses (AAPN) Annual Spring Conference

Saturday, **April 16** and Sunday, **April 17, 2005** Complementary Therapies: The Evolution of Holistic Psychiatric Nursing, Keynote Speaker: Barbara Dossey, PhD, Cedarbrook Inn, SeaTac, Washington, 206.524.4090, 888.308.7336, Fax 206-524-0963, conhfox@comcast.net, <http://aapn.org>.

NW Center for Occupational Health & Safety (UW-DEOHS) CE offerings in Seattle

CNE credit available. For more info 206-543-1069 or <http://depts.washington.edu/ehce>

April 1 – Controversies and Advances in Pediatric Environmental Health

April 21-22 – OHN Update: Improving Your Mental Health and Physical Assessment Skills

Puget Sound Occupational and Environmental Medicine Grand Rounds series:

March 10 – Occupational Lung Disease: Still More Than Just Asthma

April 14 – Welding, Manganese, and Parkinsonism

May 12 – The Americans with Disabilities Act: Ten years later

Classified Ads

Tacoma, WA

Solo practice urologist seeks a full-time certified nurse practitioner to join a thriving practice in Tacoma, across from Tacoma General Hospital. Initial primary responsibility will be to provide first assist in the OR with the position eventually transitioning to a full-time office position. At least one year of prior urology experience is preferred. This position requires a high level of commit-

ment and responsibility, for which you will be rewarded with an excellent salary and benefits package. Please send CV to Multi-Care Health System at providerservices@multicare.org or fax to 866.264.2818. Please refer to opportunity #343

Wanted:

Preceptors for Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Students

Seeking nurse practitioners with clinical expertise to precept students in four different quarters of NP program: OB/Gyn, Pediatrics, Adult and Final Family Practice Synthesis. This is a great way to influence the future of Nurse Practitioners and to repay those heroes and heroines who took the time to precept you in school. If you are interested, please contact Erica Palte, Student Placement Coordinator for Seattle University College of Nursing. Email: epalte@seattleu.edu Office phone: 206.296.6479

ARNP/CNM & RN's

You may be eligible for a sign-on bonus!! This is your opportunity to be rewarded for your hard work, and to make a difference in the lives of the underserved in our community!

Leave the mundane! Start the New Year in a unique women's health practice that affords you as much independence as you and your scope of practice can handle, & even more support for the work you do! Planned Parenthood – the largest & most progressive provider of reproductive healthcare in the State – is hiring!

- We are hiring for a FT Float Clinician to Float in our Oly/Shel/Cent/Tac & Puy clinics. Position will provide direct patient care in our family planning clinics. Candidates must have a WA State ARNP/FNP/WHNP/CNM w/ presc authority, current certification & CPR card. Prior women's h/c exp a plus.

- Our Puyallup clinic has a FT Clinic RN (day hours!) oppty to provide quality patient-care to compliment our reproductive healthcare team. Must have current WA State RN license & CPR card. Prior women's healthcare exp a must!

To apply, submit your cover ltr/resume to jobs@ppww.org; Fax 206.328.6818; or Mail to PPWW/HR, 2001 E. Madison, Seattle, WA 98122. PPWW offers a solid benefit pkg. Learn more about us, www.ppww.org. EOE.

FT ARNP

Seeking experienced FT ARNP to join our Infectious Disease practice and Wound Clinic. Must have minimum 2 years recent clinic experience. To be considered for this opportunity, e-mail CV and references to: gnumma@hch.net or fax to 206.242.4625

MultiCare Tacoma Sport Medicine Clinic Nurse Practitioner – Certified – Orthopedic Surgery Practice

Part time opening, 24 hrs/wk, 3 days a week, for a nurse practitioner experienced in Orthopedics. Will work collaboratively with 2 sports medicine orthopedic surgeons, and 1 ARNP in Tacoma, WA. Primary responsibilities will be to provide quality healthcare to patients of all ages in accordance with MultiCare Health System's standards of excellence. Candidates must be WA State licensed and certified as an ARNP, having been a graduate of an accredited program. Competitive salary and comprehensive benefits package. Please send resume to: MultiCare Health System, Provider Services, P.O. Box 5299, MS: 737-2-PHYS, Tacoma, WA 98415-0299; or Email resume via Word document to: providerservices@multicare.org. Please visit our website at www.multicare.org. "MultiCare Health System is a drug free workplace, and an equal opportunity employer."

Nurse Practitioner/Physician Assistant - Certified

Full-time opening for a nurse practitioner or physician assistant to work at multiple urgent care centers with a primary home base 70% of the time in Covington, WA. Primary responsibility is to provide quality healthcare to patients of all ages. Flexibility in work location required. Experience in urgent care and family practice is preferred. Candidates must be, or qualified for licensure & certification in Washington State a PA or NP. Competitive salary, flexible shift work and comprehensive benefit package. Please

email your CV to MultiCare Health System Provider Services at providerservices@multicare.org or fax your CV to 866.264.2818. Please refer to opportunity #291. Website: www.multicare.org. *MultiCare Health System is a drug free workplace.

Nurse Practitioner – Bellingham, WA

Large Physician owned multi-specialty group seeks a Nurse Practitioner for our growing Family Practice Group. We currently have 4 mid level providers in our group and want to add one more. Excellent compensation package and great location!

Bellingham www.bellingham.org is located on Puget Sound between Seattle and Vancouver, British Columbia and the home of Western Washington University. Outside, Money, Kiplinger and National Geographic Magazine rank, Bellingham as one of the top USA cities to live and play. To learn more about Madrona Medical Group, please visit www.madronamedical.com Contact: Chris Thompson, Physician Recruiter, Madrona Medical Group, P.S., 4545 Cordata Parkway, Bellingham, WA. 98226, 360.752.5608, FAX 360.752.5681, Email: madronahr@hinet.org

ARNP

Established psychiatric practice in Everett, WA seeking a psychiatric ARNP. Duties: outpatient clinic, inpatient, CL, LTC coverage & call. Competitive compensation and excellent benefits. Phone: 425.259.6665, ext. 302. Email CV to wolf@cascadepsych.com or fax to 425.259.6014 ATTN: W. Klamp.

Pediatric Practice in Gig Harbor, Washington

Busy general pediatric practice searching for experienced ARNP (PNP or FNP with extensive pediatric experience) to join two pediatricians and two ARNPs for a mixture of acute and well child care. Excellent reimbursement and working environment. Fax CV or call Tom Herron, MD. Telephone – 253.853.7392; fax 253.853.7393.

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 \$540 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.

Healthy Humor

Chart Bloopers

On the 2nd day, the knee was better and on the 3rd day, it disappeared completely.

ARNPs United of WA State

10024 S.E. 240th St., Suite #102, Kent, WA 98031
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ARNP Care

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