



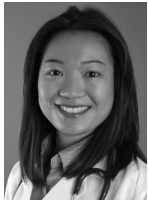
The Advocate

NURSE PRACTITIONERS OF NEW YORK

WWW.NPNY.NET

FALL 2011

From the President's Desk...



I first heard about NPNY from Ann Marie Bova, a veteran member of NPNY, when I was a newly-minted NP in 2005. After moving to Manhattan in 2007, I was re-introduced to NPNY by long-time member Phyllis McKinney, and I decided to become a member myself. Since then, NPNY has become a part of my routine; I was invited to join the Board of Directors first as Secretary then as President-Elect.

ATTENDEES MORE THAN DOUBLED

After we changed the venue last September for our monthly CE programs to Beth Israel's Phillips Ambulatory Care Center, the number of attendees more than doubled; also we saw an increase in memberships from student NPs and male NPs. Due to the success of this central location with a hub of subway stops and new catering options nearby, we will continue to host our programs in the Union Square area. Our gratitude to Juliette Blount for securing the locale with her employee's discount and many thanks to our newest member Daisy Cardoso for taking over the responsibilities of coordinating this venue.

LOBBY DAY: A HUGE SUCCESS

This past February, we had a great turnout (more than 40 attendees) when Helen Ruddy and Rachael Lerner presented a CE program on health care policies in anticipation of our annual Lobby Day in March. As a result, this year's Lobby Day was a huge success with the largest-ever student turnout, and many Hunter students/new grads joined NPNY.

We hope to start offering the option of renewing membership dues through PayPal for the convenience of our members. In addition, we are offering a low-cost half-day CE conference on dermatology that is open to both members and non-members.

Since all our educational programs and lobbying efforts thrive on your presence and participation, we always welcome new members and all suggestions. I look forward to seeing everyone soon and hope to continue the success achieved by my predecessors.

—Wendy Kong, MS, FNP-BC

Legislative Victories to be Proud of

Over the past several months numerous positive changes have been enacted in health care on a local level, here in New York City, on the state level and on the federal level.

Our Legislative Committee is keeping up with all the exciting changes. NPNY members Audrey Hoover and Myrna Stephens met with their local Assembly member this summer to discuss the NP Modernization Act and got a positive response. We encourage members (students included) to visit their representatives and we will be happy to assist with information on the pending legislation listed below.

ENACTED

On the city level:

✦ **The Smoke-Free Air Act** bans smoking in some public outdoor spaces, including all New York City public parks, beaches, pedestrian plazas (Times Square and Herald Square); it went into effect May 23.

On the state level:

✦ **NPs in NYS can now sign death certificates** thanks to Senator Velmanette Montgomery's and Assembly member Aileen Gunther's bill that Governor Cuomo signed July 2011. This is one of the bills we discussed with our elected officials on NPNY's Annual Albany Lobby Day last March. Many legislators we met with supported the bill! Our hard work paid off and we hope this eases patients' families with expeditious care in what is often a difficult time. For information on completing a death certificate and cause of death training, go to Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene's CME, www.nyc.gov/html/doh/media/video/licdr/index.html.

On the national level:

✦ Additional services under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 were implemented this summer. The **Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan** is available to New York residents through Group Health Incorporated. If your patients have been denied coverage in the past, direct them to apply for coverage at www.ghi.com/nybridgeplan/index.html.

✦ According to the Dept. of Health and Human Services, the Affordable Care Act also adopted the Institute of Medicine's recommendations on August 1 that new health plans include **women's preventive health care coverage**: well-woman visits, breast feeding support and equipment, contraception, and STI counseling, HPV DNA testing and gestational diabetes screening. Starting August, 2012, these services do not require out of pocket expenses

or cost-sharing. Go to www.hrsa.gov/women/guidelines/ and www.healthcare.gov.

PENDING

In Albany on the state level:

✦ **The NP Modernization Act** (S324/A5308), which would give NPs the right to practice in NYS to the full extent of their license and scope without a written collaborative agreement with a physician, is still in committee and a work in progress. Visits to your legislators at either their district (local) or Albany offices are helpful. Let us know if we can do anything to help you with those visits.

In Washington, DC, on the national level:

✦ **The Medicare Home Health Planning Act** (H.R.2267/S227) is current legislation that would authorize NPs to order home health services in the Medicare program. NPNY encourages members to reach out to their Representatives and US Senators (Charles Schumer and Kristin Gillibrand) to support this important legislation to remove unnecessary red tape for patients needing home care services.

—Rachael Lerner, WHNP-BC

JOIN US

for a half-day NPNY Dermatology Seminar. Earn 4.5 AANP CEs.



DERMATOLOGY FOR PRIMARY CARE PRACTITIONERS

on Saturday, September 24,
10am-2:30pm



Dermatologist Robert Buka, MD, JD, and **Pediatric Nurse Practitioner** Rita Marie John, DNP, EdD, CPNP, will cover dermatological problems in adults and children

Luncheon Speaker: State Senator Velmanette Montgomery (will discuss "The NP Modernization Act")

Location: Phillips Ambulatory Care Center, 10 Union Square East (14th St), 2nd floor conference room

RSVP, required by **Sept. 17**, to smoscou@mercy.edu or hince@ny.rr.com

(NPNY members \$35; NPNY student members \$15; non-members \$40; non-member students \$20 — includes continental breakfast & lunch!)

SEND CHECK to NPNY at
Old Chelsea P.O. Box 1812,
New York, NY 10113

Lobby Day 2011



Hunter College graduate NPs pose before a Women's History display of New York's women legislators.



NPNY members and Hunter College NP graduates take a deserved break after walking all day visiting Legislators' offices. At far right is Nancy Santiago, from Senator Montgomery's office, who provided refreshments.

NPNY CALENDAR: EARN 2 CES FOR EACH PROGRAM

Earn 2 CEs for each program. These program CEs have been submitted to the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners for continuing education credits. Jordana Cotton, NP, is Chair of the Program Committee.

◆ THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2011

Topic: Management of the Patient with a Cardiac Arrhythmia

Speakers: Krysti Buchanan, MS, RN, ANP-BC, GNP-BC and James Russo, MS, RN, ANP

◆ THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2011

Topic: Travel Medicine:

Be Safe, Be Healthy—

What you need to know before you go.

Speaker: Wendy Kong, MS, FNP

◆ THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2011

Topic: Artery Disease

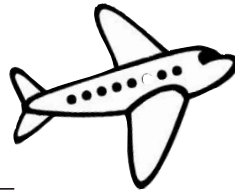
Speaker: Eileen O'Connor, MS, FNP

SCHEDULE FOR ALL PROGRAMS:

6 - 6:30 pm Networking & light dinner

6:30 - 7 pm News & announcements

7 - 8:30 pm Program



LOCATION: CE meetings take place at Beth Israel PACC (Phillips Ambulatory Care Center), in Conference Room #1, located at 10 Union Square East.

SUBWAY: Union Square station on the L, N, Q, R, W, 4, 5, 6.

Thank you to all candidates! And a special thanks to members of the NPNY Board, who are moving on — our past President Amanda Brei, FNP, who is newly married and going to Canada, Joanna Hutchinson, NP, newly married, and Ann Marie Bova, FNP, who is moving to Florida.

Welcome to President-Elect Juliette Blount, FNP; Past-President Susan Moscou, FNP; Secretary Krysti Buchanan, ANP.

Elected to be members of the Board: Jacqueline Varela, NP; Kenya Beard, EdD, GNP-BC; Lisa Paplanus, DNP; and Anna Acee, EdD ANP.

— **Nominations Committee**

Moving from Novice to Expert in Corporate Health

This June I joined Comprehensive Health Services and provide corporate health services to the employees of Morgan Stanley. Corporate health is an emerging model in which employees can receive primary care, women's health, occupational health and travel medicine services on site. Employees get convenient health care services as an enhancement to their benefit portfolio, and employers benefit from cost savings through primary care prevention and chronic disease management services that on-site clinicians provide.

INCREASE MY AUTONOMY

I originally became a Nurse Practitioner to increase my autonomy as a Certified Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurse (CWOCN), so that I could order appropriate diagnostic tests, collaborate with and refer to specialists and make better wound treatment decisions for people with acute and chronic wounds.

After graduating from Hunter College as an ANP in 2002, I struggled to convince employers that they needed the services of a Wound Care NP. Most of the jobs I held in the succeeding three years — in long-term care, occupational health and at an HIV specialty practice — were part-time or per diem and did not include benefits.

Finally, in 2005, because of a need

for stability (and health insurance), I accepted a low-paying position in college health at Columbia University. Columbia Health Services provide year round, comprehensive primary care, women's health and urgent care to undergraduate and graduate students. I had finally found a collegial, supportive work environment; I became as passionate about college health as I had been about wound care.

After Columbia, I worked at Baruch College, part of the City University of New York (CUNY) system, where students have greater needs and the health center had a lot less resources than that at Columbia University. For three years I was the sole provider for a mostly uninsured, very diverse student population of 16,000 students. As personally and professionally fulfilling as my work with the wonderful students at Baruch was, the workload was unmanageable.

AN OPPORTUNITY TO GROW

I was initially conflicted about making the transition to corporate health. After working with an underserved population with limited resources, I had to adjust to a much slower clinical workflow and reconcile working with an "over-served" patient population with excellent health benefits — ultimately I decided that this is an opportunity to grow and become proficient in new

areas. I am looking forward to increasing my repertoire of transferable skills in this setting by learning a new electronic medical record system and by moving from novice to expert in Travel Medicine. Becoming an NP has allowed me the flexibility to explore diverse clinical environments and led to an interesting and rewarding career.

— **Juliette G. Blount, ANP**

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