The past ANNA year has been a very productive one for the Special Interest Groups (SIGs) as you can see by the recaps in each of the following articles. I've had the pleasure of working with a group of very involved and dedicated volunteers this year. Despite a very busy ANNA year and in addition to work and personal involvements, these dedicated individuals have gotten the job done – and more. Each time they were asked to provide input on another project, they came through.

Some of these leaders are finishing their 2-year terms. Others are just finishing their first year and are preparing to serve a second year. For those who are leaving your position, I wish you the best in your next ANNA volunteer endeavor. For those who are staying on for next year, I look forward to working with you as I enter my second year as SIG Liaison.

Karen Burwell  
SIG Liaison  
Suncoast Chapter #213

**Administration**

The SIG continues to review leadership books to meet the ANNA Scholarship goal of providing educational information for those in current or future leadership roles. We encourage our peers to suggest new resources for our review. We are thinking of a new column called “Management Corner” in the *Nephrology Nursing Journal* as a type of “Dear Abby” question and answer column based on questions asked on the Forum on the ANNA Web site.

Two networking sessions will be offered at the National Symposium in Philadelphia. *Strategies in Moving/Opening a New Unit* will focus on resource utilization and overcoming barriers using strategic planning. Ken Kolnacki, assistant nurse manager at a tertiary care facility, will be facilitating this session to bring real-life examples to our audience. *Survey Visits: Are You Ready?* will be facilitated by SIG members Charla Litton and Kathleen DeConcilio. This session will focus on survey readiness with key strategies for successful surveys. Both sessions will demonstrate how to implement the new Manager Resources developed by the SIG. We hope these resources assist and engage others to become ANNA members.

Charla Litton and I have submitted our article on “Billing for the Bedside RN” for review and publication in the March-April issue of the *Nephrology Nursing Journal*. The article focuses on ESRD composite rate, reimbursement for labs, drugs, and new laws in place affecting reimbursement, including documentation.

We are in the process of recruiting new members to our group from the ANNA Resource Corps.

A big “thank you” to committee members for their continued dedication. Any suggestions from ANNA members concerning the SIG are welcome. Please contact us through the ANNA Web site or e-mail me directly at perrecm@mail.amc.edu.

Hoping to see you in Philadelphia!

**Mary Perrecone**  
Administration SIG Leader  
Northeast Tri-State Chapter #120

**Advanced Practice**

This is a summary of the SIG’s work this year. Our work incorporated ANNA’s Strategic Goals of Leadership and Advocacy. Our completed projects and tasks this past year include: the revision and approval of the Position Statement on Advanced Practice in Nephrology Nursing, chapter review for the *Core Curriculum for Nephrology Nursing*, update and CEAB approval for the CE on Wheels program on *Immunizations and Patients with CKD*, question revision and additions for the *Certification Review Guide*, and abstract review for the National Symposium. We also provided a representative on the multidisciplinary team for the new Interpretive Guidelines from CMS, a team leader for the NBC/Amgen/NKF health fair in California, and a facilitator for APNs at the Annual Dialysis Conference.

Projects that are nearly completed are the revision of the *Scope and Standards of Advanced Practice in Nephrology Nursing* and guidelines for a job description for APNs working in nephrology. These and the revised position statement will be part of our SIG session at the National Symposium in Philadelphia.

Other ongoing projects are finding more methods for communicating with other APNs in nephrology. The ANNA Forum has seen an increase in use, and the Board approved the sharing of new member information with the SIG leaders. This will allow us to contact new members, let them know about the SIG, and offer ideas on how they can participate. We have several other ideas. This year we are recruiting new members to fill vacancies as some current members move on to other volunteer activities. We have learned that new projects and needs are constantly coming to ANNA for expert input and review. As always, we welcome input from our APN colleagues in nephrology and can be readily contacted through the ANNA Forum or via e-mail.

Deborah Brooks  
Advanced Practice SIG Leader  
Palmetto Chapter #203

Charla Litton and I have submitted our article on “Billing for the Bedside RN” for review and publication in the March-April issue of the *Nephrology Nursing Journal*. The article focuses on ESRD composite rate, reimbursement for labs, drugs, and new laws in place affecting reimbursement, including documentation.
Acute Care

The SIG has had a very busy and productive year. We have been involved in many projects, given feedback related to national standards and documents, provided educational opportunities, and have become a busy group for ANNA.

Advocacy. The SIG has been monitoring and collecting data related to key issues that influence acute care nephrology nurses. We have responded to the KDIGO related to proposed guidelines Hepatitis C in CKD. We also provided input for new CMS IHI guidelines related to hospital acquired infections as well as JCAHO Patient Safety Goals for Hospitals and Critical Access Hospitals. We also monitor and respond to questions from the Acute Care Forum on the ANNA Web site.

Recruitment and Retention. Our SIG was asked to participate on a task force to develop a strategy to increase ANNA membership. Mary Rose Kott and Helen Williams served on this task force. The SIG also added three new members this year. All SIG members were encouraged to join the ANNA Resource Corps (ARC).

Membership. There has been an increase in activity on the Web site in the past 3 months as well as more calls to the National Office for information related to acute care practice. We are currently developing a strategy to share the Acute Care Survey data and to implement a plan to address practice issues and promote best practices.

Scholarship. The SIG has provided continuing education programs this year: the Fall Audio Conference, Assessment of the Renal Failure Patient with Acute Care Needs, presented by SIG members Mary Rose Kott and Billie Axley; which was followed by the Winter Audio Conference, Taking the Mystery Out of CRRT, presented by Maureen Craig and Helen Williams.

SIG members Mary Rose Kott and Sue Fallone authored an article, “Getting to Know You: A National View of Acute Renal Care,” that was published in the September-October issue of the Nephrology Nursing Journal.

SIG members will be facilitating the SIG session on CQI in the Acute Care Setting at the National Symposium.

SIG members also were asked to develop questions for the Certification Review Guide and to review and score abstracts for the National Symposium.

Leadership. The SIG continues to provide mentoring to ANNA members and welcomes new members who are interested in working on acute care practice.

I would like to thank the SIG members – Billie Axley, Maureen Craig, Sharon Haney, Mary Rose Kott, Gary Reschak, Kitty Thomas, and Helen Williams – for their dedication and hard work. I look forward to another productive and exciting year.

Sue Fallone
Acute Care SIG Leader
Northeast Tri-State Chapter #120

Chronic Kidney Disease

The SIG had another productive and exciting year. A lot of hard work and participation has been provided by Donna Calvin, Deb Hain, Carol Kinzer, Jacqueline May, Mary McGraw, and David Simmons. A big thank you to all for your enthusiasm and energy. I could not have done it without your ideas, suggestions, and expertise.

The SIG planned its work around ANNA’s Strategic Plan, incorporating the goals of Membership, Scholarship, and Advocacy.

Membership. Continuing to provide and/or develop educational tools about CKD was our focus. The SIG committee provided feedback and case studies on CKD for the revision of the Certification Review Guide. Our committee also reviewed the CE on Wheels module on patient education. Gladys Benavente served as co-author for the CKD chapter for the latest edition of the Core Curriculum for Nephrology Nursing.

Advocacy. We continue to reach out to the nephrology community and primary care providers to address issues affecting CKD clients. An article on GFR written by Carol Kinzer and Deb Hain provided some insight on being aware of the GFR and how preservation measures could be applied in early stages of CKD.

Scholarship. The SIG committee has been busy developing case studies of early stages of CKD and health promotion measures, which will be our key focus at the CKD SIG session at the 2008 National Symposium in Philadelphia. Deb Hain will be our facilitator and held a pilot session at the 2008 Annual Dialysis Conference in Orlando in March.

As I complete my term as SIG leader, it has been a pleasure and an honor to have been a part of this committee. I extend a warm welcome to Deb Hain, who will be assuming the role of SIG leader. These are exciting times for nephrology nurses and ANNA, and we should embrace the opportunity to improve the quality of life for our clients.

Gladys Benavente
Chronic Kidney Disease Leader
Saguaro Chapter #514

Hemodialysis

The SIG continues to be busy with special projects. We are excited to say that we added three new members to the SIG from the Enrichment Opportunities Event at the National Symposium in Dallas. We have just completed reviewing and revising study guide questions for the Certification Review Guide. The SIG also completed a revision of the CE on Wheels program on vascular access. We have submitted two articles for publication, and a third article is in process. We completed the review of non-research abstracts. We are now working with local grocery stores to provide dialysis friendly food aisles for patients. We have confirmed the three networking sessions for the National Symposium in Philadelphia.
The SIG continues to meet monthly via conference call. We have explored many new innovative ways to bring a greater awareness and increase the usage of the Forums on the Web page. If you would like more information about the SIG, check us out on the ANNA Web site at www.annanurse.org.

Judy Kauffman  
Hemodialysis SIG Leader  
Central Virginia Chapter #258

Pediatric Nephrology

For 2007-2008 the SIG has been busy as a group and as individuals working to advocate for pediatric patients and nurses, to recruit and retain nurses to care for children, and to increase our voice by expanding our membership base. We also have assisted in the preparation of materials to assure that nurses are prepared for the care of nephrology patients throughout the age continuum and served as leaders and resources locally and nationally.

Advocacy
- Submitted an article entitled “Dialyzing Children in an Adult Unit” to the Nephrology Nursing Journal for the March-April issue.
- Planned a session at the ANNA National Symposium on this topic as well.
- Planned a breakfast session for the Annual Dialysis Conference in Orlando on Challenges of Training Home HD Helpers When Children Go Home.

Recruitment and Retention
- Discussed staffing challenges and ideas.
- Compiled a list of pediatric staffing models and nurse/patient ratios.

Membership
- Worked on recruiting members from pediatric facilities to ANNA.
- Participated in the Critical Issues Conference in Philadelphia.

Scholarship
- Drafted scenarios and questions for the Certification Review Guide.
- Wrote the Pediatric Section of the Core Curriculum for Nephrology Nursing (5th edition).

Leadership
- Presented talks on a variety of topics locally and nationally representing ANNA and pediatrics.
- Discussed best practices and shared ideas on implementation.
- Served as pediatric resources to our nephrology communities.

Nancy McAfee  
Pediatric Nephrology SIG Leader  
Greater Puget Sound Chapter #503

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Vogel, Kelly McMannus Memorial Award; Alice Luehr and Nancy Pierce, Representation Award; San Joaquin Chapter, Western Chapter of the Year Award; Sawtooth Chapter, Chapter Recruitment and Retention Regional Award; and Lynda Ball, Nephrology Nursing Journal writing contest award winner. Congratulations also to those members who won scholarships or grants: Nancy Colobong Smith, H. Paul Smith, and Danuta Wojnar.

I also had line officer responsibilities to other ANNA areas and want to thank those members for their expertise and willingness to be available for projects that arose. The Advanced Practice SIG, under the leadership of Deborah Brooks, had a very busy year. Thanks to them, the revised Position Statement on Advanced Practice in Nephrology Nursing was approved. They are also working on guidelines for writing an APN job description. The Pediatric Nephrology SIG with Nancy McAfee as its leader is completing the module on CKD in pediatrics as well as writing articles for the Nephrology Nursing Journal.

Glinda Stricklin was the representative for the Safe & Timely Immunizations Coalition. She has actively participated in seminars and developed intervention strategies to increase hepatitis B, influenza, and pneumococcal vaccination rates in the dialysis population.

Finally, as the outgoing vice president, I have thoroughly enjoyed my time representing the region. I had a fantastic team and thank Alice, Pete, and Melinda for their hard work and willingness to do what they needed to do. The incoming officers – Vice President Nancy Pierce, CC Pete Calixto, CCE Sheila Doss, and Health Policy Representative Alice Luehr – will do a great job for the region and I wish them well. To the many chapter officers and members whom I have had the pleasure to know, keep up your good work. You are truly an inspiration. There have been challenges, trials, and successes, but each of you has offered your time and energy to make ANNA the wonderful organization that it is. For that, I deeply thank you.

Sally Campoy  
Vice President  
High Country Chapter #502

Alice Luehr  
Chapters Coordinator  
Big Sky Chapter #527

Pete-Reuben Calixto  
Chapters Coordinator-Elect  
Northern California Chapter #504

Melinda Martin-Lester  
Health Policy Advisor  
Desert Vista Chapter #501