

# Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner Care

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Official Newsletter of ARNPs United

June, 1999

## President's Corner

by Jerri Henry

It is with anticipation that I start my one year term as President of ARNPs United. My name is Jerri Henry and I have previously served on the Board as the Geriatric Rep for 2 years. I graduated from UW in 1991, work at Highline Medical Group in Des Moines and live in Kent.

Several years ago, I attended my first ARNPs United annual meeting and saw the energy and emotion surrounding NP issues. This compelled me to begin the process of getting involved. I attended a Summit meeting, connected with colleagues and began learning about the way to make the legislative process work for NPs. Being in Geriatrics, I was further empowered by working with the ACNP Grassroots Chair Margie Koehler on the Medicare direct reimbursement issue. As time evolved I have sought out opportunities to bring NP issues to the forefront by meeting my legislative reps and educating my physician colleagues on who we are and what we do.

For the next year, my three main goals for this organization are: 1) continue an effort to link all WA ARNPs through Internet access and the ARNP CARE newsletter, 2) continue working toward completion of several legislative issues brought forward in the 1999 Leg Session; 3) restart an annual ARNP Summit meeting in addition to the annual September meeting.

I look forward to traveling around the state this year meeting as many local ARNP groups as time allows, to bring forward your issues and ideas to the Board and to further unify us as one voice. Your ARNPs United Board will be working on a plan to take us 5 and 10 years into the next century. Tell us what you need. Let us hear from you either by emailing/writing/calling with your ideas, or by attending a Legislative Meeting, or the Summit meeting. Write an article for ARNP Care. Get together with your co-workers to discuss NP issues. We are sitting in the driver seat to shape our own destiny... Commit to some way of getting involved - we need your help in charting the future for nurse practitioners.

Each month in the ARNP Care newsletter you will hear an update on issues that affect you, as well as meeting announcements. You can contact me directly on my email at JLHenry@jps.net, fax at 206-870-2434, or write through the AU address noted in this issue of ARNP Care. Lets make this an exciting year!!

## Networking in Wenatchee

Jerri Henry, ARNP

On May 21 and 22, I represented ARNPs United as the guest of the WA Academy of Family Physicians at their

annual Scientific Conference. Their President Luke Olson, MD had initiated a meeting last Winter with former President Hazel Fleck to look at ways our two groups would work together. I was invited to speak to the group, and also ran a booth to meet with individual members to discuss our role (equipped with our new colorful poster board!)

I felt the meeting was successful, and showed the support and appreciation the Family Practice physicians have of our role. From this beginning, the two groups decided to meet formally every six months to discuss joint issues including ways to promote primary health care. Also, the AU Board agreed to join the FP physicians in offering a joint CME day this summer. Currently, the FP Education Committee will be reviewing the plan and hopefully we can move forward in the near future in planning this event. Look for updates in future issues of ARNP Care.

## FDA Issues Public Health Advisory On Liver Toxicity Associated With The Antibiotic Trovan

The Food and Drug Administration today issued a public health advisory to clinicians concerning the risks of liver toxicity associated with the use of Trovan (trovafloxacin, an oral antibiotic) and Trovan-IV (atratrofloxacina, the intravenous formulation of the drug). This action follows postmarketing reports of rare but severe liver injuries leading to transplants and deaths.

In issuing this advisory, FDA is informing clinicians that Trovan should be reserved for use only in patients who meet all of the following criteria:

- ✂ Patients who have at least one of several specified infections such as nosocomial (hospital-acquired) pneumonia or complicated intra-abdominal infections that, in the judgment of the treating physician, is serious and life- or limb-threatening;
- ✂ Patients who begin their therapy in in-patient health care facilities (hospitals or longterm nursing care facilities);
- ✂ And patients for whom the treating physician believes that even given the new safety information, the benefit of the product outweighs the potential risks.

FDA is further informing physicians that, in general, therapy with Trovan should not continue for longer than 14 days. Therapy should be discontinued sooner if the patient experiences any clinical signs of liver dysfunction, including fatigue, loss of appetite, yellowing of the skin and eyes, severe stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, or dark urine.

FDA is also advising physicians that for most patients who meet the treatment criteria, therapy would most likely begin with intravenous Trovan. After clinical

stabilization patients may be switched to the oral dosage form. Although oral therapy might be appropriate in some cases as an initial therapy, the agency emphasizes that the oral form of Trovan is not warranted for infections other than those specified.

In addition, the manufacturer has agreed to limit distribution of the product to hospitals and long-term nursing care facilities. The manufacturer will be communicating in the near future with other appropriate pharmacies to provide directions concerning possible return of their present inventories of Trovan.

FDA is taking this action to reduce the potential risk from Trovan, while at the same time preserving for physicians and patients alike the clinical option of an effective broad-spectrum antibiotic for serious and life-threatening infections. The agency considers this advisory an interim measure until revised labeling for the product can be approved. It is estimated that 2.5 million prescriptions have been written for Trovan, a quinolone antibiotic, since its February 1998 market launch in oral and intravenous formulations. Trovan was initially approved for treating a broad range of infections, from minor skin infections to severe infections in hospitalized patients.

No reports of liver failure, liver transplant, or death due to liver problems were reported in the 7,000 patients studied in premarketing clinical trials for Trovan. In July 1998, FDA worked with the manufacturer to strengthen the product's labeling concerning liver problems after receiving reports of elevated liver enzymes and symptomatic hepatitis in patients after short- and long-term therapy. Since then, FDA has continued to receive reports of liver toxicity, including reports of a more serious nature.

FDA is now aware of 14 cases of acute liver failure that it has concluded are strongly associated with the drug. Six of these patients died: five due to liver failure and one of four additional patients who received liver transplants. Three patients recovered without requiring liver transplants, and for the remaining two patients the final outcome is still pending.

More information about Trovan, including FDA's public health advisory, is available on the World Wide Web at <http://www.fda.gov> and from Pfizer, the manufacturer of the drug, at 1-800-438-1985.

The FDA asks that any adverse events associated with Trovan be reported to the agency through MedWatch, FDA's adverse event reporting system. Reports may be submitted to FDA by telephone (800-332-1088), by fax (800-332-0178) or by mail to MedWatch, HF-2, FDA, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, Md. 20857. Reports can also be filed via the Internet at [www.fda.gov/medwatch](http://www.fda.gov/medwatch). Reports may also be filed directly to the manufacturer.

### Updated Varicella Vaccine Recommendations

These recommendations include establishing child care and school entry requirements, use of the vaccine fol-

lowing exposure and for outbreak control, use of the vaccine for some children infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), and vaccination of adults and adolescents at high risk for exposure. These recommendations also provide new information on varicella vaccine postlicensure safety data.

Before the availability of varicella vaccine, varicella disease was responsible for an estimated 4 million cases, 11,000 hospitalizations, and 100 deaths each year in the United States (CDC, unpublished data, 1999). Approximately 90% of cases occurred in children. From the Centers for Disease Control, MMWR, May 28, 1999 48(RR06);1-5. For more information: <http://www.cdc.gov/epo/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr4806a1.htm>

### Xopenex (levalbuterol) Approved by FDA

On March 25, 1999 Xopenex was approved by the FDA for use in the treatment or prevention of bronchospasm in patients 12 years of age and older who have reversible obstructive airway disease. It is available only as a solution for nebulization in unit dose ampules of 0.63 mg per 3 ml and 1.25 mg per 3 ml.

Xopenex is the therapeutically active (R)-isomer of racemic albuterol (an equal mixture of (R) and (S) isomers). In clinical trials, Xopenex demonstrated a duration of action that lasted up to 8 hours.

Unused vials of Xopenex should be stored in their protective foil pouch. Once the foil pouch is opened, the remaining vials should be used within 2 weeks. Vials removed from the pouch, if not used immediately should be protected from light and heat and used within 2 weeks. Vials of Xopenex solution that are not colorless should be discarded.

Interaction warnings are given for non-potassium sparing diuretics, digoxin, MAO inhibitors and tricyclic antidepressants. From the FDA Center for Drug Evaluation and Research Patient information at: <http://www.fda.gov/CDER/consumerinfo/druginfo/xopenex.htm> Provider information at: <http://www.fda.gov/cder/foi/label/1999/20837lbl.pdf>

### New Vaccine Information Statements Required

Effective June 1, 1999, each health care provider who administers any vaccine that contains hepatitis B, Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib), varicella (chickenpox), measles, mumps, or rubella vaccines shall, prior to administration of each dose of the vaccine, provide a copy of the relevant vaccine information statements (VIS), dated December 16, 1998, to the parent or legal representative of any child to whom such provider intends to administer the vaccine and to any adult to whom such provider intends to administer the vaccine.

Check to see if the VIS you are using is the most current. Check the date printed in one of the lower corners of the back page of each VIS.

Hepatitis A: 8/25/98

Hepatitis B: 12/16/98  
 Hib: 12/16/98  
 Influenza: 6/1/99  
 Measles, mumps, and rubella: 12/16/98  
 Polio: 2/1/99  
 Pneumococcal: 7/29/97  
 Rotavirus: 3/23/99  
 Td: 6/10/94  
 Varicella: 12/16/98

If you discover that you don't have the latest VIS, you can get them from the Immunization Action Coalition's website. Links to English and Spanish versions are available. Also links to the Minnesota Department of Health influenza and pneumococcal VIS in Spanish, Cambodian, Hmong, Vietnamese, Laotian, Russian, and Somali. From the Immunization Action Coalition and the Centers for Disease Control. Vaccine Information Statements <http://www.immunize.org/vis/index.htm>  
 CDC Directions for Use of VIS  
<http://www.immunize.org/vis/instr99.htm>

### Classified Ads

#### Geriatric Nurse Practitioner

Northwest Hospital's Senior Services Outreach Department is seeking a Geriatric Nurse Practitioner to provide senior wellness/primary care at community based facilities and to provide outpatient diabetic education. Working in collaboration with a MD, the on-site programs include medication management, physical exams and assessment, treatment and education. Requires two years experience preferably with the well elderly; experience in program development; and strong administrative, problem solving and decision-making skills. Excellent customer relations required. Must have current WA state adult or geriatric ARNP with prescriptive authority. Certification in Gerontological nursing and diabetic education preferred. Submit resumes to: Northwest Hospital, Attn: Marty Dennis, 1550 N 115th D111, Seattle WA 98133, fax: 206-368-1949.

#### Women's Health Nurse Practitioner

Salem Clinic, PC, a 40-physician multi-specialty group has an opening in our OB/GYN department for a Women's Health Nurse Practitioner. Minimum 2 years experience. Salem Clinic offers an excellent benefit package and competitive salary. Please mail, e-mail or fax your CV to: Sherry Krog, Salem Clinic, PC, 2020 Capitol St NE, Salem OR 97303, fax: 503-375-7429, e-mail: bgunder@aol.com.

#### Behavioral Health NP

Established multidisciplinary behavioral health group seeks nurse practitioner with prescriptive authority. Case mix includes counseling and psychotherapy as well as medication services to patients receiving counseling from other practitioners in the group. Unique opportunity for participation with a fully integrated and growing practice group. No overhead costs or other financial risks borne by clinician. Various high referral volume contracts are in place. Patient caseload and referrals provided. Call Dr Phil Hirsch at 206-729-1166.

#### Gastroenterology NP

Four-person Gastroenterology group in Kirkland, Washington seeks a Nurse Practitioner with good interpersonal skills. Contact Peter Justus at 425-899-4500 or via e-mail: [drjustus@cascadehealth.net](mailto:drjustus@cascadehealth.net).

#### Women's Health/Family/Adult NP or CNM

Planned Parenthood - one of the most progressive providers of reproductive health care in the state - is hiring a nurse practitioner or certified nurse midwife for a part-time position in our Arlington clinic (Fridays only). Current WA State RN & ARNP (WHNP, FNP, Adult NP or CNM) licenses and 1 year women's health care experience required. Spanish speaking also preferred. Send CV/Resume to PPWW/HR, 2211 East Madison, Seattle WA 98112. EOE.

#### Family Practice ARNP

Seeking a part-time, experienced ARNP to join a 2 person practice - a FP MD and an ARNP, who have practiced together for 6 years in the Lynnwood/Edmonds area. Some Saturday morning clinic time required. Pay negotiable. Contact David Becerril, MD at 425-776-8414 or e-mail: [taaville@yahoo.com](mailto:taaville@yahoo.com).

#### Occupational Health NP

Franciscan Health System is seeking an ARNP (full time) for our Occupational Medicine Clinic located in the Port of Tacoma. Requires occupational health/work site experience and/or urgent care/emergency room and musculoskeletal experience. Performs physical exams and treats work related injuries. For immediate consideration, forward your resume to: Franciscan Health System, Human Resources, 34515 Ninth Ave S, Federal Way WA 98003. Fax: 253-952-7965. Email: [fhjobs@chiwest.com](mailto:fhjobs@chiwest.com). EOE.

#### Dermatology NP

One physician Dermatology practice looking to hire Nurse Practitioner with strong and dedicated Dermatology interest. Must be willing to learn general dermatology and basic dermatology surgery skills (e.g. biopsy and suturing) and apply them with high quality of care expectations. Must be capable of independent (supervised) work and use good judgement regarding limitations of training and knowledge base. Must be a team player. Salary commensurate with experience and independent work potential. E-mail cover letter and resume to [drvm@aol.com](mailto:drvm@aol.com) or call contact person Sally Bailey at 425-391-2500. Practice location is greater Seattle area (Issaquah, King County, Washington) at the foot of the Cascade Mountains and Lakes Sammamish and Washington.

#### Psychiatric Mental Health NP

Mentor Health Northwest of Bellevue, WA is seeking a full time ARNP who can provide supervision to our RNs as well as perform psychotropic medication evaluation and follow up. Ability to work with multidisciplinary team. Minimum 3 years' clinical experience working with psychiatric clients. This is a full time position with full benefits. Start immediately. Send cover letter via fax, e-mail or regular mail to: Human Resources, Mentor Health NW, 2840 Northup Way, Bellevue WA 98004, fax: 425-889-7196, e-mail: [HR@emh.com](mailto:HR@emh.com).

### Continuing Education

#### Clinical Pharmacology Series 1999

June 11, 1999 Neuropsychotropic Drug Therapy. Location: Shoreline Conference Center, Seattle WA. This series of one-day courses (8 contact hours each session) is designed as a pharmacology update for nurse practitioners working in a variety of specialties. Sessions focus on current recommendations and controversies regarding drug therapy for common problems and include appropriate pharmacotherapeutic principles and recommendations for patient education. Sponsored by: University of Washington School of Nursing. Contact: Continuing Nursing Education, University of Washington, Box 357260, Seattle WA 98195-7260, phone: 206-543-1047, [www.son.washington.edu/~cne/](http://www.son.washington.edu/~cne/).

#### Pacific Northwest 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference for Primary Care Practitioners

September 22-25, 1999. Location: Washington State Convention and Trade Center, Seattle WA. Sponsors include University of Washington School of Nursing, Planned Parenthood of Western Washington and Western Washington Area Health Education Center. Endorsed by ARNPs United and Washington Academy of Physician Assistants. CE hours: 7.2 to 23.2 contact hours (maximum of 12.0 contact hours in Pharmacology). Application has been made for Category I CEC for PAs. For more information, contact: Continuing Nursing Education, University of Washington, Box 357260, Seattle WA 98195-7260, phone: 206-543-1047, web site: [www.son.washington.edu/~cne/](http://www.son.washington.edu/~cne/).

#### Post Master's Gerontologic Nurse Practitioner Program

A one time opportunity...if you have a Master's in nursing and an ARNP license, and you want to complete a 2 semester program for additional certification as a gerontologic nurse practitioner this is your chance. Pacific Lutheran University Graduate Nursing Education Program will offer this program for working ARNPs beginning fall semester 1999. For more information call 253-535-8671 or email: [van-cinna@plu.edu](mailto:van-cinna@plu.edu).

Meeting Announcements

Puget Sound Nurse Practitioners will meet on Wednesday, June 16 at Umberto's Ristorante, 100 S King St, Seattle. Carolyn Libbey Livingston will speak on Sexuality. Hors d'oeuvres at 6 pm, dinner at 6:45 pm, speaker to follow. To attend, please RSVP to Kay Ditzenberger at 1-800-737-2088 ext. 48923.

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Humor Corner

Why is duct tape like "The Force"? Because it has a Light side and a Dark side and it holds the Universe together.



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