President’s Message:

Jose Alejandro, PhD(c), RN-BC, MBA, CCM, FACHE

Happy Holidays!! I can’t believe how quickly Thanksgiving has passed and Christmas is approaching. This is definitely a time to give thanks and to donate/volunteer for causes that interest you. Many opportunities are available throughout your communities which can benefit from your time and skillset. My strong advocacy for volunteerism goes back to my days of spending quality time with my grandmother who would spend countless hours volunteering at the church, homeless shelter and community soup kitchen. Today, my family enjoys continuing the tradition of volunteering to help those that are less fortunate.

It is my pleasure to announce that we have signed a conference planning agreement with CMI for the 2013 conference. I have had the opportunity to work with CMI through other organizations. I have attended several of CMI’s planned events which have been top notch and highly attended. Dan Suarez, President-Elect and Conference Chair, will definitely benefit from their expertise. We are aiming to top the great conference in Puerto Rico this coming year in New Orleans. More details to follow.

A reminder to chapter presidents that our Annual Chapter Presidents and NAHN Board Retreat will be held in Miami, Florida on Feb 1-2, 2013. The theme of the meeting is promoting cohesiveness among board of directors and how to gain traction in public policy in your community. This is also an opportunity for the NAHN board and chapters to align their strategic plans to ensure that we are working as one organization. Please be on the lookout from the NAHN staff on the details.

The board of directors’ and staff has been working diligent to building out the strategic plan that was presented at the annual conference. I truly appreciate all of the feedback and comments that have been sent to me. My desire to run for the presidency was to be able to promote a strategic plan to transform and sustain for the future. Angie Millan, Dan Suarez and I have committed our presidencies to establish the foundation and continued evolution of NAHN for the future. We are well on our way. Also, we could not have started this journey without the assistance of Celia Besore, NAHN ED/CEO.

A special thank you to Margaret Avila, Vice President, who conducted the chapter presidents’ call this month. Margaret was able to jump right in there when the meeting and a presentation to a group was in conflict. I truly appreciate her involvement and support as the Vice President.

Sincerely,

President, NAHN
2012 NAHN Nurse of the Year Reception / Briefing

Adelita Cantu, PhD, RN (San Antonio, TX) was honored on October 10, 2012 at a 2012 NAHN Nurse of the Year Award Congressional reception and Muevete USA briefing in Washington. The event was held at the Cannon House Office Building, under the auspices of Rep. Grace Napolitano (CA-38). The event was sponsored by Pfizer Helpful Answers (Reception) and the Coca-Cola Foundation / Muevete USA™ (briefing).

Cantu has worked as a leader, researcher and nurse educator at the University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio and has made tremendous efforts with the “Healthy Choices for Kids” program since its inception in 2008. The program is in the same vein as NAHN’s Muevete USA program, in which she has also been involved for the last two years. Both programs work to improve the overall good health of children by promoting healthy food choices, portion control, and physical activity.

Congratulations, Adelita. Your NAHN family is proud of your accomplishments!

Read more about the award at http://www.nahnnet.org/2012_Nurse_of_the_Year_Cantu.html.

New FAANs NAHN Members

Liana Orsolini, PhD, RN, ANEF, FAAN (formerly known as Liana Orsolini-Hain, Washington, DC), Carolina Huerta, EdD, RN, FAAN (Valle, McAllen, TX) and Angie Millan, MSN, RNP, CNS, FAAN (Los Angeles, CA) were inducted on October 13, 2012 as Fellows of the American Academy of Nursing (AAN) during AAN’s 39th Annual Meeting and Conference in Washington, DC.

NAHN celebrated their accomplishments and those of the other NAHN members who are FAANs at a well-attended cocktail reception after the induction ceremony.

“We are so proud of the accomplishments of Angie, Carolina and Liana,” said Jose Alejandro, PhD(c), RN-BC, MBA, CCM, FACHE, president of NAHN. “These NAHN members represent what NAHN wants for all its members—to be recognized for their dedication to their nursing careers and to the community they serve.”

NAHN President Alejandro Appointed to Minority Nurse Magazine Editorial Board

NAHN President Jose Alejandro, RN-BC, MSN, MBA, CCM, FACHE (Dallas, TX) was recently invited to join the editorial board of Minority Nurse Magazine, which was recently acquired by Springer Publishing. As a board member, Alejandro will share NAHN-related news with Minority Nurse Magazine and occasionally provide story ideas relevant to the Hispanic nursing community. Alejandro, a former journalist, could also write articles for the quarterly magazine.

NAHN Members in the News

Yamina Alvarez, RN, DNP (Miami, FL) received the Joan K. Stout, R.N. Endowed Teaching Chair in Nursing at Miami Dade College. Alvarez has 35 years of experience in the field of information technology and she is credited with implementing high-fidelity simulation technology at MDC.

She was featured in an article in the Miami Herald (http://www.miamiherald.com/2012/08/30/2978948/mdc-professors-receive-awards.html#storylink=cpy) as well on a video by MDC (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wWh0e2FmNf0).

For her efforts she received a congratulatory letter from Rep. Illeana Ros-Lehtinen (18th District, Florida). (See previous column)

Congrats to Yamina for her great achievement!

Judith “Judy” Aponte, DNSc, CDE, RN, APHC-BC (New York, NY) has achieved Tenure at Hunter College School of Nursing of the City University of New York. She has also been selected as Fellow of the New York Academy of Medicine (NYAM). NYAM Fellows embody the highest levels of achievement and leadership in the fields of urban health, science, social work, nursing, education, law, medicine and research. Fellows are leaders in thought, action and vision who have dedicated their lives and careers to working to improve the health of the public. The induction ceremony took place in November. In addition to this achievement, Judith also recently received a DNSc from Columbia University, becoming the first Latina to do so.

Carol Bloch, PhD, RN, CTN-A, CNS and Carolyn Bloch, PhD, RN, CTN-A, CNS (both of Los Angeles, CA) were featured for their recent academic achievements in the Transcultural Nursing Society’s Transcultural Nursing News newsletter.

The Bloch sisters both completed their PhD dissertation defenses and graduated in July from Azusa Pacific University with a PhD in Nursing. Dr. Carol Bloch research topic was on Hispanic Nurses’ Perception of Pain Assessment and Management for and Dr. Carolyn Bloch’s topic was Cultural Competency Intervention Program for Healthcare Workers.

Another great achievement by the Doctors’ Bloch was the development of the Cultural Bill of Rights which is now part of the Orientation/Reorientation Handbook for all clinical facilities in the Los Angeles Department of Health Services. This was the culmination of 11 years of work with all departments reviewing all documents related to cultural issues. Following their classes with healthcare workers, they reviewed the Cultural Bill of Rights as the summary of class content.

Congrats to the Bloch sisters on their recent achievements!

Lisa Diaz, RN, MSN (Los Angeles) spoke in October at the 14th Annual American College of Chest Physicians (ACCP) Community Asthma and COPD Coalitions Symposium in Atlanta. Diaz, manager for the nurse-led “L.A. Cares About Asthma program,” took the lead to submit the program for EPA’s 2012 National Environmental Leadership Award in Asthma Management. She was invited to attend and present at the ACCP symposium to describe the key features of the program. L.A. Cares About Asthma serves Medi-Cal (Medicaid) managed-care members who are vulnerable and reside in low-income communities in Los Angeles County with all levels of asthma. The program’s distinguishing features include a multidisciplinary team approach that works to empower members with the necessary tools to be better partners in their health care and disease management. A members’ needs drive the program, for example creating a flier on “How to Talk to Your Doctor” targeting the largely Hispanic population that are reluctant to communicate with their provider about health issues and training member health promoters to teach asthma management skills within the community.

Read more about the program at: http://www.lacare.org/sites/default/files/files/EPA%20Award%202012%20final%20fact%20sheet.pdf

Diaz also spoke at a NAHN Los Angeles chapter meeting in September on the topic “Best Practices in Asthma Management.” At the meeting she noted that, “Given that the causes of asthma disparities are complex and multilevel, clinical strategies to address these disparities must therefore
be comparably multilevel and target many aspects of asthma care. Several strategies that could be applied in clinical settings to reduce asthma disparities are described, including the need for routine assessment of the patient’s beliefs, financial barriers to disease management, and health literacy and the provision of cultural competence training and communication skills to health care provider groups."

Crystal Loucel, RN, MPH (San Francisco, CA) wrote a feature article in the *Science of Caring*, a publication of the University of California San Francisco School of Nursing, on why diversity matters in health care. She is a first-year master’s student at UCSF. Loucel, NAHN’s San Francisco Bay Area chapter president, states that because minorities are more likely to receive less and lower-quality health care and suffer higher mortality rates from cancer, heart disease, diabetes, HIV/AIDS and mental health illnesses than their Caucasian counterparts, there have long been calls to increase the number of minority providers to reduce these health disparities.

A 2010 Institute of Medicine report found that a diverse workforce and the diverse perspective it provides contributes to enhanced communication, health care access, patient satisfaction, decreased health disparities, improved problem solving for complex problems and innovation.

*Read more about Loucel’s and UCSF’s efforts at http://scienceofcaring.ucsf.edu/future-nursing/health-care-diversity-matters*

Dan Suarez, MA, RN (New York, NY) was recently featured in a news article on *Health Callings* about the lack of male Latino nurses. Latino nurses make up only 1.7 percent of the registered nurse population in the United States, according to the Department of Health & Human Services. Although there has been an increase in recent years, Latino nurses – especially male Latino nurses – continue to be underrepresented among the RN population. A field viewed as predominantly female may be intimidating for Latino men to pursue, Suarez, NAHN’s newly-elected president-elect, says, “I do believe there is a need for more American Latinos in the nursing field since they are the ones their daughters will look upon as to what’s expected from their future spouses. What better role model than a Guy Nurse, as my daughter calls me.”

*Read more about the topic at: http://career-news.allhealthcare-jobs.com/2012/09/11/more-guy-nurses-needed-for-latino-patients/*

Cesar Visurraga, RN (Washington, DC) was featured in a MTV On Air Promo during the Army Hispanic Heritage Month in September. Capt. Visurraga, an Army registered nurse, answered a casting call with MTV. After competing against numerous candidates for the interview, Visurraga was chosen and shared his personal story about challenges and hardships as a Latino American.

During the taped segment Visurraga spoke about his ultimate goal as a Latino. “I want to inspire other Latinos to overcome the adversity that comes with migrat-
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NAHN Angels

In this section, we recognize the members who have donated funds to NAHN.

Please thank the following members for their donations and support of NAHN.

- Melinda Sanchez
- Mary Theresa Vasquez, RN

Becoming a NAHN Angel is very simple! You can donate money when you renew or donate any time by going to http://www.nahnnet.org and clicking on the “Donate” button.

You can designate how you want your donation used (e.g., Student Scholarships, Member Education, General Association Needs, or Unspecified) by indicating your intention in the “Add your message” link on the second donation screen. You can also send us a check!

NAHN Chapter Tidbits

Delaware Chapter

NAHN Delaware Chapter members Terry Villot, RN, BSN; Ludmila Maria Santiago-Rotchford, MSN, RN, ACNS-BC, PCCN; Gloria Scwagel and Melissa Ramos (nursing students) took part the 7th Latinas Fuertes y Saludables Conference of Hispanic Women’s Health in October.

This conference was organized by the Christiana Care Health System and brought together more than 200 people, including women, men and children of different ages, to Bayard Middle School in Wilmington.

Among the activities held were cholesterol tests, flu vaccines, AIDS testing and mammograms for women who requested it. Breast cancer is the leading cause of death in Hispanic women according to the American Cancer Society (ACS) and NAHN members have worked tirelessly throughout the year with their community partners to reach the Hispanics to make health information and screenings more accessible. The topics that were discussed dealt with identifying cancer in both men and women and the resources that are available for treatment. During the event 11 women got mammograms, 8 HIV testing took place, 90 individuals received flu vaccine, and a 100 people received cholesterol and sugar screenings.

Hartford Chapter

On November 9, the NAHN Hartford Chapter invited community members to their Open House at the Hispanic Health Council in Hartford.

The Hartford chapter is committed collectively in knowledge and expertise to reduce health care disparities, especially in the Hispanic population, through community activities aimed at improving their health outcomes. They promote initiatives that will address health care disparities and research on evidence-based solutions. The chapter also engages with other health professional organizations in a collaborative effort to impact health care, education, nursing practice and legislative changes in “Promoting a Healthier Hartford.”

The open house went well, besides the introductions, NAHN-Hartford Chapter packet handouts and registration of new members.”

See photos of the open house on the chapter’s Facebook fan page at https://www.facebook.com/NationalAssociationOfHispanicNursesHartfordChapter and on YouTube at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QhW_OAkJUEE (photos by Hartford chapter secretary Diane Wilson, RN, MSN). Additional information on the chapter can be found at www.nahnhartford.org.

Los Angeles Chapter

The Los Angeles Chapter would like to send out a “Save the Date” for their 2012 LA-NAHN Scholarship Gala, “Let us keep Christmas Beautiful and Celebrate our Nurses.”

The gala will take place on December 1, 2012 in Rosemead, CA. Don’t miss it!

New York, NY Chapter

Several members of the NAHN NY Chapter got together on Sunday, October 14, 2012 at Jones Beach, Wantagh, NY to help one of our NAHN sisters, Elsie Soto-Ortiz, RN, help raise awareness and funds for pancreatic cancer research through the Lustgarten Foundation.

The team raised $865.00 for TEAM ELSIE. Events such as these are a great way to increase funding for research and raise aware-
Healthcare and the Fiscal Cliff
by Dr. Mirian Zavala, RN

In June 2012, Chief Justice Roberts wrote the SCOTUS majority opinion which upheld the constitutionality of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The mandate requiring that all individuals purchase health insurance is a tax and that Congress has the power to impose taxes.

In spite of the Democrats having control of the Senate, the appropriation of funds for ACA will be influenced by the Republican Party’s control of the House of Representatives. The Constitution stipulates that only the House can originate appropriation bills and initiate revenue bills. This may result in implementation delays of the Act’s provisions. However, with the reelection of President Obama, ACA will proceed albeit, at a possible slower pace.

A possible peril to a smooth implementation of ACA is that many state governments may not create and operate health insurance exchanges by January 2014. The states have until November 16, 2012 to assert their intent to launch a state-based or hybrid exchange, or the states may opt for a federal exchange.

The other peril is the advent of the fiscal cliff on December 31, 2012 resulting from the expiration of tax cuts signed by former President Bush, ending the long-term unemployment insurance, and raising taxes by $3,700 to approximately 26 million households starting January 1, 2013. The White House and the Democrat controlled Senate may scale back coverage and subsidies and/or initiate a deficit reduction talks with the Republican controlled House to prevent the fiscal cliff.

“‘You may know that my family and I have been deeply affected by pancreatic cancer,’ said Elsie Soto-Ortiz, RN. ‘You may not know that pancreatic cancer is the nation’s fourth leading cause of cancer deaths, and that its low survival rate has not improved in 25 years. Research holds the key to finding better treatments and a cure. That’s why I have joined forces with The Lustgarten Foundation. As the nation’s largest private supporter of pancreatic cancer research, The Lustgarten Foundation understands that research is our best weapon in the fight. Thanks to a commitment by Cablevision to underwrite the Foundation’s administrative expenses, 100% of every dollar donated to the Foundation goes directly to pancreatic cancer research. Let’s give patients a fighting chance,’” added Elsie.


NAHN Update

National Association for Hispanic Nurses and International Formula Council to Continue Partnership

The National Association for Hispanic Nurses (NAHN) recently announced their continuing partnership with the International Formula Council (IFC) for a second year.

NAHN and IFC will work together to deliver tools and information about infant feeding to Hispanic nurses who are tremendous resources providing a great deal of support to new moms.

NAHN President Jose Alejandro said, “We are excited to continue our partnership with IFC. Both NAHN and IFC fully support breastfeeding as the best choice for feeding a baby and infant formula as the only safe, nutritious alternative.”

Mr. Alejandro continues, “There is a lot about breastfeeding and infant formula that nurses need to know in order to help educate new mothers on how to nourish their infant safely and effectively. By working together, NAHN and IFC can provide information to nurses, who in turn can teach new mothers.”

Infant feeding information will be made available for NAHN members to share with their patients. Materials will also be made available to members on the NAHN web site, in both English and Spanish. “We are pleased to continue to work with NAHN and believe many new mothers will benefit from learning about infant feeding that can help to ensure their babies are happy and grow and develop successfully,” says Mardi Mountford, IFC Executive Vice President.

Consulting Management Innovators Selected to Coordinate NAHN’s 2013 Conference

NAHN has selected Consulting Management Innovators (CMI) to provide management services for its conference in August 2013. The 38th NAHN Annual Conference is set to be held August 6-9, 2013 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in New Orleans, LA.

CMI provide services to associations such as the National Transitions of Care Coalition, Case Management Society of America and Case Management Foundation.

“We are delighted to have chosen CMI to help us take our Annual Conference to the next level,” said NAHN President Jose Alejandro, PhD(c), RN-BC, MBA, CCM, FACHE. “I know that with their help the 2013 NAHN Annual Conference will be bigger and even better than the one this year in Puerto Rico.”

The NAHN Annual Conference will feature four days of workshops, keynotes, networking events and exhibits, and several sessions will offer continuing medical education credits.

“We are thrilled to be selected with the responsibility of putting on another successful conference for the National Association of Hispanic Nurses,” remarked Cheri Lattimer, Presi-
dent & CEO of Consulting Management Innovators. "The Association has built a strong conference program over the past several decades, and we look forward to the opportunity for our team to assist and build upon the programming and events which make this annual event so special and significant to the NAHN community."

Event details will become available in early 2013.

**We are Still Recruiting to Facilitate Clinical Submissions for the NAHN Journal**

*By Margaret Avila, PhD(c), MSN, RN/NP, PHN*

As requested by membership, the NAHN HHCI journal has a clinical focus in addition to the current research focus.

To enhance the promotion of submissions related to clinical practice, the following participants are needed:

- **Volunteer reviewers** for submissions, i.e., preferably members with a doctorate or minimally a masters in a clinical area or education. We are especially looking from volunteers from Western and Mid-Western states.
- **Volunteer Mentors** to advise, mentor, and support new authors through the submission process, i.e., revisions, format, etc.
- **Submissions and/or inquiries from members** who have potential scholarly documents, ideas regarding practice experience to share, etc.

Many thanks to the New York Chapter for its response for this call for volunteers!

To facilitate the process, NAHN is scheduling some webinars to discuss such topics as:

- How to transfer a clinical experience into an article to share with colleagues
- Writing strategies
- Preparation and submission strategies
- How to address rejection/revisions

Please contact NAHN Vice President and Clinical Editor Margaret Avila, PhD(c), MSN, RN/NP, PHN at mavila04@gmail.com or by calling her at 323-319-6375 (message) if you are interested in any of these positions.

**Keep Up to Date Your NAHN Record**

NAHN members can now access directly their membership database record so they can update the information whenever needed. It is very easy.

- Go to https://netforum.avectra.com/eWeb/StartPage.aspx?Site=NAHN. We have also added a link to the database under the “Communicate” section at the NAHN home page, http://www.nahnnet.org. Look for “Members Login.”
- Click on Login in the left-hand side menu.
- Enter username: the primary email NAHN uses to communicate with you. Contact NAHN headquarters if you need help.
- Password: Password1.
  The first time you login, it will force you to change your password.
- Enter old password as Password1, then enter twice your new password. If you forget it later, you can always take advantage of the “Forgot password?” link.
- You will now be at “My Information” and you will be able to click on the “Edit Information” link to update your record.

Please make sure to update the demographics, such as practice, specialty, workplace and type of position that are towards the bottom of the form. We need this so we can better describe who our members are.

Happy cruising!

**NAHN Development Committee Looking for Volunteers**

*By Anabell Castro-Thompson, MSN, RN, ANP-C*

The NAHN Development Committee is in charge of assisting the organization in short and long-term planning of programs and grant opportunities.

One role of this committee is to assist the organization in leveraging opportunities for fundraising. Recently, we did extensive research on the subject and submitted to the national office a list of the top 25 funding organizations in the nation, sister companies to prominent national organizations, which have funding opportunities for programs seeking to meet the needs of the Hispanic population and those of improving the health of the community through nursing innovation. We hope this list brings many fruitful opportunities. In the future we hope to strategically assist in directing the efforts of this organization.

I am also looking for two additional members to join this committee. Members are welcomed either because they have expertise in the subject or wish to learn about this important business skill. They can reach me directly to my email: cas troanab@msn.com.

**NAHN Advertisers**

Please remember to support the NAHN web advertisers (through November 27, 2012). These companies have chosen to financially support NAHN.

- Jacksonville University
- Nursing @ Georgetown University
- UCLA Health Group
- UnitedHealth Group

Many thanks also to the following advertiser of this newsletter:

- UnitedHealth Group
- MedImmune Advocacy

**NEWS**

*continues on page 10*
What Is Cocooning?
As a parent of a new baby, you want to help protect your child from getting sick, if you can. One way that may help is to try to create a “cocoon” around your baby.

Cocooning is a protective measure taken to encourage all adults and children in contact with your baby to be up-to-date with their immunizations. When people around your baby have all been vaccinated, it may help to protect your infant by limiting his or her exposure to some vaccine-preventable diseases, creating a “cocoon” of wellness around the baby.

People who come in contact with your baby, including Mom, who should be immunized with vaccines, such as the pertussis and influenza vaccines, include:
- Parents
- Siblings
- Grandparents
- Aunts and uncles
- Daycare workers
- Babysitters
- Healthcare professionals

Why Is Cocooning Important?
Unfortunately, some babies are too young to be completely vaccinated and need special care to help protect them from serious diseases. Make sure that you and your loved ones are fully immunized to help protect your new baby from these diseases.

Newborn babies do not receive their flu shots until they are 6 months old, as recommended by The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). That is why it is so important for family members and all those in contact with your newborn baby to have had their flu vaccines — to help prevent the spread of the flu virus to your baby.

For more information, contact your healthcare professional (pediatrician or nurse), hospital, clinic, or local health department.

NAHN Job Board

Did you know that NAHN’s Career Headquarters has some wonderful job openings in many different positions around the U.S.?

If you or someone you know is looking for a new opportunity, don’t forget to check out http://www.thehispanicnurses.org/job-press/. Below are some of the jobs as of November 26th, 2012.

- Registered Nurse (Bilingual in Spanish) Contractor at Medcor, Inc (Dallas, TX)
- Trauma Program Manager at Legacy Emmanuel Medical Center (Portland, Oregon)
- Registered Nurse at Natividad Medical Center (Salinas, California)
- Registered Nurse at North Florida Regional Medical Center (Gainesville, Florida)
- Spanish-speaking Home Care and Hospice RNs at The Visiting Nurse Association of Greater Philadelphia (Philadelphia, PA)
- Chief Nursing Officer at Beverly Hospital (Montebello, CA)
- Chief Nursing Officer at Witt/Kieffer - WellStar Cobb Hospital (Austell, GA)
- Nurse, Staff - Brooklyn Park Clinic at Hennepin County Medical Center (Brooklyn Park, MN)
- Chief Nursing Officer at Mercy Joplin Region (Joplin, MO)
- RN Private Duty at UltraStaff (Houston, Texas)
- Chief Clinical Officer at Cejka Executive Search for Mee Memorial Hospital (King City, CA)
- Faculty Tenure Track Positions 2013-2014 at Pace University, Lienhard School of Nursing (Pleasantville and New York City, New York)
- Dean, School of Nursing at University of Connecticut (Storrs, Connecticut)
- Nursing Education Faculty Position at Shepherd University (Shepherdstown, West Virginia)
- RN Field Care Coordinator - Bilingual Spanish or Russian Required! at UnitedHealth Group (Wichita, KS and Overland Park, KS)
- Critical Care Registered Nurse at Sparrow Hospital (Lansing, MI)
- Health Resource Nurse I at Anne Arundel Medical Center (Annapolis, MD)
- Doctorally Prepared Nurse Practitioner and Physician Assistant Faculty at Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing at UC Davis (Sacramento, Calif.)
- Director of Clinical Education at Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing at UC Davis (Sacramento, Calif.)

Let’s Get Social

We want to invite our members to “get social” and join the NAHN Social Media sites. Become a “fan” of the NAHN Facebook page and follow our “tweets” on our Twitter page.

Click on the links below and join us now!
- NAHN Twitter Page: @nahnnursing or http://www.twitter.com/nahnnursing.
- NAHN LinkedIn: http://www.linkedin.com/groups?mostPopular=&gid=2358996

New NAHN Corporate Members

Walden University

NAHN is pleased to welcome Walden University as a NAHN Corporate Member. The educational partnerships will offer NAHN members the opportunity to pursue a bachelor’s, master’s or doctoral degree online at Walden.

NAHN members can enroll in Walden’s CCNE-Accredited Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) Completion Program, CCNE-Accredited Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program or Walden’s new Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program. Walden’s School of Nursing in the College of Health Sciences features faculty members who are nationally recognized experts in the healthcare field.

For more information, visit www.WaldenU.edu/nursing

Jacksonville University School of Nursing Joins NAHN as a Corporate Member

Jacksonville University School of Nursing has joined the NAHN Family as a Corporate Member. The U.S. News & World Report-ranked and regionally accredited Jacksonville University (JU) is dedicated to providing top-quality education to nurses through its online RN to BSN and MSN degree programs. The nursing programs, which are powered through University Alliance technology, feature 100% online classrooms with live chat rooms and message boards. The 24/7 access provides flexibility and convenience for RNs who want to enhance their professional qualifications while continuing to work. Employment of RNs is projected to grow 26% nationally through 2020, federal officials say, with job prospects brighter for nurses who have a bachelor’s degree in nursing (BSN) or higher.

Please visit http://www.jacksonvilleu.com/nursing-school-scholarships for scholarship information.
News from Our Corporate Members

Coca-Cola Company Announces 2011-2012 Sustainability Report

The Coca-Cola Company’s 2011-2012 Sustainability Report was released in November. It highlights the company’s sustainability-driven innovations and demonstrates how they’re growing their business while improving people's lives, build strong communities and help protect the environment we all share.

Highlights include: over 10 billion fully recyclable PlantBottle packages distributed across 24 countries; 24 percent of cold-drink equipment purchases were HFC-free; 280 physical activity programs supported in 115 countries; over 800 low- or no-calorie options available, nearly 25 percent of their global portfolio; 131,000 women empowered throughout Brazil, India, the Philippines and South Africa as part of our 5by20 initiative; and $123.5 million donated by The Coca-Cola Foundation to improve living standards for people around the world, a 21 percent increase over 2010.

To view the report visit www.thecoca-colacompany.com/sustainabilityreport.

MedImmune Debuts New Piece on How Cocooning Can Help Prevent Babies from Infection

As a parent of a new baby, you want to help protect your child from getting sick, if you can. One way that may help is to try to create a “cocoon” around your baby. Cocooning is a protective measure taken to encourage all adults and children in contact with your baby to be up-to-date with their immunizations. When people around your baby have all been vaccinated, it may help to protect your infant by limiting his or her exposure to some vaccine-preventable diseases, creating a “cocoon” of wellness around the baby. People who come in contact with your baby should be immunized with vaccines, such as the pertussis and influenza vaccines.

MedImmune will be adding a new patient education piece to the www.MedImmuneAdvocacy.com web portal on the importance of “Cocooning” by making sure everyone who comes in contact with infants has been immunized for Tdap and flu. This piece is now be available to order.

Clorox to Host Additional Video Chat

Don’t miss the next Hispanic Nursing Network live video chat on Clorox Latino’s Facebook page hosted by Adriana Trullo, RN, where Facebook users can ask questions related to “Tips for a Healthier Family in 2013.” The live video chat will take place on Wednesday, December 5 at 6:00pm PST / 9:00pm EST. To participate, visit https://www.facebook.com/events/408460212567431/.

Other News

Nurses Ask Congress to Protect Government Report on Cancer-Causing Chemicals

The Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments (AHNE) sent a letter to Congress in support of the Report on Carcinogens (ROC), an annual scientific study published by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) that identifies chemicals that cause cancer. The ROC is the federal government’s official list of chemicals “known” or “reasonably anticipated” to cause cancer in humans. This report has been mandated by Congress since the 1970’s and provides science-based, impartial information about those chemicals that can increase cancer incidence.

Recent NAHN Nurse of the Year award winner Adelita G. Cantu, PhD, RN, comments, “The RoC is especially important to communities of color, who are disproportionately impacted by toxic chemicals, including carcinogens. Communities must have every tool they need to identify chemicals released in their environments that can cause cancer. I see children playing in toxic water near the US-Mexico border. The people deserve to know if that water contains carcinogens so they can try and halt contamination, and exposure.”

Read more about the report at http://envirn.org/pg/blog/read/61733/nurses-ask-congress-to-protect-government-report-on-cancercausing-chemicals

UnitedHealth Group Report Sheds Light on the Opportunity to Improve Health Care

A report from UnitedHealth Group’s Center for Health Reform & Modernization evaluating care quality and medical costs among physicians across the country reveals that high-quality medical care can be about 14 percent more affordable on average, though there are significant local variations.

The report sheds new light on the opportunity to improve quality and efficiency in U.S. health care, and recommends four practical strategies for accelerating care provider payment reform to improve patient care.

The study finds that episode costs for a set of major medical procedures vary about 2.5-times, and episode costs for common chronic conditions vary about 15-fold. The study finds that, among physicians meeting quality benchmarks, there is essentially no correlation between average costs and the measured level of care quality across markets, suggesting that higher-cost areas do not necessarily provide higher-quality care.


Childhood Influenza Immunization Coalition

The upcoming influenza season marks five years since National Foundation for Infectious Diseases established its Childhood Influenza Immunization Coalition (CIC) to encourage and support the movement toward universal influ-
enza pediatric immunization and help improve vaccination rates. In recognition of this milestone.

For more information about CIIC, as well as up-to-date resources and tools, visit www.Preventchildhoodinfluenza.org.

Ranks of Uninsured Declined in 2011

The percentage of people in the U.S. without health insurance decreased to 15.7% in 2011 from 16.3% in 2010, the U.S. Census Bureau reports.

More young adults with health insurance helped reduce the number of U.S. uninsured last year to 48.6 million from 50 million the year before. Coverage gains among those ages 19 to 25 and increased public insurance coverage accounted for last year’s growth in insurance coverage. New Census Bureau figures show 260.2 million people were insured last year, up from 256.6 million in 2001.

Read more about the Census report at http://alturl.com/ow74z.

New Study Shows How Nurse-Led Intervention Can Dramatically Reduce Deadly and Costly Infections

New study by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation finds combination of strategies and practices can dramatically reduce deadly and costly infections associated with hospital stays.

Central lines are tubes that are inserted into patients’ veins to deliver crucial fluids or medications. Infections associated with central lines are among the most deadly and costly hospital-associated infections in the U.S. They account for 31,000 deaths annually and cost our health system an estimated $9 billion.

Now a new study reveals that combining several tested and proven practices for preventing central line-associated bloodstream infections (CLABSI) with a program to improve safety, teamwork and communication can dramatically reduce the infection rates.


Institute of Medicine Releases Paper on Team-based Care

The Institute of Medicine (IOM) released a new discussion paper, “Core Principles & Values of Effective Team-Based Health Care,” which presents basic principles and personal values that characterize team-based care.

Developed by individual participants from the IOM’s Best Practices Innovation Collaborative, the authors identified key findings from health care literature, and used interviews with eleven teams located across the United States to clarify how these factors shape effective team-based care.

The principles and values reviewed are intended to help guide clinicians, patients, administrators, and other stakeholders in health care seeking high-value team-based care that focuses on the goals and priorities of patients and their families.

In its conclusion, the discussion paper outlines four themes to guide the growth of team-based health care delivery.

More information on the paper available at http://www.iom.edu/Global/Perspectives/2012/TeamBasedCare.aspx.

Electronic Standing Orders Increase Delivery of Preventive Services

A new study funded by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) and published in The Journal of the American Board of Family Medicine, found that implementing electronic standing orders for preventive services increased service delivery.

Implementing and Evaluating Electronic Standing Orders in Primary Care Practice: A PPRNet Study discusses how electronic standing orders, established rules that allow qualified staff to deliver certain types of care, can be used in primary care practices with an electronic health record (EHR). By checking the rules established by the standing orders against the patient’s prior record of care, the EHRs were able to produce a list of necessary preventive services.


Study Shows Nurse Ratio Law has Mixed Results on Quality of Care

Authors of a new study contend that California’s 2004 law mandating minimum nurse-to-patient ratios in hospitals has had mixed results on quality of care for patients.

California Nurses Association officials said the study’s findings do not support the authors’ conclusions. The nurses association was the driving force behind the ratio law and now is lobbying to get other states to adopt similar legislation.

The study, “California’s Minimum Nurse Staffing Legislation: Results From a Natural Experiment,” was published last month in Health Services Research, the bimonthly Journal of AcademyHealth. The study compared quality of care and staffing in California hospitals before and after the staffing law took effect with hospitals in 12 other states without staffing legislation.

Researchers divided California hospitals into four groups based on staffing levels prior to the legislation. Two of the most significant findings in the study showed that California hospitals with the lowest and highest pre-legislation staffing levels (groups 1 and 4) had a significant decrease in the number of deaths resulting from complications, also known as “failure to rescue.”

Group 3 hospitals showed an increase in the number of infections identified after the legislation, which researchers said could be a result of more nurses being better able to detect infections.

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Hispanic Health Care International is the official journal of the National Association of Hispanic Nurses. This peer-reviewed journal serves as an interdisciplinary forum for the dissemination of information for clinical practice, education, research, and policy on issues concerning Hispanic/Latino populations in the United States.

Hispanic Health Care International invites practitioners, faculty teaching in clinical doctoral program, and clinical doctoral students to contribute the following types of articles evidenced-based practice and research:

**Case Studies.** Case studies are major articles that demonstrate clinical excellence and application of evidence-based practice. Articles may address any aspect of clinical care from prevention through acute illness to rehabilitation and palliative care. Submissions should present the step by step process of clinical decision making and address available evidence on epidemiology, etiology, pathophysiology, clinical presentation, evaluation and management, and therapy or interventions. An abstract of 200 words or less required. Desired length is 8-24 manuscript pages.

**Literature Reviews.** Reviews provide insightful summaries of the most important research on the selected topic and draw clear conclusions with implication for practice. Articles should be 4-8 manuscript pages.

**Brief Reports.** Brief reports are concise articles that are 4-8 manuscript pages.

To submit a manuscript, please send an e-mail with a cover letter and the manuscript to Clinical Editor Margaret Avila at mavila04@gmail.com.
Although both findings could be indications that larger nursing staffs led to fewer deaths from hospital complications and greater awareness of infections, researchers said the cause-effect relationship was not clear, nor did they necessarily determine a change in quality of care.


AHA sues HHS over Medicare Payment Denials

In a federal lawsuit, the American Hospital Association (AHA) and four healthcare providers accuse U.S. Department of Health and Human Services of illegally denying hospitals Medicare payments for audited outpatient procedures.

The Chicago-based interest group for nearly 5,000 hospitals says in the complaint that HHS maintains an illegal policy of refusing to pay hospitals for Medicare outpatient services in cases where auditors retroactively conclude that inpatient care should have been delivered outside the hospital.

The lawsuit followed the failure of year-long discussions on the care settings issue by the AHA and the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services to reach a resolution.

Read more at http://www.modernhealthcare.com/article/20121101/NEWS/311019941?allowView=VW8xUmo5Q2ITcWJOb1gzb0N3RL0h0M1G5Svgr3NZRzROR3l0WWRMVGFwWjBBRWxInUtpQzMyWmFxNTMwWUpiaWc=&utm_source=link-20121101-NEWS-311019941&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=mh-alert.

CMS Enrollment Opportunities for Medicare Beneficiaries Affected by Hurricane Sandy

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has provided guidance about enrollment opportunities for Medicare beneficiaries affected by Hurricane Sandy. CMS understands that many Medicare beneficiaries have been affected by this disaster and wants to ensure that all beneficiaries are able to compare their options and make enrollment choices for 2013.

To the extent possible, CMS encourages all beneficiaries to make their enrollment choices by December 7. This will ensure that their enrollment in health and prescription drug coverage is in place for January 1, 2013.

Individuals affected by Hurricane Sandy who are unable to make a plan selection by December 7 can still enroll in health and prescription drug coverage for 2013 by calling 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) anytime, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Fake Medicines Sold Online

Consumers in the US and around the world could be at risk if they purchase drugs from any of the more than 4,100 internet pharmacies that illegally sell potentially dangerous, unapproved drugs to consumers.

Recently, the FDA in partnership with international regulatory, customs and law enforcement agencies from 100 countries, shut down thousands of internet pharmacies that were selling illegal drugs. It’s estimated that $10.5 million worth of pharmaceuticals were seized during this operation.

The FDA’s “BeSafeRx – Know Your Online Pharmacy” seeks to raise public awareness about the health risks of using fraudulent Internet pharmacies and what consumers can do to protect themselves.

If you want to learn more, visit http://www.thinksciencenow.com/blog-post/public-health-threat-due-to-fake-medicine-sold-on-internet/

Online Toolkit aims to Eliminate Disparities and Enhance Mental Health Service Delivery to Hispanics

The National Resource Center for Hispanic Mental Health (NRCHMH) recently published an online toolkit, “Enhancing Mental Health Service Delivery to Hispanics: An Online Toolkit for Eliminating Disparities.”

This resource consists of various print, video and audio resources designed to assist mental health agency administrators and their governing leadership, as well as direct service providers, to best attract, engage and serve Hispanics in a culturally and linguistically competent manner. When utilized collectively, the resources can serve as valuable tools for eliminating the array of disparities that exist for Hispanics in need of mental health care by increasing understanding of the importance of addressing and enhancing organizations’ and direct service providers’ cultural competence to meet the needs of Hispanics - and, more importantly, how to achieve these goals.

The toolkit is available at www.nrchmh.org; a link is provided under the tab labeled “Online Toolkit” on the home page.

Obama Administration Moves Forward to Implement Healthcare Law

President Obama’s Administration moved forward this month to implement provisions in the health care law that would make it illegal for insurance companies to discriminate against people with pre-existing conditions.

The provisions of the Affordable Care Act also would make it easier for consumers to compare health plans and employers to promote and encourage employee wellness. “The Affordable Care Act recognizes that well-run, equitable workplace wellness programs allow workers to access services that can help them and their families lead healthier lives,” said Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis. “Employers, too, can benefit from reduced costs associated with a healthier workforce.”

Major Advances in Prosthetics

In a recent blog, Pfizer Inc’s Vera Rulon discussed the power of human will and the advances made in prosthetics. Oscar Pistorius, a double amputee who recently competed in the 2012 Olympic events became a visible sign of how far we’ve come. Pistorius has shown the power of determination. And although there is still debate whether the prosthetics he uses provide an unfair advantage, one cannot argue that persistence and human played a great role in his qualifying for the London Olympics.

The man responsible for Pistorius’ prosthetics is Van Phillips, who found that prosthetic legs hadn’t advanced much since World War II. He invented the prosthetic legs that Pistorius runs with, but more so, he invented the prosthetic because of his own needs.

An amputee from a waterskiing accident, Phillips had his mind set on creating a more advanced prosthetic leg. His inspiration came from nature, specifically the cheetah’s hind legs and what inspired the name: Flex Foot Cheetah. He worked diligently for many years perfecting the foot and although he sold his company, continues to work on creating a low cost prosthetic leg specifically to help victims of land mine accidents.


New Medical-Surgical Scope and Standards Available to all Nurses

The Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses is releasing its two newest editions, Scope and Standards of Medical-Surgical Nursing Practice, 5th Edition, and the Scope and Standards of Medical-Surgical Clinical Nurse Specialist Practice, 2nd Edition online as a complimentary resource to all medical-surgical nurses.

The books, previously available for purchase on the AMSN Store, have been transferred to an online-only format, allowing for easier access for every nurse at no cost.

To download the scope and standards visit www.amsn.org/scopeandstandards.

Educational/Research Opportunities

Minority Nurse Scholarship Program now Taking Applications for 2013 Awards

Minority Nurse is currently accepting applications for their 14th Annual Scholarship competition, consisting of two $1,000 awards and one $3,000 award. Scholarships will be paid in Summer 2013 for the Fall 2013 academic term.

Minority Nurse offers an annual scholarship to help outstanding nurses of color complete their studies toward a Bachelor or Master of Science in Nursing. To date, they have awarded more than 40 students over $35,000 in scholarships, honoring their commitment to the profession, academic excellence, and community service. Deadline for application is February 1, 2013.


GE-NMF Primary Care Leadership Program National Medical Fellowships Deadline Feb. 1, 2013

The GE Foundation and National Medical Fellowships (NMF) are pleased to open the Primary Care Leadership Program (PCLP) online application to 2013 prospective scholars.

The program provides future primary care health professionals a valuable opportunity to examine the challenges and rewards of primary care practice in community health centers (CHCs) across the United States.

GE-NMF PCLP enhances traditional clinical externships with leadership training and network building. The overall mission of the program is to develop a pipeline of future primary care professionals and to build capacity at CHCs.

In 2013, PCLP offers students a service-learning opportunity at CHCs in Los Angeles CA, Phoenix AZ, Nashville TN, Jackson MS, Mobile AL, W. Memphis AR/Memphis TN, Orlando FL, or San Antonio TX.

Visit their website for further program information and instructions on how to apply at www.nmfonline.org

Future of Latino Health Care Event to Take Place on December 13-14

The University of Texas San Antonio College of Public Policy Center for Policy Studies and La Fe Policy Research and Education Center are co-hosting the Future of Latino Health Care.

The event features a reception, dinner and keynote at the Double-Tree Hotel on December 13 and then moves to UTSA Downtown-Durango for panels on December 14.

Guests will have a chance to assess the impact, opportunities and challenges for the Latino community from current national and state health care reform efforts. They will also be able to review the states effort to implement the Affordable Care Act and what the reforms mean for Latino families.

For more information please call 210.208.9494 or email pmedina@lafepolicycenter.org to register.

Sueña Sin Límites

“Sueña Sin Límites”, the scholarship program created by The Clorox Company and The Hispanic Scholarship Fund, is offering six $10,000 scholarships for moms who wish to continue their higher education and six $10,000 scholarships for high-school seniors planning to go to college.

The entry deadline is December 21st. For more information, visit http://www.SueñaSinLimites.com.