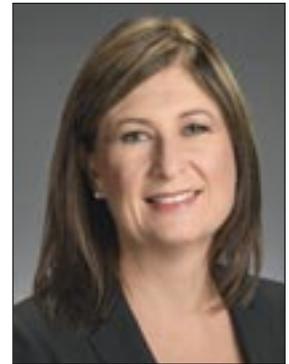


# 2019 Annual Report

## Positioning ANNA for the Future

It was an honor to serve as ANNA President in 2019 during a transformative period in kidney history and health. When I ran for President in 2017, I had no idea of the changes and opportunities that would become available to the association and nephrology nursing in 2019. Following this theme of change and newness, the format for the Annual Report is different this year. This two-part report summarizes the state of the association in infographic style (see page 5) and highlights key activities in narrative form (below) with a focus on ANNA's strategic planning process and the response to the landmark Advancing American Kidney Health initiative that was introduced in 2019.



## Members and Volunteers

ANNA members and volunteers continue to be our greatest asset and strength. Members volunteer at local and national levels, and each volunteer is equally important in the roles they fill and contributions they provide to the association. It was my pleasure to meet many of you over the last year. Your dedication to nephrology nursing and patient care inspired me every day to work harder as ANNA President. I appreciated the emails I received and tried to respond to each one.

## Celebrating ANNA's 50th Anniversary



Throughout 2019, we saw the implementation of many activities commemorating the association's 50th anniversary. Nephrology Nurses Week focused on *Celebrating Nephrology Nurses* and our contributions to kidney health.

Several ANNA member interviews were shared across ANNA social media and the sites of our kidney community colleagues. ANNA Past President and *Nephrology Nursing Journal* Editor **Beth Ulrich** developed a series of podcasts to share stories and milestones in nephrology nursing and our association through interviews with ANNA past presidents and leaders. ANNA offered a membership discount to celebrate this monumental year. In addition, the March/April 2020 issue of the *Nephrology Nursing Journal (NNJ)* featured a timeline of nephrology and ANNA, memories from nephrology nurses and ANNA leaders, innovations in dialysis, and much more. It was the highest page count for an *NNJ* issue to date and is a historical archive!

## Advancing American Kidney Health

On July 10, 2019, President Trump signed an Executive Order to advance kidney health, and energy and momentum began building across the kidney community. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) responded with three goals that focused on:

- preventing, detecting, and slowing the progression of kidney disease,
- improving treatment options with a focus on expanding the number of patients on home therapies and receiving transplants, and
- increasing the number of organs available for transplantation.

ANNA responded to the Executive Order with cautious optimism due to workforce issues related to a lack of nephrology nurses. As ANNA President, I consulted with ANNA Federal Health Policy Consultant **Jim Twaddell** and convened an ad hoc committee of ANNA leaders to share information about the Advancing American Kidney Health (AAKH) initiative and develop ANNA's response. Task force members included **Donna Bednarski, Donna Painter, Glenda Payne, Lillian Pryor, Leah Foster Smith, Charlotte Thomas-Hawkins, Phung Tran, and Jim Twaddell.**

This group drafted two ANNA comment letters to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) addressing:

- the proposed rule (CMS-17-13-P) regarding the End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Prospective Payment System (PPS), Payment for Renal Dialysis Services Provided to Individuals with Acute Kidney Injury, and ESRD Quality Incentive Program (QIP)
- the proposed rule (CMS-5527-p) regarding the Specialty Care Models to Improve Quality of Care and Reduce Expenditures

ANNA also began collaborating and communicating with colleagues in the nursing and kidney care communities, visited Washington, DC, created videos, and added a panel on the AAKH initiative to the program at the Nephrology Nursing Practice, Management & Leadership Conference held in San Diego in October 2019. A dedicated page on AAKH was added to the ANNA website at [www.annanurse.org/aakh](http://www.annanurse.org/aakh), and new information is continually added to keep members and nonmembers up to date on the AAKH initiative.

As 2019 came to a close, the Rogosin Institute convened a group of approximately 30 nephrology nurse leaders, patients, and various health care providers to discuss *The Future of Nephrology Nursing*. This 1-day event, which was held in New York City, will culminate in a white paper with ANNA member contributors.

There is no doubt that 2020 will see further developments regarding the Executive Order on Advancing American Kidney Health, and ANNA is poised to be at the table. We also are playing an important role in working with kidney care and nursing community partners to improve kidney health in America.

## Strategic Planning

Another ANNA response to the Executive Order was an update of the ANNA Strategic Plan during the July 2019 Board of Directors (BOD) meeting in Indianapolis, IN, with the assistance of a consultant. The Strategic Planning session resulted in the board approving a new task force chaired by **Kristin Larson** and **Alice Luehr** that was charged with focusing on recruiting new-to-practice registered nurses and advanced practice registered nurses to nephrology nursing. The New to Practice Task Force has brought ideas to the Board of Directors for consideration and implementation. The task force also developed and launched a survey for nurses practicing in nephrology for 5 years or less. Survey data will be available later this year.

The BOD also decided to reinstate the Health Policy Committee due to the increased activity from the Executive Order. Additionally, the BOD reinstated the Nominations Committee. Both of these committees will return in April 2020.

## Advocating for Nephrology Nursing and Patients with Kidney Disease

ANNA also focused on building a media presence in 2019. I attended a Media Summit at George Washington University with ANNA's Communications and Media Relations Director, **Janet D'Alesandro**. Janet also worked with various ANNA leaders throughout the year to share nephrology nursing stories and expertise with media outlets. You will see on the infographic that this work resulted in 40 interviews. ANNA continues to focus on building a stronger media presence across the association.

ANNA also developed a series of films showcasing nephrology nursing in a variety of practice settings. These videos are available on the ANNA website ([annanurse.org/explore](http://annanurse.org/explore)) for both members and nonmembers to view and share with the intention of illustrating the many roles and practice settings for nephrology nurses..

In June 2019, ANNA sent a group of members to Capitol Hill to advocate for nursing and patients with kidney disease during the ANNA Health Policy Workshop. The format for the Health Policy Workshop was restructured, and the timing could not have been more important due to launch of the Advancing American Kidney Health initiative a month later. Many of the 25 workshop attendees assisted in writing the ANNA comment letters that were sent to CMS in fall 2019.

In closing, I would like to thank each of you for trusting me to serve as your president from April through December 2019. I also wholeheartedly thank **Lou Ann Leary** for serving as ANNA Interim Executive Director during a year that seemed to build momentum by the month. I ended my term early on December 31, 2019, to become ANNA Executive Director and am grateful to **Lillian Pryor** and **Dave Walz** as they stepped into their roles as ANNA President and ANNA President-Elect, respectively, a few months early. Thank you again for providing me the opportunity to serve as ANNA President. It will remain one of the most cherished opportunities of my career. ↑

**Tamara Kear, PhD, RN, CNN, FAAN**  
2019 ANNA President