Acute Care
The SIG has had a busy year. I want to thank the SIG committee members for their dedication and commitment: Deb Bakken, Sue Fallone, Judy Kaufman, Mary Rose Kott, Eileen Lischer, Traci Phillips, Jana Stenslokken, and Caroline Steward. They have been a great team to work with and reflect the love of acute care that we share with so many of you. This year we are happy to report that we supported ANNA’s Strategic Plan in the following areas.

Advocacy. We have provided information and support to members related to roles and responsibilities of acute care nephrology nurses through ANNA Connected. We have advocated for acute care nurses and their needs to ANNA.

Membership. We have included members from all regions of the country on this committee to ensure the discussion of patient care strategies and standards of care as well as opportunities for input on broad issues that reflect the best of nephrology nursing in the current diversity of practice.

Professional Development. We have submitted recommendations to the Conferences Committee for national meetings that reflect the feedback we have received from members about topics that are important to those working in the acute care setting. More topics related to acute care have been included in meetings this year with excellent response from the membership.

Our major project for this year has been to begin work on the development of an Orientation Manual for Acute Care Nephrology Nurses. We have gathered input from across the country in defining skills and knowledge that are essential for training staff, whether new to nursing or new to nephrology. We continue to make progress toward the completion of this project, which will continue into the 2010-2011 year.

Research. We are using nursing research, nursing models (Benner’s From Novice to Expert and the Synergy model), and national standards as the foundation for the development of the Orientation Manual.

Business. We have been good stewards of time and money, staying within the budget for this year.

The committee and I thank you, the members, for your interest in advancing the practice of acute care nephrology nursing. We look forward to working with and for you in the next year.

Helen Williams
Acute Care SIG Leader
High Country Chapter #502
hwilliams2346@yahoo.com

Pediatrics
This has been an exciting year for the SIG as we have worked hard to modify the CMS required assessment tool to form a pediatric-specific form that is now available on the ANNA Web site. It has taken the efforts of all our members and their co-workers to make sure we meet the expectations of not only the pediatric nurse’s portion but also the medical, social work, and dietician required portions.

We also have updated and revised the pediatric fact sheets for nephrotic syndrome, chronic kidney disease, and hemodialysis. Our focus over this year has been largely clinical practice. We also have been consulted by leading nursing journals to provide input on pediatric-focused articles. We participated in brainstorming ideas for ANNA in meeting the needs of the pediatric nephrology population.

It has been a very rewarding year, thanks to the members of the SIG committee: Celeste Boucher, Jackie Dake, Nancy McAfee, Theresa Mottes, Cindy Richards, and Kim Windt.

Michele Mills
Pediatrics SIG Leader
MichigANNA Chapter #312

Peritoneal Dialysis
The SIG has had a busy year. Committee members are working hard on an Advanced Peritoneal Dialysis continuing nursing education program and an article on peritoneal dialysis catheters for publication. We hope to have both projects finished by year’s end, but will continue working on them if needed. We have planned an exciting panel presentation for the SIG’s networking session at the National Symposium in San Antonio titled The PD Nurse as Patient Advocate: A Mandate of Professional Care. Come join us and participate!

Lucy Todd
Peritoneal Dialysis SIG Member
Blue Ridge Chapter #262

Transplantation
The SIG had a very successful year. With the approval of the Board of Directors, the SIG submitted responses to policies posted for public comment by the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS). These policies affect those persons with kidney disease who select transplantation as an option for renal replacement therapy. The SIG believes it within its scope to advocate for this group. SIG Leader Sharon Swofford serves on the UNOS Kidney Transplantation and Operations and Safety Committees.
The Transplantation Fact Sheet was revised this year. This document provides nephrology nurses practicing in areas other than transplantation the information necessary to introduce and discuss the basics of kidney transplantation with CKD patients prior to or after the start of renal replacement therapy.

The SIG has communicated its willingness to participate in the review of the transplant section of the Nephrology Nursing Standards of Practice and Guidelines for Care and plans to update this material as necessary.

The SIG has planned an educational session for the National Symposium titled Generic Immunosuppressives: Are Our Patients at Risk? We are looking forward to a lively discussion. The non-research abstracts for the meeting also were reviewed. An article concerning the transitions persons with renal disease undergo as they move along the CKD continuum and across renal replacement therapies was submitted by SIG member Clara Neyhart.

The SIG welcomed three new members this year. If your primary work area is transplantation and you would like to become an active member of the SIG, please contact me through ANNA Connected.

Finally, the SIG has demonstrated fiscal responsibility by keeping its expenses well within its allocated funds.

Sharon Swofford
Transplantation SIG Leader
Colonial Chapter #103

Chronic Kidney Disease

As ANNA’s 41st National Symposium approaches, we are working hard to meet some of the goals that have been established for 2009-2010. The members of the SIG committee – Debra Mollicone and David Simmons from the Northeast Region, Donna Calvin and Mary Haras from the North Central Region, and Linda Bethea from the Southeast Region – have engaged in important dialogue about our topic: Using the Chronic Care Model When Caring for Individuals with CKD. As we see a growing number of people who are experiencing chronic kidney disease (CKD), we strive to achieve our ultimate goal of empowering patients and families to be active participants in their care. In addition, we will continue to encourage nurses to be advocates for people with CKD.

An aging American population will have a significant impact on the United States health care system. Therefore, it is imperative that health care professionals, such as nurses, develop strategies that promote health in people with CKD. One of our objectives at the SIG session is to use a case study approach to engage nurses with varying levels of expertise in dialogue regarding nursing implications of implementation of the Chronic Care Model into practice. The case studies will focus on people experiencing different stages of CKD, ranging from CKD stage 1 to CKD stage 5D. We are proud members of ANNA and will continue to support ANNA’s Strategic Plan. We also will continue to be the voice for people with CKD and nurses who care for this population. We hope to see you at our SIG session in San Antonio on May 3, beginning at 7:45 am to 9:00 am. A continental breakfast will be served from 7:15 am to 7:45 am.

Debra Hain
Chronic Kidney Disease Leader
South Florida Flamingo Chapter #206

Advanced Practice

I want to thank the members of the SIG who have been such a help: Elizabeth Etherton, Elizabeth Hughson, Tim Ray, Jane Wilson, Dana Zeiss, and Mary Zorzanello. Even with a slow start this year, the SIG was able to come together in supporting the goals of ANNA.

Advocacy. After the preconference workshop at the 2009 Fall Meeting, Making the Transition as a New APN into Nephrology Practice, we focused on mentoring the new APN. All of the members volunteered to become mentors of APNs and be available by e-mail or phone. We will continue with this effort as we move on to the new ANNA year and with the interactive session on Mentoring the APN in Nephrology at our SIG session in San Antonio.

The SIG adopted as a project this year to promote the “Save Your Veins” campaign to teach patients in early stages of CKD about preservation of their veins for access use in the future. Tim Ray has taken the lead for the SIG to launch this campaign. Look for more information regarding this endeavor in future issues of the ANNA Update.

Membership/Professional Development. Each SIG member is dedicated through their mentorship and through contacts with nephrology nurses to promote membership in ANNA. In addition, they are dedicated through their profession to being role models who promote nephrology as a meaningful career choice.

As the new ANNA year is about to begin, the SIG is seeking NPs and CNSs. If you are interested in or would like more information regarding membership, please contact me at carolrn@gocougs.wsu.edu.

Carol Kinzner
Advanced Practice SIG Leader
Greater Puget Sound Chapter #503
carolrn@gocougs.wsu.edu

Administration

ANNA’s Strategic Plan, which is focused on advocacy, membership, professional development, research, and business, is built on the mission to “promote excellence by advancing nephrology nursing practice and positively influence outcomes for individuals with kidney disease." Strategizing this mission in regards to administrative/management issues has been a primary responsibility of our SIG. The SIG recently has been working on key, timely projects such as an article on ESRD Conditions for
Coverage entitled "Enhancing Understanding of the Conditions for Coverage" to be published in the Nephrology Nursing Journal; development of a position statement on cultural diversity in dialysis; and development of two educational sessions to be presented at the 2010 National Symposium. In addition, the SIG has been publishing a quarterly newsletter with relevant topics of interest.

The SIG's goal is to share knowledge with the field in order to expand professional growth and development. On this pathway, we are trying to inspire and motivate new managers to achieve and sustain success by excellent performance. This practice pattern, we believe, will directly and positively affect outcomes for individuals with kidney disease.

Our team is composed of nine members representing nephrology nurses from different parts of the country with diverse administration and management backgrounds: Jermaine Babineaux, Beckie Benfield, Noel DeCampo, Kathleen DeConcilio, Charla Litton, Araceli Mendoza, Mary Perrecone, and Angie Wieler.

The SIG would like to thank all of you for your hard work and dedication to nephrology nursing.

Deuzimar Kulawik
Administration SIG Leader
Suncoast Chapter #213

Online Voting: How Did It Work?

The 2010-2011 election was historic for ANNA, ushering in the year of electronic balloting. Policies and procedures were revised, and the online balloting system was tested by the Nominations Committee. Then, in December 2009, 10,845 ballots were sent out – electronically to those members with e-mail addresses, and by mail for those members without. While no records were set by the number of members voting this year (9.04%), we are here to report whether the membership utilized the online voting system. The answer is an overwhelming yes. 86% of the members who voted cast their ballots electronically.

Those members who utilized the electronic option were asked to complete a satisfaction survey to rate the process and provide comments. Figure 1 shows a breakdown of the survey ratings.

Figure 1
Online Voting Survey Ratings

- Very satisfied or satisfied = 781 or 97.9%
- Neutral, dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied = 17 or 2.1%

It was interesting to read all of the comments that were submitted with the surveys. Some members were very satisfied that the process has “gone green” and saves money on printing ballots and mailing costs. Many identified the ease of navigating through the ballot, reviewing the candidates’ qualifications via the bio link, as well as the submission process. Several members wanted to know if online voting could be utilized for local chapters. This will certainly be considered by the Board.

Comments from people who were dissatisfied with the process were that they were unable to find the bios for the candidates. This is something that the Nominations Committee can look at for the next election. Another member stated that “ANNA” should be in the subject line of the ballot as it almost was deleted as spam. That, too, will be easy to correct. Another member just did not like receiving the ballot by e-mail. The Nominations Committee can look at for the next election. Another member stated that “ANNA” should be in the subject line of the ballot as it almost was deleted as spam. That, too, will be easy to correct. Another member just did not like receiving the ballot by e-mail.

This new technology worked extremely well for the majority of those who elected to use it. The overwhelming support for this process for the very first time is very encouraging. I would like to close with one of the “very satisfied” comments, and echo their sentiment: “Congratulations to ANNA, the Board of Directors, and AJJ for getting this change to Web voting accomplished.”

Lynda Ball
Nominations Chair
Greater Puget Sound