

Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner Care

Volume 10, Number 8

Official Newsletter of ARNPs United

August, 1999

President's Corner

by Jerri Henry

During the July Board Meeting, the agenda focused on many topics including the ongoing work of the Legislative Committee, planning for the September 23rd annual meeting, an update on joint projects with WSNA including the annual Legislative Day 2000 and a serious focus on membership recruitment.

Our Lobbyist, Jerry Farley, continues to work actively on our behalf during the current legislative off-session meeting with key legislators, and attending meetings to further advance our position on multiple bills including the completion of prescriptive authority. We acknowledged the hard work of outgoing Legislative Committee Chair, Larry Kerschner, and welcome Mike Gregory of Wenatchee as our new Legislative Chair.

We will hold our annual ARNP's United Membership Meeting September 23rd at 6:30 pm at the Washington State Convention Center following the first day of the NW Primary Health Care Conference. This is an open invitation for all ARNPs to attend - even if you are not a member. Our program will include reports from the Board Members as well as our national affiliate ACNP. There will also be a key legislative talk from Jerry Farley. We will conclude with an informal session to open the floor to hearing your issues and concerns as we continue to shape the future for all Washington NPs. Your voice does make a difference - please plan to attend!! We also invite you to meet your Board members at the ARNPs United booth at the conference and participate in our surprise drawing!

Board Position Recruitment

Looking for an opportunity to get involved? We are actively seeking candidates for two open board positions - for Family Nurse Practitioner and Women's Health Nurse Practitioner. If you are interested in being the voice for your specialty in a two year term position, please contact Debbie at ARNPs United at 253-480-1035.

American Geriatric Society Opens Membership to NPs

In an unprecedented move, The American Geriatric Society (AGS) is now offering the rights of full time active membership status to Nurse Practitioners. Formerly only physicians were granted this status since the Society was founded in the 1940s. AGS leaders made this decision as they recognized the NP's contributions in providing primary health care to the nation's elderly and are seeking a collegial approach to advancing the Society into the next century.

Included in the membership is the monthly publication, Journal of the American Geriatric Society, discounts to

AGS sponsored conferences, opportunities to become involved in AGS committees, and patient education handouts on a variety of topics.

Contact the AGS online at www.americangeriatrics.org or by phone at 212-308-1414 or fax at 212-832-8646.

Rotavirus Vaccine on Hold

The CDC recommends that healthcare providers and parents postpone use of the rotavirus vaccine for infants, at least until November 1999, based on early surveillance reports of intussusception among some infants who received rotavirus vaccine. Although intussusceptions occur among infants who have not received rotavirus vaccine, CDC will be collecting additional data in the next several months that may indicate more clearly whether the rotavirus vaccine increases the risk of intussusception. The recommendation is being made with the consideration that rotavirus season is still 4-6 months away in most parts of the United States. An estimated 1.5 million doses of rotavirus vaccine have been administered to infants since it was licensed on August 31, 1998. As of July 7, 1999, the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) has received 15 reports of intussusception. The rate of intussusception among children receiving the rotavirus vaccine appears to be increased in the first 2 - 3 weeks after vaccination. Parents and caretakers of infants should contact their health care provider if the child develops symptoms of intussusception (persistent vomiting, bloody stools, black stools, abdominal bloating or severe colic pain). Health care providers should be aware of the possible increased risk and consider this diagnosis among children presenting these symptoms. Parents and health care providers should report intussusception and other adverse events following vaccination by calling 800.822.7967 or at <http://www.cdc.gov/nip/vaers.htm>. From MedWatch additional information in the MMWR, July 16, 1999, 48(27);577-581 at <http://www.cdc.gov/epo/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm4827a1.htm>

Littmann Stethoscopes

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Classified Ads

Family/Urgent Care Nurse Practitioner

Emergency medicine group practice looking for family NPs or acute care NPs to practice in new urgent care or "fast track" portion of emergency department, recently opened. Excellent salary and benefits package. Practice located in Longview, Washington with all the benefits of the great Pacific Northwest surroundings. Prefer prior acute care experience, and certification to see both adults and pediatrics is required. Send resume to Dennis Ford, M.D., Medical Director, St. John Medical Center, P.O. Box 3002, Longview, WA 98632. Alternatively, e-mail to: jdford@kalama.com.

Continuing Education

Pacific Northwest 22nd 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/.

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

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