ANNA Members Honored at National Symposium

ANNA distributed over $90,000 in awards, scholarships, and grants to ANNA members and chapters during the Association’s 40th National Symposium, which was held April 26-29, 2009, in San Diego, CA. Congratulations to the following members and chapters who received awards.

Outstanding Achievement Awards

Outstanding Contribution to ANNA

Caroline Counts, MSN, RN, CNN, Research Coordinator for the Division of Nephrology at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston, SC, was the recipient of the highest honor bestowed upon an ANNA member in recognition of her outstanding contributions to the Association.

A past president of ANNA, Ms. Counts was recognized for being a consummate ANNA member—one who has served the organization with commitment, energy, and thoughtfulness.

“Caroline’s contributions have inspired many people and helped ANNA succeed,” said ANNA President Donna Bednarski. “This award shows our appreciation for her leadership, dedication, and passion to ANNA and nephrology nursing.”

Ms. Counts’ leadership skills and collaborative nature were evident during her presidency, when she led ANNA to become a founding member of Kidney Care Partners, a coalition of patient advocates, dialysis professionals, care providers, and manufacturers that work together to improve quality of care for individuals with chronic kidney disease (CKD). During her presidency, ANNA also joined the Nurse Competency in Aging initiative, spotlighting the added complications for geriatric patients with CKD.

Following her presidency, Ms. Counts authored ANNA’s application to the American Nurses Association to recognize nephrology nursing as a specialty. She chaired a task force that reviewed the federal proposed Conditions for Coverage for Organ Procurement, Transplant and Dialysis. She also served as editor of the Core Curriculum for Nephrology Nursing (5th ed.).

A member of ANNA since 1970, Ms. Counts has not only served ANNA at the national level, but also within her local chapter and region. As founding president, program chairperson, and senior advisor, she was a driving force in the Palmetto Chapter (South Carolina). During her second term as Palmetto chapter president in 1985-1986, the chapter was named ANNA’s Chapter of the Year. In 2005, the Palmetto Chapter established the Caroline S. Counts Scholarship, which is presented annually to a local student nurse pursuing a baccalaureate degree in nursing.

Ms. Counts’ expertise as a nephrology nurse manager was put to good use on the ANNA Disaster Registry Task Force (1991-1994) and the Disaster Preparedness Subcommittee (1999-2000). Ms. Counts has dedicated her time and experience to educating nephrology nurses. She has served as a reviewer for Nephrology Nursing Journal for 18 years and was an editorial board member for 5 years. In addition, she is an advocate for nephrology nursing certification and has held a number of roles within the Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission (NNCC).

Ms. Counts’ work with patients includes experience in peritoneal dialysis, acute kidney care, home hemodialysis, and chronic outpatient hemodialysis. After working for 30 years with Dialysis Clinic, Inc., and retiring from nephrology nursing practice in 2005, she jumped into research and is currently a clinical research coordinator for the Medical University of South Carolina. She is a member of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing, Gamma Omicron Chapter. In recognition of her contributions to nursing, she was presented the Alumni Association of the Medical University of South Carolina College of Nursing 2009 Outstanding Nursing Alumnus Award.

In honor of her contributions, Ms. Counts was awarded a lifetime ANNA membership, an ANNA logo pin, and a commemorative plaque.

Ron Brady Memorial Award for Excellence in Volunteer Leadership

Marilyn Eilert, RN, CNN, Nurse Manager at Holy Name Hospital in Teaneck, NJ, was awarded the Ron Brady Memorial Award for Excellence in Volunteer Leadership. Sponsored by ANNA’s management company, Anthony J. Jannetti, Inc., and named in honor of ANNA’s long-time executive director, this award recognizes an ANNA member who has demonstrated outstanding volunteer leadership in contributing to the mission of ANNA.

Ms. Eilert is recognized as a “cheerleader for ANNA” with a passion for cultivating future leaders within the Association. On the national level, she has served as Leadership Development Committee Chairperson. During her tenure in this position, she developed a survey for chapter officers to identify specific needs they would like addressed at the Volunteer Leadership Workshop (VLW), arranged for a more formal process for handouts, included more networking opportunities in the VLW program, and involved more chapter officers in leadership roles as speakers by including them in panel discussions. On the chapter level, Ms. Eilert is an active leader in the Jersey North Chapter. She spearheaded efforts to use chapter funds to help other chapters affected by natural disasters, helped establish nursing scholarships, and continually encourages education and mentoring among her peers.

In recognition of her excellence in volunteer leadership, Ms. Eilert was awarded $1,000 and a commemorative plaque.
Nephrology Nurse Educator Award

Barbara Prowant, MS, RN, CNN, formerly the Research Associate at the Division of Nephrology, Department of Internal Medicine, School of Medicine, University of Missouri-Columbia in Columbia, MO, was posthumously awarded the Nephrology Nurse Educator Award.

Sponsored by DaVita, this award recognizes an ANNA member who has made outstanding contributions to professional and/or patient education. An ANNA member since 1978, Ms. Prowant was the co-founder and first president of the Central Missouri ANNA Chapter and continued as an active member, holding positions as secretary, treasurer, and board member. Nationally, she participated in and chaired ANNA committees such as the Research Committee, the ANNA Disaster Registry Task Force, the Clinical Practice Committee, the Awards Committee, and the ANNA Recruitment & Retention Task Force. She also served as liaison to the American Nephrology Nurses’ Foundation and the NNCC and was a member of the ANNA Board of Directors as National Secretary. She co-edited the *Nephrology Nursing Standards of Practice and Guidelines for Care 2005* and was the section editor for peritoneal dialysis (PD) in the *Core Curriculum for Nephrology Nursing* 2008.

Ms. Prowant’s name is synonymous with excellent care for the patient undergoing PD. Beginning with a fairly modest Missouri Kidney Program Statewide CAPD Workshop in 1978, she developed the nursing program for the first national annual CAPD program in 1981. In 1989 this annual conference became known as the Annual Peritoneal Dialysis Conference. As the need for an international, multidisciplinary conference that covered all aspects of dialytic therapy emerged, this conference became known in 2001 as the Annual Dialysis Conference (ADC). 2009 marked the 29th ADC with Ms. Prowant chairing the program planning for nursing.

In her 40 years as a research associate, Ms. Prowant embodied the philosophy that best nursing practice is evidence-based. She conducted or participated in numerous scientific studies that resulted in some 166 abstracts, 30 poster presentations, and over 230 live meeting presentations locally, nationally, and internationally. She authored or co-authored 143 manuscripts, 18 book chapters, 17 editorials, 7 book reviews, 42 newsletter submissions, and a variety of other writings.

Ms. Prowant died on March 7, 2009. Her husband Leonard and son Greg accepted the award on her behalf.

Excellence in Nephrology Nursing Management Award

Mary Perrecone, MS, RN, CCRN, CNN, Nurse Manager for the Acute Adult and Pediatric Dialysis and Cardiac Care Units at Albany Medical Center Hospital in Albany, NY, was the recipient of the Excellence in Nephrology Nursing Management Award. This award recognizes managerial excellence in the advancement of nephrology nursing.

When Ms. Perrecone assumed management of the dialysis unit at her facility, it was challenged with staff dissatisfaction, turnover, and personnel shortages. Using a participatory management style, team building, and continuous quality improvement, she transformed the unit into a work environment characterized by high staff satisfaction and improved patient care. Following this accomplishment, she was asked to manage the cardiac care unit with the same success. Ms. Perrecone’s success is attributed to her management style of engaging staff in problem solving, promoting education and certification, and recognizing staff for their unique contributions to quality patient care.

In recognition of her managerial excellence, Ms. Perrecone was awarded $1,000 and a commemorative plaque.

Nephrology Nurse Researcher Award

Kathy Morawski, BSN, RN, CNN, Data Manager/Coordinator at Harper University Hospital in Detroit, MI, received the Nephrology Nurse Researcher Award. This award recognizes an outstanding nephrology nurse researcher.

Ms. Morawski is active in multiple research projects and involved in every component of the research process. Her involvement ranges from developing the hypotheses and overall project to structuring the data collection tools and collecting, collating, and compiling the actual data. Based on research outcomes, she has been instrumental in implementing changes in nursing practices within her facility to improve patient care. In addition, the research projects in which Ms. Morawski has participated have been published in scholarly journals and presented at national and international meetings.

In recognition of her accomplishments in nephrology nursing research activities, Ms. Morawski received $1,000 and a commemorative plaque.

Quality Care Award

Deborah Trudell, BSN, RN, CNN, Nurse Manager for Harbin Clinic in Rome, GA, received the Quality Care Award. Sponsored by Church & Dwight Company, Inc., this award recognizes a nurse or technician who, through clinical excellence and exceptional human compassion, has provided care to hemodialysis patients that is above
and beyond the requirements of her position.

As a nurse manager, Ms. Trudell encourages her staff, promotes ongoing patient education, and arranges CKD and health awareness classes for patients. She supervised the newly formed acute dialysis team at her facility, bringing it into compliance with regulations. She also supervised the facility's first chronic unit, hiring and training staff and achieving a census of almost 80 patients. Ms. Trudell's primary goal is to provide quality patient care.

In recognition of her clinical excellence and compassion, Ms. Trudell received $2,000 and a commemorative plaque.

Outstanding Contribution to Transplantation Nursing Award

Cindy Richards, BSN, RN, CNN, Renal Transplant Coordinator for Children's Hospital in Birmingham, AL, received the Outstanding Contribution to Transplantation Nursing Award. This award, sponsored by Astellas Pharma US, Inc., recognizes a nurse involved in the care of transplant recipients who reflects the ANNA core values of advocacy, scholarship, and excellence.

In her role as transplant coordinator, Ms. Richards has written pre- and post-transplantation teaching materials for patients and families (in both English and Spanish), developed critical paths for the nursing staff and resident physicians to guide patient care, helped develop policies and procedures for the solid organ transplant center, and recently completed a nurse-driven immunosuppressant medication protocol to use in adjusting drug doses for patients. She participates in the interdisciplinary care team that helps select candidates for transplantation as well as a care team that looks at interventions for patients having difficulties post-transplantation. Ms. Richards also serves with Camp Bridges, which provides camps for pediatric patients who have received solid organ transplants.

Ms. Richards was awarded $2,000 and a commemorative plaque.

Spirit of Nephrology Nursing Award

Annette Vigneux, MScN, RN, NP, Nurse Practitioner for The Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, was awarded the Spirit of Nephrology Nursing Award. Sponsored by HDCN.com, this award recognizes a nurse who demonstrates outstanding performance as a mentor, thereby ensuring the future of the nephrology nursing specialty.

Ms. Vigneux has been a pediatric nephrology nurse for over 34 years and has shared her knowledge and expertise with colleagues by serving as a nursing mentor. She motivates peers to strive for and achieve high standards in patient care. She coaches colleagues, patients, and their families, playing an important role in both staff and patient education. She is a great communicator, serving as a vital link between all members of the multidisciplinary team involved in caring for children with kidney disease. Ms. Vigneux embodies the spirit of nephrology nursing by demonstrating outstanding mentoring skills.

Ms. Vigneux received $1,500 and a commemorative plaque.

Outstanding Chapter Recognition Award

The Acadiana Chapter (Southeast Region) received the Outstanding Chapter Recognition Award. This award recognizes a chapter for its exceptional contributions and achievements while actively supporting the goals and philosophies of ANNA.

The Acadiana Chapter is active in the legislative arena, educating local, state, and national legislators and government agencies about CKD patients and their needs. The chapter is active in the community, participating in health fairs and assisting local churches and emergency shelters. The chapter promotes collaboration and networking with health care agencies and other groups involved in the care of CKD patients, including ESRD Network 13, the Polycystic Kidney Disease Association, the Louisiana Organ Procurement Association, the Shreveport Black Nurses Association, Willis Knighton Healthcare Center, Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center, and more. The chapter also strongly supports education of its members, offering opportunities for members to earn contact hours at almost all monthly meetings and holding a 2-day certification review and exam each year.

In recognition of its exceptional achievements, the Acadiana Chapter was awarded a $1,000 educational grant.

Chapters Collaboration Award

The North Carolina chapters in the Southeast Region – Cardinal, Greater Charlotte, Blue Ridge, & Tar River – received the Chapters Collaboration Award. This award, sponsored by Centocor Ortho Biotech, Inc., recognizes chapters that have demonstrated exceptional achievements and contributions to ANNA.

The North Carolina chapters collaborated to plan and host a 2-day meeting featuring a certification review course followed by a program that addressed the Challenges in Nephrology Nursing. The certification review offered 5.25 contact hours and attracted 127 attendees while the second program offered 8.25 contact hours and drew 153 attendees. The meeting included an exhibit hall with 25 vendors and door prizes. Each chapter gained new members through the meeting and agreed that the collaboration benefited all chapters and their members. They plan to host another collaborative meeting in the future.

In recognition of their collaborative achievements, the North Carolina chapters were awarded $2,000 (to share equally).

Chapter Strategic Alliances Award

The Three Rivers Chapter in Pittsburgh, PA (Northeast Region) received the Chapter Strategic Alliances Award. This award recognizes a chapter that demonstrates outstanding performance by suc-
cessfully forming strategic alliances with one or more other organizations or entities and completes activities that fulfill ANNA’s mission.

The Three Rivers Chapter collaborates with the Pennsylvania-Delaware (PENNDEL) CKD Coalition to promote education for health care professionals. In the past year, chapter members were instrumental in helping to provide CNE activities with the PENNDEL Fistula First committee. They recently expanded their efforts to include public education regarding CKD through public service announcements, newspaper ads, educational classes targeting high risk populations, and give-a-ways to promote CKD awareness. The Three Rivers Chapter received $300.

Research Sharing Award

Jeannine Farina, MSN, RN, Clinical Educator for Baxter Healthcare Corporation in McGaw Park, IL, received the Research Sharing Award. This award is given to an individual or group who has made a major contribution to the dissemination of research to nurses for use in clinical nephrology practice, education, and/or administration.

Ms. Farina created a game to share research with nephrology nurses in a fun and interactive way in order to educate them about peritonitis prevention and treatment. The game, What Do You Know About the 2005 Peritoneal Dialysis (PD)-Related Infections Recommendations, presents the evidence-based peritonitis guidelines/recommendations developed by the International Society of Peritoneal Dialysis in an interactive format. Participants learn about the prevention of PD-related infections, exit site and tunnel infections, initial presentation and management of peritonitis, and subsequent management of organism specific peritonitis. Ms. Farina was awarded $350.

Kelly McManus Memorial Award

Sheila Doss, RN, CNN, Nursing Director of Research at Satellite Healthcare in Mountain View, CA, received the Kelly McManus Memorial Award. Sponsored by NxStage, this award recognizes a nurse who, through clinical excellence, has provided care to patients receiving frequent home hemodialysis that is above and beyond the requirements of her position.

Ms. Doss was instrumental in the design and establishment of a home hemodialysis program, including site selection, design, equipment evaluation, and staff selection. She assured that policies and procedures were prepared, staff training was developed and delivered, and content for patient education as well as training materials were designed and ready. After the program’s initiation, she participated in quality improvement efforts to improve patients’ clinical outcomes and quality of life. Following the success of this program, 13 more centers based on this model have been established and currently serve more than 120 home hemodialysis patients throughout the United States.

Ms. Doss received $2,000 and a commemorative plaque.

Research Abstract Award

Daria Kring, PhD, RN-BC, Director of Nursing Research at Forsyth Medical Center in Winston-Salem, NC, was the recipient of the ANNA Research Abstract Award. This award recognizes a qualified ANNA member for an outstanding research project submitted in abstract form for presentation at the National Symposium. Dr. Kring’s abstract was titled “Factors Affecting Quality of Life in Persons on Hemodialysis.” She received $500.

ANNA Board of Directors Award

Angela Taylor-Smith, BSN, RN, CDN, a Home Therapy Nurse with Fresenius Medical Care in Lawrenceville, GA, received the ANNA Board of Directors Award. This award recognizes a grassroots member for advancing the goals and objectives of ANNA and improving patient care.

As a chapter officer, Ms. Taylor-Smith has worked tirelessly to expand the reach of ANNA in the metro Atlanta area. She is responsible for putting the Dogwood Chapter into cyberspace. Using her self-taught Web design skills, she gave the chapter a license on the Internet highway. Members and those perusing the chapter site now have information on all chapter activities. Ms. Taylor-Smith’s enthusiasm to empower and bring about positive change led her to orchestrate a nephrology nurse certification review course, a nephrology technician review course, a nephrology nurse celebration workshop, and four CNE dinner meetings, all within a 12-month period.

In addition, she promotes collaboration with other professionals and worked with nephrology social workers and dietitians from the Southeastern Kidney Council to design a 2-day workshop on patient-centered care. She has recruited other nurses to join ANNA, increased participation at local meetings, and publicly celebrated the victories of chapter members on the chapter’s Web site.

Ms. Taylor-Smith was awarded free registration to a future ANNA National Symposium, a commemorative plaque, and an ANNA logo pin.

Representation Award

Nitaya Soeprono, RN, BC, CNN, Dialysis/Apheresis Charge Nurse at Loma Linda University Medical Center in Loma Linda, CA, received the Representation Award. This award recognizes a grassroots member for outstanding accomplishments and contributions to ANNA in the area of representation.

Ms. Soeprono has been extremely active in the legislative arena. Two years ago she attended ANNA’s Health Policy Workshop and after returning home
planned a successful event for her hospital for ESRD Education Week. The following year, she planned an educational event for the nurses and hosted 35 people for a tour and luncheon, including representatives from the governor’s office, a state senator and state congressman, as well as an additional congressional candidate. Ms. Soeprono received $500.

Regional Chapter of the Year Awards
Sponsored by Centocor Ortho Biotech, Inc., the Regional Chapter of the Year Awards recognize a chapter in each region for outstanding achievements. The following chapters were recognized:
- Northeast Region: Keystone Chapter (Philadelphia, PA)
- Southeast Region: Dogwood Chapter (Metro Atlanta, GA)
- North Central Region: Heart of America Chapter (Kansas City, MO)
- Western Region: Desert Vista Chapter (Phoenix, AZ)
Each chapter received $500.

National Chapter Recruitment and Retention Award
The Chapter Recruitment and Retention Awards recognize ANNA chapters that demonstrate exceptional performance in recruitment and retention activities that ensure the future of the specialty organization for nephrology nursing. The Tidewater Chapter in Norfolk/Virginia Beach, VA (Southeast Region), received the National Recruitment and Retention Award. The chapter received $500.

Regional Chapter Recruitment and Retention Awards
Regional recipients of the Chapter Recruitment and Retention Awards were:
- Northeast Region: Mountain State Chapter (Beckley, WV)
- Southeast Region: Tidewater Chapter (Norfolk/Virginia Beach, VA)
- North Central Region: Greater Minnesota Chapter (St. Cloud, MN)
- Western Region: Northern Lights Chapter (Alaska)
  Each chapter received $250.

Regional Chapter Rising Star Awards
The Regional Chapter Rising Star Awards recognize a chapter in each region for outstanding achievements and participation in activities. The following chapters were recognized:
- Northeast Region: Mountain State Chapter (Beckley, WV)
- Southeast Region: Palm Valley Chapter (McAllen, TX)
- North Central Region: Mid Plains Chapter (Wichita, KS)
- Western Region: Inland Empire Chapter (Redlands, CA)
  Each chapter received $500.

Regional Chapter Health Policy Advocacy Awards
The Regional Chapter Health Policy Advocacy Awards recognize a chapter in each region for outstanding achievements and participation in health policy advocacy. The following chapters were recognized:
- Northeast Region: Jersey North Chapter (New Jersey)
- Southeast Region: Masters City Chapter (Georgia and South Carolina)
- North Central Region: Black Swamp Chapter (Lima/Toledo, OH)
- Western Region: Northern California Chapter
Each chapter received $500.

Nephrology Nursing Journal Writing Contest Awards
The Nephrology Nursing Journal selected award winners in its annual Writing Contest. Each winner received $500.

Laurie Carlson, MSN, RN, Transplant Research Coordinator at the University of California - San Francisco in San Francisco, CA, was awarded first place in the Clinical Practice Category for her article entitled “Clinical Management of the HIV-Positive Kidney Transplant Recipient.” The article was published in the November-December 2008 issue of the journal.

In the Education Category, Mary Haras, MS, MBA, APN, NP-C, CNN, Assistant Professorial Lecturer at Saint Xavier University School of Nursing in Chicago, IL, received first place for her article “Planning for a Good Death: A Neglected but Essential Part of ESRD Care,” which appeared in the September-October 2008 issue of the journal.

Anita Molzahn, PhD, RN, Professor, School of Nursing, University of Victoria, in Victoria, British Columbia, received first place in the Research Category for the article “Learning from Stories of People with Chronic Kidney Disease.” Co-authored by Anne Bruce, PhD, RN, and Laurene Shields, PhD, RN, the article was published in the January-February 2008 issue.
Scholarships and Grants

ANNA Career Mobility Scholarships

ANNA Career Mobility Scholarships support qualified ANNA members in the pursuit of a baccalaureate or advanced degree in nursing. The recipients were:

Alice Campanelli, BSN, RN, CNN, CURN, Renal Education Specialist, Holy Name Hospital, Teaneck, NJ. She is pursuing a master’s in nursing with a concentration in education at Ramapo College of New Jersey in Mahway, NJ.

Jena Casper, BSN, RN, Nephrology Nurse, Franciscan Skemp Clinic, La Crosse, WI. She is enrolled in the MSN program in the nurse practitioner track at Viterbo University in La Crosse, WI.

Celia Chretien, MS, RN, CNN, APN, Surgical Nurse Coordinator, University of Illinois Medical Center, Chicago, IL. She is enrolled in the Family Nurse Practitioner program at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Rhonda Weishuhn, BS, RN, Clinical Coordinator, DaVita, Houston, TX. She is enrolled in the Family Nurse Practitioner program at Texas Women’s University in Houston.

Joan Wokpara, RN, CDN, Staff Nurse, Grady Memorial Hospital, Atlanta, GA. She is pursuing a BSN at the Chamberlain College of Nursing.

Each recipient was awarded a $2,000 scholarship.

Abbott/Pamela Balzer Career Mobility Scholarship

Ken Kolnacki, BSN, RN, CNN, Assistant Nurse Manager, Pediatric & Adult Dialysis, at Albany Medical Center in Albany, NY, was awarded the Pamela Balzer Career Mobility Scholarship. Sponsored by Abbott, this scholarship supports a qualified ANNA member in the pursuit of a baccalaureate or advanced degree in nursing.

Mr. Kolnacki is pursuing a master’s in nursing at Excelsior College in Albany, NY. He received a $2,500 scholarship.

Alcavis International, Inc. Career Mobility Scholarship

M. Sue McManus, MSN, APRN, FNP-c, CNN, Nephrology Nurse Practitioner at Richard L. Roudebush VA Medical Center in Indianapolis, IN, was awarded the Alcavis International, Inc. Career Mobility Scholarship. This scholarship supports a qualified ANNA member in the pursuit of a baccalaureate or advanced degree in nursing.

Ms. McManus is pursuing a PhD in nursing at Indiana University School of Nursing in Indianapolis, IN. She received a $2,500 scholarship.

Janel Parker Career Mobility Scholarship

Sonja Bettinger, RN, Clinical Coordinator for Renal Care of Northern New York in Watertown, NY, received the Janel Parker Career Mobility Scholarship. Sponsored by Anthony J. Jannetti, Inc., this scholarship supports a qualified ANNA member in the pursuit of a baccalaureate or advanced degree in nursing.

Ms. Bettinger is pursuing a baccalaureate degree at SUNY Institute of Technology in Utica, NY. She was awarded a $2,500 scholarship.

NNCC Career Mobility Scholarships

The Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission (NNCC) awarded three Career Mobility Scholarships. These scholarships, made possible by NNCC, support ANNA members who are Certified Nephrology Nurses (CNNs) in the pursuit of a baccalaureate or advanced degree in nursing. The recipients were:

Debra Adams, BSN, RN, CNN, Dialysis Unit Nurse Manager, St. Anthony Regional Hospital, Carroll, IA. She is enrolled in the MSN program at Briar Cliff University in Sioux City, IA.

Margaret Cherniak, BSN, RN, CNN, Registered Nurse in Hemodialysis, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA. She is a graduate student in the Acute Care Nurse Practitioner program at Northeastern University in Boston, MA.

Mary Elizabeth Selvakumar, RN, CNN, Nurse Manager, St. Joseph’s Hospital, Wayne, NJ. She is pursuing a BSN at the Chamberlain College of Nursing.

Each received a $2,000 scholarship.
Jennifer Branch, BSN, RN, CNN, Village Health Nurse at Village Health in Lee’s Summit, MO, was awarded the Watson Pharma, Inc. Career Mobility Scholarship. This scholarship supports a qualified ANNA member in the pursuit of a baccalaureate or advanced degree in nursing.

Ms. Branch is pursuing a masters of science in nursing for teaching at Webster University in St. Louis, MO. She received a $2,500 scholarship.

Clinical Practice Grants

ANNA Clinical Practice Grants provide funds for clinical practice projects that will directly benefit staff, patients, and/or families. The following individuals received grants:

Cindy Richards, BSN, RN, CNN, Renal Transplant Coordinator, Children’s Hospital, Birmingham, AL. Her project, “Camp BRIDGES,” is part of The BRIDGES Foundation, which organizes three camps for patients and their families per year as well as a 1-day seminar each spring. The camps are provided at no charge to improve child and adolescent organ transplant outcomes through developmental implementation of programs designed to promote rehabilitation, education, advocacy, and family support.

Juanita (Janie) Martinez, BSN, RN, CNN, CCRN, Nephrology Nurse Clinician, Alamo Kidney Health, San Antonio, TX. Her project, “Is Music Therapy?” is a quality improvement project with the goal to reduce anxiety and depression in patients undergoing dialysis treatments by providing music therapy.

Joan Speranza-Reid, RN, CNN, Director of Renal Services, CVPH Medical Center/Renal Services, Plattsburgh, NY. Her project, “The ‘Education to You’ Cart,” brings pertinent nutritional information to patients while they receive their dialysis treatments. The goal is to provide dietary education to patients and families so that they can make informed choices that will improve/maintain their health status.

Each recipient was awarded a $2,500 grant.

Gloria Scharf Beedie Memorial Scholarship

Joan Speranza-Reid, RN, CNN, Director of Renal Services at CVPH Medical Center/Renal Services in Plattsburgh, NY, was awarded the Gloria Scharf Beedie Memorial Scholarship. Sponsored by the family of Gloria Scharf Beedie, the purpose of this scholarship is to fund the development of a new program or support an existing program that promotes patient education and/or quality of life.

Ms. Speranza-Reid plans to use the grant to support a program, the “Education to You” cart. This cart brings pertinent nutritional information to patients while they receive their dialysis treatments. The goal is to provide dietary education to patients and families so that they can make informed choices that will improve/maintain their health status.

Ms. Speranza-Reid was awarded a $1,000 scholarship and a commemorative plaque.

Nurse in Washington Internships

The following ANNA members received funding to attend the Nurse in Washington Internship (NIWI), a program sponsored by the Nursing Organizations Alliance:

Lisa Carter, MA, BSN, RN, Nurse Administrator, Mayo Medical Center, Rochester, MN

Jacquie George, BSN, RN, CDN, Clinical Manager, Fresenius Medical Care, Wichita, KS

Diane Kraynak, RN, PNP, CNN, Nurse Practitioner, Virginia Commonwealth University Health System, Richmond, VA

Held March 29-31, 2009, in Washington, DC, the program is designed to educate nurses about the political process and how they can influence health policy. The NIWI scholarships were sponsored by ANNA, Nursing Economics, The Journal for Health Care Leaders, and Watson Pharma, Inc.
111 – Outstanding Chapter Recognition Award

Purpose
To recognize one ANNA chapter annually that has demonstrated exceptional contributions and outstanding achievements while actively supporting the goals and philosophy of ANNA.

Award
$1,000 educational grant

112 – Chapters Strategic Collaboration Award

Sponsored by Centocor Ortho Biotech, Inc.

Purpose
To recognize two or more chapters that have demonstrated exceptional contributions and outstanding achievements through collaboration or successful strategic alliances with one or more other organizations while supporting the goals and philosophy of ANNA.

Award
$500 for each chapter, or a maximum of $2,000 to be divided evenly among the chapters

122 – Research Sharing Award

Purpose
To award an individual or group who has made a major contribution to the dissemination of research to nurses for use in clinical nephrology nursing practice, education, and/or administration.

Award
$350

123 – Kelly McManus Memorial Award

Sponsored by NxStage

Purpose
To recognize a nurse who, through clinical excellence, has provided care to patients receiving frequent (daily, every other day, 5 times/week) home hemodialysis that is above and beyond the requirements of his/her position.

Award
$2,000 and a plaque

126 – Helen Feigenbaum Award for the Promotion of Excellence in Nephrology Nursing

Sponsored by the Feigenbaum Family

Purpose
To recognize one qualified nurse each year who demonstrates the commitment to excellence in nursing that Helen Feigenbaum embodied in her approach to clinical practice and quality care, leadership, collaboration, education, and research.

Award
$1,000 and a plaque

Research Grants

ANNA Research Grant
Cynthia Russell, PhD, RN, Associate Professor, School of Nursing, University of Missouri-Columbia, in Columbia, MO, was awarded an ANNA Research Grant of $15,000 for her proposal “A Pilot Intervention to Improve Treatment Adherence in Adults Receiving Hemodialysis.” The purpose of the study is to pilot a motivational interviewing intervention to enhance therapy adherence with hemodialysis patients.

ANNA Evidence-Based Research Grant
Patricia Seddon, MSN, RN, of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Presbyterian Shadyside in Pittsburgh, PA, was awarded an ANNA Evidence-Based Research Grant of $5,000 for her study entitled “Walking Bulletin Boards as Patient and Family Teaching Strategy.” The purpose of her study is to examine the effectiveness of “walking bulletin boards” as a prompt for teaching moments between the patient and the nurse. This grant was co-sponsored by Alcavis International, Inc.

ANNA Thesis and Dissertation Research Grants
The following ANNA members were awarded ANNA Thesis and Dissertation Research Grants of up to $10,000 each:

Christine Bakke, MSN, APNP, FNP-BC, CNN-NP, nurse practitioner, Marshfield Clinic, Marshfield, WI. The purpose of her project entitled “Implementing Guidelines for the Prevention of Catheter-Related Infections in Hemodialysis Patients” is to implement the Guidelines for the Prevention of Intravascular Catheter-Related Infections in hemodialysis patients.

Christine Ceccarelli, MSN, MBA, RN, CNN, staff nurse, Hartford Hospital, Hartford, CT. Her study will focus on “Factors Affecting State Policies for Home-Based Long-Term Caregivers.” The purpose of this study is to explain the factors that have impeded and facilitated the development of publicly funded state programs to support long-term home caregiving.

Sheila Leander, MSN, RN, Assistant Professor and Coordinator Public Health Nursing, St. Louis University, St. Louis, MO. The purpose of her study, “The Experience of Black American Living Kidney Donors,” is to gain a better understanding of the experiences of Black American living kidney donors when the recipient is a genetically or emotionally related person.