Corporate/Government

The SIG continues to work on the nationwide e-mail initiative to state legislators as one of its goals for 2004-05 and has resumed this work in support of ESRD Education Week activities. The addition of new SIG members as a result of the Enrichment Opportunities Event at the 2004 Fall Meeting and through existing member contacts has improved our ability to reach state representatives across the United States and provide them access to the ESRD Briefing Book for State and Federal Policymakers. New SIG members have agreed to start early and continue the work of this SIG through 2005-06. This enormous project reaches approximately 150 to 300 representatives in each state. We will reallocate the distribution of the states to ensure that we reach legislative contacts in all states through e-mail. To date, we have reached 16 states and 3,000+ state legislators. Our goal is to complete the e-mail process and reach as many of these decision makers as possible. With newly elected members to each state’s legislature, the project continues and grows. The ability of local ANNA chapters to provide follow up with tours and share information with state and local contacts as well as federal contacts is imperative to the success of this project. If anyone has suggestions on how we can improve the opportunities to get these decision makers into dialysis centers for tours, we welcome these ideas. The success of this aspect of the project and the ability to sustain the momentum varies locally.

We are very excited about the SIG networking session planned for the National Symposium in Las Vegas. The topic will be The ESRD Modernization Act: How it Impacts Nephrology Nursing Practice. The session will be facilitated by Nancy Sharp and Kathleen Smith. If you want to know how legislation is affecting your practice, don’t miss this event. As our “experts on the Hill,” they promise a very exciting and informative session.

We also are anticipating some exciting and fun participation in the Enrichment Opportunities Event (EOE) planned for the National Symposium. This is a new activity that gives members the opportunity to explore what ANNA has to offer each individual. If you didn’t participate in the EOE in New Orleans, you will want to be at this event in Las Vegas.

Glenda Payne, a CMS Nurse Consultant and ANNA Board member, is working with our SIG to develop an article for the ANNA Update intended to help members stay informed about the legislative activities that may affect nephrology nursing practice. Glenda has provided a narrative of her presentation from the 2004 National Symposium in Washington, DC. For those of you who did not hear her presentation, An Understanding of the Disease Management Project, Glenda provided an excellent overview of this project and its potential impact on nephrology nursing (see her article on page 36 of this issue).

If you have an ear to the activities in your local government, our committee is very interested in hearing about what is happening in your region. Please let us know about these activities by contacting me at scrnin@bonecare.com.

Susan Cronin
Corporate/Government SIG Leader
Badger Chapter

Administration

This year the SIG aligned its activities with ANNA’s Strategic Plan.

Advocacy. During the year, the SIG has been reviewing and updating the Nephrology Nursing Clinical Ladder Program. We have completed an in-depth literature review and were impressed with the quantity and quality of existing clinical ladder programs for professional development. We plan to complete the project in the summer of 2005.

Leadership. We will hold three networking session at the National Symposium in an effort to provide nephrology nurses the opportunity to share experiences and expertise in the areas of survey readiness, performance management, and professional communication.

Scholarship. We have plans to develop management fact sheets. These fact sheets will cover bullet points needed by the manager when dealing with management or administrative issues that arise in the dialysis facility. We plan to complete the first series on “conflict management” for a roll out to Administration SIG members at the 2005 Fall Meeting.

Membership. We participated at the Enrichment Opportunities Event (EOE) at the 2004 Fall Meeting and plan to participate in the EOE at the National Symposium as well. It was exciting to meet members and discuss the challenges they have to face each day. We also had the opportunity to promote the Administration SIG to new members of ANNA. We developed a “needs” survey for completion by the members to contribute ideas for future networking topics and projects.

My thanks to each of the committee members for their contributions to the SIG and to nephrology nursing: Karen Burwell, Meesun Cho, Sue Jones, Anita Lipman, Connie Oden, Catherine Sindelir, Mary Stein, Jeanne Torbert, and Nancy Vanek.

Norma Gomez
Administration SIG Leader
South Florida Flamingo Chapter
Advanced Practice

The SIG had a very productive and exciting year. Our committee started with 10 members and presently have 9. Advanced practice nurses (APNs) consist of nurse practitioners (NPs) and clinical nurse specialists (CNSS) with a vast amount of experiences in all areas of nephrology.

Advocacy. The SIG had input into the revision of the nephrology nursing guidelines. We added the APN role to: Pre and Post Dialysis Assessment; Initiation of Dialysis; Fluid Management; Adequacy of Dialysis; Bone Care Management, and Termination of Dialysis.

Recruitment and Retention. The SIG’s mentoring program continues to grow. This program pairs experienced APNs with newer APNs based on areas of practice. I also received requests for mentors for experienced APNs entering nephrology this year. There were a total of eight requests for mentors this year.

We participated in the Enrichment Opportunities Event at the 2004 Fall Meeting. The SIG had the opportunity to highlight our activities and accomplishments over the past year. We had an incredible amount of interest in our activities; approximately 10-12 APNs visited our booth for information. We developed a “fact sheet” for this event that included committee member names, goals, current projects, past projects, membership requirements, time commitments, and contact information. The fact sheet also will be available at the 2005 National Symposium.

Membership. The survey that was conducted at the 2003 National Symposium regarding the APN directory was presented to the Board of Directors and remains in development. We are in the process of developing ways to identify nephrology NPs in practice and ways for our members and nonmembers to access this information. The ANNA Web site has been suggested and will be explored further in the next few months.

The SIG committee was asked by the Leadership Development Committee to collaborate on a mentoring project for chapter officers.

Scholarship: The K/DOQI Clinical Practice Guidelines for Blood Pressure Management and Use of Antihypertensive Agents in Chronic Kidney Disease came out early last year. It was exciting to take part in the review process and to see the completed document.

At the 2004 National Symposium in Washington DC, the SIG facilitated a networking session on APN practice issues. We presented four case studies that dealt with different disease management areas in our practice. We will continue the same format for the 2005 National Symposium in Las Vegas.

The SIG committee reviewed the non-clinical abstracts submitted for the National Symposium and was impressed with the quality of the submissions. We also developed objectives for the breakfast networking session for advanced practice nurses at the 2005 Annual Dialysis Conference.

Leadership. Leadership was very apparent among our committee: Deborah Brooks, Fran Fournier, Peggy Gerlach, Linda Kirk, Mary Rose Kott, Sara Otterness, Nancy Pelfrey, Suzanne Petroff, and Denise Sinaga. I would like to thank my committee members for their outstanding contribution and hard work. All of our committee members will continue for another year. I look forward to working with these members again this year. It is an active and exciting time for APNs in nephrology.

I will continue as SIG leader for another year. If you are interested in joining or contributing to future projects, please contact me at darenehall@socal.rr.com.

Darene Hall  
Advanced Practice SIG Leader  
Chumash Chapter

Hemodialysis

The SIG had a busy and productive year. Our monthly conference calls gave us an opportunity for lively discussion and identification of hemodialysis issues that affect the ANNA membership. Our activities have been aligned with ANNA’s Strategic Plan.

Advocacy. We assisted with the revision of the Nephrology Nursing Standards of Practice and Guidelines for Care. These revised standards will be available at the National Symposium. We also published an article in the Nephrology Nursing Journal based on the networking session on vascular access at the 2004 National Symposium. The discussion at the networking session emphasized the nephrology nurse’s role in advocating for and managing fistulae in an increasing number of our patients.

Membership. We monitored the ANNA Web site for hemodialysis-related issues of interest to ANNA members. We responded to several questions from members, including ones on topics such as vascular access and priming procedures. We participated in the Enrichment Opportunities Event (EOE) at the Fall Meeting. We developed a fact sheet for distribution and shared information about the SIG. We also will participate in the EOE at the National Symposium.

Scholarship. We have identified potential areas of research for vascular access and will continue to pursue opportunities to implement research projects.

Leadership. We continue to support ANNA’s role as stakeholder in several national nephrology projects, such as Fistula First Breakthrough Initiative.

The SIG also reviewed clinical abstracts submitted for presentation at the National Symposium. We will hold three networking sessions at the symposium. These sessions will provide participants the opportunity to share clinical experiences and expertise in the areas of vascular access, new tools of assessment, and anticoagulation.

Thanks to each committee member for their hard work and dedication to the ANNA membership. I will continue as SIG Leader for the coming year. I look forward to welcoming current and new members as we continue our support of ANNA’s mission and goals. If you would like more information about the SIG, check us out online at www.annanurse.org.

Betsy King  
Hemodialysis SIG Leader  
Northeast Tri-State Chapter
Transplant

The SIG has had a most successful year. Many thanks to the committee members who include: Jenny Bell, Roberta Billman, Jean Colaneri, Sharon Ehlers, Sharon Longton, Lynn McCoy, Lucy Stackiewicz, and Pat Weiskittel. This committee is a cohesive, hard working group that is truly representative of the nephrology nurses working within transplantation.

The year began with several tasks including the revision of the Clinical Practice Standards for transplantation. Michelle Smith and Clara Neyhart wrote a column for the Nephrology Nursing Journal that reviewed the controversial subject of federal funding for transplant medications. Jean Colaneri and Clara Neyhart wrote a second column debating whether anonymous kidney donation should be encouraged. Jenny Bell and Glenda Payne submitted a third article describing the CMS audit process for transplant programs and how to prepare for the audits. There is more writing planned in the SIG, including discussions of hot topics within our specialty, so stay tuned to your journal!

The SIG continued with revision of the educational program for the transplant section of the CNN review course. Jenny Bell created both an outline and PowerPoint presentation reviewing evaluation, post-surgical care, and long-term care of kidney and pancreas transplant recipients. This review material also includes a history of transplantation, evaluation and care of living donors, principles related to deceased donor transplants, transplant immunology, and medications. All of the material was reviewed and edited by the entire SIG.

The SIG was represented at the Fall Meeting by Jenny Bell, who presented What’s New in Transplantation? Jenny also provided information to interested participants at the Enrichment Opportunities Event.

Roberta Billman agreed to be the facilitator for the SIG session at the National Symposium, and the topic selected was Donor Evaluations: Maintaining Quality While Under Pressure of Quantity. This is the subject of much controversy in the transplant community and has resulted in lively discussion. Clara Neyhart was accepted as a presenter at the National Symposium; she will present Partnering With Transplant and CKD Patients to Promote Self-Management.

Conference calls were held every month except one, and many interesting exchanges occurred, including a conversation with guest participant Kay Helzer, who reviewed the available transplant databases and the merits of each during one of the calls.

Future plans include: a journal column examining steroid free protocols, an article reviewing current immunosuppressive agents, review and response to the new proposed CMS regulations related to transplantation, and creation of content for a transplant module as part of the ANNA What Every Nurse Needs to Know educational series, now in production with other SIGs.

I am very grateful to the members of the Transplant SIG committee for their hard work and dedication. We are a small group, but have accomplished much. We look forward to the year ahead!

Clara Neyhart
Transplant SIG Leader
Cardinal Chapter

Peritoneal Dialysis

Advocacy. The SIG presented an interactive breakfast session titled Collaborating with Your Colleagues to Improve Clinical Outcomes during the Annual Dialysis Conference in San Antonio in March 2004. The session was well attended and facilitated by eight SIG members. The SIG networking session at the National Symposium in Washington, DC, focused on methods to improve patient compliance and participation. Games People Play: Strategies for Patient Cooperation was presented by Jeannine Farina, SIG member.

Membership. A letter was sent to all peritoneal dialysis (PD) nurses who are ANNA members. The letter highlighted the goals of the SIG, current accomplishments, and future goals. SIG members asked for feedback from PD nurses for future projects and presentations.

The yearly theme presented at the National Symposium in Washington, DC, was “Be Confident.” ANNA nurses who attended the networking session received a “Be Confident” button.

Scholarship. The September/October 2004 issue of the Nephrology Nursing Journal was the PD monograph. SIG members Terri Bonadio, Sara Kennedy, Laurie Biel, Donna Maaz, Karen Kelley, Jeannine Farina, Bobbi Knotek, Warren Fleming, and Maria Luongo were joined by Barbara Prowant, Mary Schira, Judith Bernardini, Mary Zorzanello, Debra Showers, Anne Seaward-Hersh, Dr. Jose-Diaz Buxo, and Dr. Zipporah Krishnasami in making the monograph a tool that can be utilized by all members of the health care team. With the guidance and patience of Editor Beth Ulrich and the staff of the Nephrology Nursing Journal, the dream of developing a PD monograph became a reality.

A new journal column, “PD News and Views,” was started this year. Two topics were presented: Tune Up Your Data Collection Skills authored by Bobbi Knotek and Maria Luongo and Peritoneal Dialysis and Intraperitoneal Insulin: How Much? authored by Jeannine Farina. We hope to present more topics in the future and welcome suggestions.

In April 2005 Sara Kennedy will assume the role of SIG leader and will be keeping you informed about the SIG’s goals and progress. Please help Sara and the SIG by sharing your ideas and thoughts so that we can continue to provide information about peritoneal dialysis for our professional associates and patients.

Maria Luongo
Peritoneal Dialysis SIG Leader
Bay State Chapter
Pediatric Nephrology

The SIG has been very active this past year. Accomplishments include Pediatric Guidelines as well as several journal articles from members Cyrena Gilman, Ken Kolnacki, and Teresa Simek. Two members attended the Annual Dialysis Conference in Tampa, FL. They hosted a networking session.

Currently, we are preparing for the National Symposium Topics for the SIG networking sessions include: (1) Transition from CRI to ESRD, (2) Transition from CKD to Transplant, (3) Transition from Pediatric to Adult Care, and (4) Transition from Job Burnout to Job Satisfaction. The SIG also will host a table at the Enrichment Opportunities Event.

We have two members reviewing the pediatric chapter for the CNN review course. Our future projects include pediatric CKD information for nurses and a new fact sheet for nephrotic syndrome.

Angel Krueger
Pediatric Nephrology SIG Leader
Gulf Coast Chapter

Chronic Kidney Disease

The SIG has been actively working on two major strategic goals – advocacy and scholarship.

Advocacy. Cheryl Groenhoff has been working with Baxter at the Kidney Educator University, teaching nurses how to educate patients about CKD. Charlotte Szromba organized several community groups to raise awareness of CKD and organized education programs for individuals with CKD. Sally Burrows-Hudson, Ann Compton, and Sally Campoy have written articles on CKD for nursing magazines.

Ann Compton has worked with the National Kidney Foundation (NKF) Kidney Early Education Program (KEEP) and is on the steering committee for the National Kidney Disease Education Program (NKDEP). Sally Burrows-Hudson has facilitated the incorporation of CKD stages 1 and 4 into ANNA’s nephrology nursing care guidelines. She also has been working with the NKF in Northern California to increase awareness of CKD.

Scholarship. By the time this issue of the ANNA Update is published, the SIG will have completed two education modules on CKD stages 1 and 2 and CKD stages 3 and 4. Thanks to the SIG members who developed these modules: Sally Campoy, Ann Compton, Cheryl Groenhoff, Sara Kennedy, Charlotte Szromba, and Jeanne Wolfrum.

Sally Campoy, Ann Compton, Sara Kennedy, and Charlotte Szromba have been on the lecture circuit, talking about CKD to nurse practitioner organizations, ANNA chapters, and the community.

The SIG is looking forward to its first networking session at the National Symposium in Las Vegas. We will discuss how to start a program as well as review strategies to increase awareness of CKD among our professional group. We hope to see you there!

Sally Campoy
Chronic Kidney Disease SIG Leader
High Country Chapter

ESRD Education Day 2004

continued from page 24

During the facility tours the primary issues discussed with U.S. Congressional Representatives were the ESRD Modernization Act and the Nurse Reinvestment Act. Ancillary topics for all policymakers included issues related to transplantation, transportation, prescription drug coverage, dialysis drugs covered outside the composite, and other local issues. Overall, a great wealth of information about the issues facing the renal community has been disseminated by ANNA members to lawmakers during these tours. This has not only helped the lawmakers’ understanding of the issues most important to the renal community, but also has resulted in important commitments to support the ESRD Modernization Act and the Nurse Reinvestment Act.

Already in 2005 we have had reports of ANNA chapters planning to participate in ESRD Education Week (August 8-12). One notable visit that has already occurred in 2005 involved the education of 14 representatives from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) who toured DaVita Greenspring in Baltimore, MD, on January 20. This visit was coordinated by ANNA President-Elect Suzann VanBuskirk with assistance from the Baltimore Chapter of ANNA. Susie reported that she began planning for this visit in the third quarter of 2004. As you can see, it’s never too early to start planning for ESRD Education Week 2005.

In conclusion, ESRD Education Day 2004 was an ongoing success that lasted throughout the year, thanks to so many ANNA and KCP members. See Table 1 (on page 24) for a breakdown of the incredible impact you made on so many policymakers. You have truly made a difference!

Kathleen Kuchta
ESRD Education Day Advisor
Windy City Chapter

Watch for Role Delineation Survey from NNCC

The Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission (NNCC) is preparing to mail a role delineation nurse survey to a random sampling of nephrology nurses. The survey will be mailed in March 2005, and respondents will be requested to return the survey within 30 days of receipt.

If you receive the survey, please complete and return it as soon as possible. This survey will provide valuable information to NNCC regarding the maintenance of current nephrology nursing certification examinations and the potential development of an advanced practice nephrology nursing examination. Thank you in advance for your participation!

Nancy Gallagher
NNCC Executive Director