Special Interest Groups

Administration

Our networking sessions were well attended at the National Symposium in Dallas, TX. The Functional Administration SIG presented two sessions, which were well attended and engaged a lot of questions and dialogue. Our first session was presented by Stephen Pottoore entitled If you think billing isn’t your department, you’re wrong! He possesses a wealth of knowledge and is a wonderful resource on the issue of billing and reimbursement. Our second session presented by Deb Cote focused on the Nephrology Nurse Career Ladder, which was featured in the symposium edition of the Nephrology Nursing Journal. The networking and information provided by the participants and facilitators made these presentations exciting.

The SIG members who have agreed to continue to serve this year include: Karen Beal, Deuzimar Kulawik, Araceli Mendoza, Max Myers, Jeff Tyer, and Nancy Vanek. We are pleased to welcome new members for 2007-08, including: Kathleen DeConcilio, Charla Litton, Eileen MacFarlane, Traci Phillips, and Marcinda Rambaran. SIG members had the opportunity to meet many nephrology nurses during the Enrichment Opportunity Event. We missed you, Karen!

We are in the process of completing our 2007-08 strategic plan and hope to have a dynamic and productive year. We plan to write for the Nephrology Nursing Journal in an exciting new column called “Management Corner.” Additionally, new resources for the SIG are being developed on “Opening a New Dialysis Unit” and “Survey Readiness” and will be completed by this summer.

The SIG meets monthly via conference calls. We want to explore ways for the SIG to communicate with members. We are exploring ways to enhance and increase the use of the ANNA Web site.

I am excited to begin my 2-year term as SIG leader and will look for continued guidance from the former leader Karen Burwell, who is now our SIG liaison. Any suggestions from ANNA members about administrative resource needs are welcome. Please contact the SIG through the ANNA Web site or e-mail me directly at perrecm@mail.amc.edu.

Mary Perrecone
Administration SIG Leader
Northeast Tri-State Chapter #120
perrecm@mail.amc.edu
Acute Care

The SIG is off and running! Our networking session was well attended at the National Symposium in Dallas, TX. The SIG presented results from the Acute Care Survey that was sent to 1,000 ANNA members who work in acute care. The networking/information provided by the participants and facilitators made the presentation exciting.

The SIG members – also known as the “Rough Riders Posse” – who have agreed to serve this year include: Billie Axley, Maureen Craig, MaryRose Kott, Michelle Krueger, and Helen Williams. SIG members had the opportunity to meet many acute care nurses during the Enrichment Opportunity Event. Many expressed interest in joining the SIG and working on projects in which the SIG will be involved, and we hope to add two new members.

We are in the process of completing our strategic plan for the upcoming year. We plan to write for the Nephrology Nursing Journal. Our first article will appear in the September/October issue. We will be the speakers for the Fall and Winter Audio Conferences, which will focus on acute care topics, and also are planning topics for the 2008 National Symposium. We also are refining the data from the survey and plan to obtain more data to begin to define Best Practice Guidelines in Acute Care.

The SIG meets monthly via conference call. We have explored many new and innovative ways to increase awareness and usage of the Forum on the ANNA Web site. We have added a couple of new SIG members who are experts in home hemodialysis, and we are planning educational sessions on home hemodialysis.

If you would like more information about the SIG, please check us out on the ANNA Web site at www.annanurse.org.

Sue Fallone
Acute Care SIG Leader
Northeast Tri-State Chapter #120
fallons@mail.amc.edu

Advanced Practice

The SIG has set Leadership and Advocacy as our goals chosen from ANNA’s Strategic Plan. A new and more user-friendly discussion forum is now available to ANNA members on the ANNA Web site. To access the discussion forum, go to www.annanurse.org, use your member login, go to Members Only, and click on The Forum. Many topic areas are available in the Forum, including Advanced Practice. In addition, you have the option of subscribing to be alerted of any new posts in the Forum. The Forum is a means of quickly dispensing and obtaining information important to our practice. We hope you will help encourage nonmember advanced practice nurses to join ANNA and take advantage of this valuable resource.

An Advanced Practice Resource List is now available on the Advanced Practice SIG page on the ANNA Web site. This information also was published on the back of bookmarks distributed at the National Symposium. The list is not inclusive, but includes resources (publications and Web sites) that we have found useful in our daily practice. To access the resource list online, go to www.annanurse.org, click on Practice, and select Committees and SIGs. Then scroll down the page and click on Resources and Activities under Advanced Practice.

Current SIG members include returning members Faith Martin, Nancy Pelfrey, Sara Otterness, and Mary Schira. New members are: Lois Bartels, Annette Hood, Brenda Patrick, and Dana Zeiss.

Deborah Brooks
Advanced Practice SIG Leader
Palmetto Chapter #203

Hemodialysis

The SIG is off to a robust start this year. Our networking sessions in Dallas were well attended. We added three new SIG members from the Enrichment Opportunity Event held at the symposium. We have completed our strategic plan for the upcoming year and look forward to the opportunities to write for the journal and assist in the revision of the Core Curriculum for Nephrology Nursing. We will be adding new hemodialysis SIG fact sheets in the upcoming year. We also have three articles that are in the final stages prior to publication.

The SIG continues to meet monthly via conference call. We have explored many new and innovative ways to increase awareness and usage of the Forum on the ANNA Web site. We have added a couple of new SIG members who are experts in home hemodialysis, and we are planning educational sessions on home hemodialysis.

If you would like more information about the SIG, please check us out on the ANNA Web site at www.annanurse.org.

Judy Kauffman
Hemodialysis SIG Leader
Central Virginia Chapter #258
Transplant

At the ANNA National Symposium the SIG offered two topics during our SIG session. **Lucy Stackiewicz** presented *Anemia Management After Transplant*. Using a case study format, she led an informative and lively discussion about a timely issue. Anemia in the kidney transplant recipient is multifactorial related to the immunosuppressive medications (calcineurin inhibitors), ACE inhibitors, iron deficiency, and co-morbidities.

During **Nobody Ever Told Me That** we shared the problems we encounter when trying to prepare patients for transplantation. Pre-transplant education focuses on both immediate needs and the post-transplant period. However, we find that many, if not most, of the patients have only concentrated on getting evaluated and transplanted. They come to us after transplant surprised that they have to undergo lifetime immunosuppression, have frequent clinic visits, or suffer medical complications.

In keeping with the nautical theme of this year’s Enrichment Opportunity Event, we asked members to “sail away with us” and join the Transplant SIG! **Sharon Swofford** helped man our table. We offered information about the risk of skin cancer in post-transplant recipients.

On May 22 I had the privilege of representing ANNA at the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) Consensus Conference in Chicago, IL. UNOS is trying to increase patient response when they ask for public comment on proposed policies and changes. The participants were from both professional and patient organizations involved in organ transplant or end stage organ failure which can best help disseminate that message. It was the culmination of work done over the previous 6 months via e-mail and conference calls. UNOS will compile all the suggestions and recommend a plan to increase communication. ANNA members are in a unique position to educate potential recipients because our members practice along the spectrum of chronic kidney disease (CKD).

The learning module on CKD: Care of the Post-Transplant Patient, was posted on the ANNA Web site in April. We hope that all nephrology nurses find it helpful in caring for transplant recipients and teaching those patients who are waiting for a transplant. Again, I thank **Clara Neyhart** for her continued leadership on that project. The Pre-Transplant Evaluation will be completed soon.

**Jean Colaneri** gave a talk on transplant immunosuppression at the National Kidney Foundation Spring Clinical Meetings in Orlando, FL, and is on the planning committee for the ANNA Fall Meeting in San Francisco.

We are looking forward to a busy year and hope to strengthen the link between transplant nurses and those working in all aspects of CKD, from the early stages through dialysis.

**Roberta Billman**
Transplant SIG Leader
*Bi Apple Chapter #102*

Chronic Kidney Disease

After a very productive year, what better way to celebrate than to meet at the National Symposium in Dallas and enjoy the friendships that we have made. The SIG committee was very proud to promote the Position Statement on Chronic Kidney Disease, the newly revised Chronic Kidney Disease Fact Sheet, as well as the new learning modules on Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) Stages 1 and 2, CKD Stages 3 and 4, and Patient Education. All of these resources were on display at our booth at the Enrichment Opportunity Event.

**Mary McGraw** did a wonderful job presenting our accomplishments for the year and providing an overview of CKD and resources available at our SIG session. She presented three excellent case studies of patients at different stages of CKD. It was a very interactive session with over 100 participants. Thank you all for your comments, ideas, and suggestions, which the committee will take into consideration as we begin our new year.

Thank you to **Janie Martinez**, **Darcy Reid**, **Lucy Stackiewicz**, and **Charlotte Szromba** for their hard work on our committee as they move on to other areas. Returning to the SIG committee this year are **Deb Hain** (Southeast, SIG Leader Designate), **Carol Kinzner** (Western), **Mary McGraw** (Southeast), and **Gladys Benavente** (Western, SIG Leader). We are currently seeking members from the North Central and Northeast Regions of ANNA to join our committee. If you are currently working in a CKD clinic as staff or an advanced practice nurse and are interested in joining our committee, please contact me at benavente123@aol.com.

Some of our goals for the coming year will be to continue to market CKD to the nephrology community and especially focus on the primary care/family practice arena as we heard several comments about this at our SIG session. We also are trying to develop a resource list of Web sites related to CKD.

If you have any concerns or issues, please feel free to contact a committee member through the ANNA National Office.

**Gladys Benavente**
Chronic Kidney Disease SIG Leader
Saguaro Chapter #514
benavente123@aol.com

Peritoneal Dialysis

The SIG is excited about moving forward to complete unfinished projects and with new vision for the future. In Dallas the Enrichment Opportunity Event provided the SIG with six names of ANNA members willing to volunteer. We are thankful for opportunities to share and reaffirm our knowledge and professionalism through volunteerism. This is just the beginning. Are you interested in writing about your experience as a peritoneal dialysis (PD) nurse? We’re here to encourage you and to assist you in your goal.

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why he/she will not renew. That feedback may help determine strategies for improvement that your chapter can implement. If you are a chapter officer, you receive the list of non-renewals for your chapter. Have you determined your practice for follow-up?

**What can you do to keep members?**

Make the meetings fun. Celebrate members’ successes and accomplishments. You can announce these at the meetings or in your newsletters. Have individuals provide testimonials about how ANNA helped them. Open the door for member feedback to provide ongoing communication about what is working well and not so well for the chapter. Your educational activities may be your biggest draws. Make sure you incorporate members’ suggestions for future topics.

ANNA will be forming a special task force to look at membership to prepare for the future and to promote continued growth. Remember, each ANNA member is a salesperson for this association. You are our most powerful marketing tool!

Sally Campoy  
*Western Vice President*  
*High Country Chapter #502*

Debra Castner  
*Northeast Vice President*  
*Garden State Chapter #125*

Cheryl Groenhoff  
*Southeast Vice President*  
*South Florida Flamingo Chapter #206*

Molly Cahill  
*North Central Vice President*  
*Heart of America Chapter #313*

**Peritoneal Dialysis Special Interest Group**  
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We are looking for you! Nephrology nurses who work with PD patients are hungry for information to assist in their clinical practice. The suggestions given at the National Symposium in Dallas were in large about this very subject. Often through case studies we can share similar clinical experiences and learn different strategies for problem solving. The SIG would love to hear from you about your personal PD challenges and what you’ve found as helpful methods to creating positive outcomes for your patients, your PD unit, and hospital nursing staff, etc. The readers of the *Nephrology Nursing Journal* also would enjoy and benefit from reading more about PD. Please contact SIG Leader Laurie Biel at lbiel1@partners.org to share your written experience. Together with a member of the SIG, we can put your thoughts into writing.

Laurie Biel  
*Peritoneal Dialysis SIG Leader*  
*Mass Bay Chapter #119*  
*lbiel1@partners.org*

**Highlights from NNCC Commissioners’ Meeting**

Below are highlights from the Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission (NNCC) meeting held in spring 2007.

- As of December 31, 2006, a total of 2,875 individuals have passed the Certified Clinical Hemodialysis Technician (CCHT) examination; a total of 950 individuals have passed the Certified Dialysis Nurse (CDN) exam; 10,120 individuals have passed the Certified Nephrology Nurse (CNN) exam; and 16 individuals have passed the Certified Nephrology Nurse-Nurse Practitioner (CNN-NP) exam.

- Reminder from the NNCC recertification committee: Make certain that continuing education programs have approved providers for CNE or CME (in the case of nurse practitioners).

- Look for your dialysis center’s invitation to participate in the 2007 CCHT job analysis! Letters of inquiry were mailed in March, and we are looking forward to hearing from you. If you did not receive a letter and wish to participate in the CCHT job analysis survey, please contact C-NET at 800-463-0786 and request survey forms. The more people who participate in this survey, the more accurate the data obtained will be. This data will assist us in continuing to provide a current, appropriate certification examination for clinical hemodialysis technicians.

- Reminders from the NNCC recertification committee:
  - Make certain that continuing education programs have approved providers for CNE or CME (in the case of nurse practitioners).
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