AACN Joins Forces in Unprecedented Response to VA Proposed Rule

Professional nursing and veterans’ organizations held a press conference on June 28 to demonstrate support and highlight the need for the proposed rule by the Veterans Administration (VA) to provide veterans with direct access to Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) practicing to the top of their education and training in VA facilities.

As of that date, more than 44,000 people had submitted comments on the proposed rule, which is by far the highest number of comments for a VA rule since online comment submission was instituted in 2006 – more than six times the total number of comments previously submitted. Over the last 10 years, a combined total of 6,030 comments have been posted during more than 150 VA comment opportunities.

The news conference, held at the National Press Club in Washington, DC, provided in-depth analysis of the proposed rule and included first-hand accounts of how it will benefit veterans and the Veterans Healthcare Administration (VHA) by increasing veterans’ access to health care provided by APRNs.

The organizations that participated in the news conference included AACN, the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists, American Association of Nurse Practitioners, and American Nurses Association, along with the Air Force Sergeants Association (AFSA) and the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA).

The proposed rule impacts the future care of our veterans. Many APRNs complete clinical rotations in the VA, gaining additional exposure to the unique needs of the veteran population. “When the more than 70,000 APRN students enrolled in AACN member nursing schools enter the workforce, allowing them to practice to the full extent of their education and training will serve as a strong incentive for these highly skilled providers to seek employment at VA facilities,” said Dr. Jane M. Kirschling, dean and professor, University of Maryland School of Nursing, and director of interprofessional education, University of Maryland.

Prior to becoming the CEO of the American Nurses Association, Dr. Marla J. Weston worked at the VHA as deputy chief officer. “I personally know the value and contribution that APRNs can make to serve our country’s veterans,” said Dr. Weston. “Our veterans deserve the best care that this country can provide and that requires having APRNs practicing to the full extent of their education and training. We know that when there are not enough nurses, patient mortality goes up.”

More than 60 organizations support this policy change, including veterans’ groups such as the Military Officers Association of America and the Air Force Sergeants Association. The policy is also supported by AARP (whose membership includes 3.7 million veteran households), and 80 Democratic and Republican members of Congress.

To read more about the proposed rule, see AACN’s Government Affairs homepage.
AACN and CDC Announce Recipients of the DNP Evidence-Based Population Health Project Award

The AACN-CDC Academic Partnership Cooperative Agreement was initiated to create opportunities for the higher education community to collectively meet the challenges of improving the population’s health. This program is designed to facilitate the development of qualified, knowledgeable, and experienced students and emerging health professionals for public health practice in governmental, health care, or other settings.

In support of this purpose, AACN and the CDC are pleased to announce the eight recipients of the Doctor of Nursing Practice Evidence-Based Population Health Project award. These eight awards of up to $4,000 will support evidence-based projects contributing to public/population health outcomes. Read more about the recipients and their projects below:

Cynthia Bethel Jaiteh – Northern Kentucky University – The goals of her project are to promote breastfeeding as a healthy feeding choice and the gold standard of infant nutrition, and increase intentions to breastfeed among African-American women by providing breastfeeding friendly prenatal exposure and breastfeeding education.

Marcia Johansson – University of South Florida – This project aims to increase client knowledge of heart failure and improve self-care, which will thereby decrease heart failure readmission rates to the hospital for participants in the program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) in Pinellas, Florida.

Mary Hoft – East Tennessee State University – The purpose of this project is to educate first responders from eight county agencies to identify, provide care, and protect victims of human trafficking. Staff will be trained to identify victims using an evidence-based screening protocol, assess for victims needs and refer for appropriate services, and decide course of action for protecting victims.

Ginny Wurttemberg and Cari McAlister – University of Alabama – The goal of this project is to decrease maternal and neonatal pertussis rates and to increase Tdap vaccinations during the third trimester of pregnancy through community-based education.

Sheryl Aiken – Medical University of South Carolina – The purpose of this project is to investigate the impact of post discharge coaching calls made by nurses on 30-day readmission rates.

Mallory Miner – Idaho State University – The purpose of this project is to pilot test an education program for public health nurses in the use of shared decision making communication strategies to support mutual (nurse and patient) decision making for STD screening during a woman’s wellness exam.

Kala Sugathan – Arizona State University – A pilot program will be conducted in a family practice clinic to evaluate the effectiveness of home visits with supplemental telephonic calls in lowering the rate of readmissions.

Jaytonya Chenelle Manget – Duke University – The goal of this project is to increase student knowledge regarding sexual intercourse and contraceptive options and ultimately delay the age of sexarche and decrease teen pregnancy rates in two areas of Washington, DC through implementing an evidence-based reproductive health curriculum into an all-girls school.

AACN Leaders Among New Fellows of the American Academy of Nursing

Ann Cary, dean of the School of Nursing and Health Studies at the University of Missouri-Kansas City and AACN Board chair-elect (pictured left), and Pamela Malloy, project director for the End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium (ELNEC) (pictured right), are among the 164 highly distinguished nurse leaders selected by the American Academy of Nursing for its 2016 class of Academy fellows. The inductees will be honored at a ceremony to be held during the Academy's annual policy conference, Transforming Health, Driving Policy, which will take place October 20-22, 2016 in Washington, D.C.

AACN congratulates Dr. Cary, Pam, and all the members of the 2016 class of Fellows on their well-deserved honor.
Senators Commended for Legislation Supporting Nursing Workforce Development Programs

AACN applauds Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR) and Senator Richard Burr (R-NC) for introducing the Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act of 2016. This legislation would reauthorize the Nursing Workforce Development Programs through Fiscal Year 2021.

“AACN appreciates that Senator Merkley and Senator Burr have placed a high priority on the sustainability of these programs,” said Dr. Juliann Sebastian, chair of the Board of Directors for AACN. “These programs are a pillar for a number of our member institutions, and for many students Title VIII support means the difference between their ability to enter the nursing profession and not. The Senators’ work to introduce this legislation at a time when the demand for healthcare services continues to grow demonstrates a commitment to the future generations of practicing nurses, nurse faculty, and researchers.”

In addition, the legislation proposes a set of technical changes to align the programs with current nursing practice. Specifically, it identifies and defines the Clinical Nurse Specialist, highlights the Clinical Nurse Leader role, and adds the definition of Nurse-Managed Health Clinics.

“As the husband of a nurse, I know firsthand the critical role that nurses play in all types of medical care,” said Sen. Merkley. “Nurses are the heart of our health care system, and as our nation's demand for health care services continues to rise through the coming decades, it will be essential that we recruit, train and support a robust nursing workforce. This bipartisan bill will help ensure that our federal nursing workforce policies are updated for the 21st century and can help to meet that demand.”

This bill aligns with legislation introduced by Representatives Lois Capps (D-CA) and David Joyce (R-OH) last June, the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act of 2015 (H.R. 2713). The proposed legislation in the House and Senate reflects the continued bicameral and bipartisan fashion in which nursing's Congressional champions have worked to advance sound policy for better healthcare.

AACN joins the Nursing Community, a coalition of 64 national professional nursing organizations, in supporting the Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act of 2016. For more information on Title VIII programs, and to view AACN’s advocacy work on this issue, visit AACN Supported Legislation.

Fall 2016 IPEC Institute Registration – Don’t Delay!

Registration for the October 5–7, 2016 Interprofessional Education Collaborative (IPEC) faculty development institute at the Dulles Hyatt Regency in Herndon, VA has reached half capacity. Faculty teams are invited to come together for a guided learning experience, team-based planning activities, and dedicated time to create actionable plans for implementing an interprofessional education plan. View details on team composition, institute objectives, and program format.

Early bird registration closes on September 6! Those interested in attending are encouraged to register their teams as soon as possible. Team leaders should be identified and register all members of their team at one time.

Register Now!

Questions? Contact IPEC Associate Director Shelley McKearney at smcckearney@aacn.nche.edu.
1) What is the mission of AcademyHealth and who are your members?

AcademyHealth works with over 4,000 individual and organizational members to improve health and the performance of the health system. We do this by promoting the development and use of evidence to inform decision-making by policymakers and health system leaders. Our members are incredibly diverse and include researchers, clinicians, nurses and other health professionals, delivery system leaders, and state and federal policymakers, to name a few. About one-quarter are students in graduate programs of various kinds. While there’s strong representation from academic researchers, increasing numbers of our members work in the private sector, everything from in-house analysts to data scientists to consultants. Members gather along areas of shared interest, and one of our most active Interest Groups is focused on nursing issues. We also have about 165 organizational affiliate members, representing those same sectors. Our organizational affiliates are critical partners in our advocacy for the field and the development of educational and career building resources for our members.

2) What are your organization’s top priorities?

The two pillars that define us are, first, to increase the production of rigorous and relevant knowledge and second, to move that knowledge into policy and practice to improve health and health care. To get there, we’re focused on building a strong, vibrant community of researchers and research consumers, and on ensuring that sufficient support – funding, data, and training – exists to ensure the field is ready and able to answer critical questions. Another important aspect of that focus is our work to improve the diversity of the health services research and health policy workforce – from race, ethnicity and gender to training, discipline and work setting, even political identity. The more diverse our field is, the more relevant our questions become and the more robust and rigorous our evidence is.

We’re also looking at how we pivot to reflect the changing environment for research. How our field does research – from the use of new data sources to the movement to open science – is changing. How do we work with patients and consumers as partners in research? How do we do a better job of translating our work so that non-research audiences can use it to improve decision making? These are critical questions for AcademyHealth and the field.

3) What is health services research?

At its most basic, health services research is research that helps us understand what is and is not working in our health system and then design and test interventions to improve care. How do we improve health outcomes, care more accessible and of higher quality, and how do we do all that while addressing the costs of care so that people, communities and our nation can realize the greatest health outcomes at the best value.

4) Are nurses well-represented in this area of research?

Absolutely. We have amazing nurse leaders in the field, including three members of the AcademyHealth Board of Directors. I mentioned the incredible Interest Group within our membership, and beyond that you’ll find nurses in
10 QUESTIONS continued from page 4

almost every realm of health services research. From child health services research to quality and value, nurse researchers are making significant contributions to our understanding of how to make healthcare better, more accessible and more efficient. Just last month we presented one of our highest awards—the Distinguished Investigator Award—to Dr. Mary Naylor, who has done amazing work aimed at improving care for the elderly in vulnerable communities.

5) Has health services research changed since you began as president and CEO at AcademyHealth?

Health services research has changed so much. The explosion of new data sources, the open data and transparency movements, even the way we publish and disseminate our work have all evolved. It’s an incredible time to be in this field. Those changes aren’t all easy – open science for one is a major shift for many; but I think the field is uniquely situated to adjust to a changing environment: the multidisciplinary and collaborative nature of our work, our facility with complex data, and even more complex questions. These serve us well in an evolving ecosystem of research and policymaking. But to remain relevant, we have to do a better job of communicating our work. That’s an area where AcademyHealth is spending a lot of time, both through our Translation and Dissemination Institute and in our own efforts to communicate what we do to the public and policymakers.

6) How does AcademyHealth support nursing issues?

Issues of importance to nurses are throughout our work and services. I mentioned the Interest Group – it’s formal name is the Interdisciplinary Research Group on Nursing Issues. We also have an Interest Group on Healthcare Workforce and nurses are a big part of their membership and regularly present on nursing topics at their annual meeting. Other interest groups where nursing issues come up regularly are the Quality and Value Interest Group, the Long Term Services and Supports Interest Group and one of our newest ones, the Surgical and Perioperative Care Interest Group.

7) Is it possible for nursing deans and faculty to be involved in AcademyHealth?

Absolutely! Anyone can be a member, and all members can participate in the nursing issues Interest Group for free. Deans and faculty can also work with our membership team to establish student chapters of AcademyHealth that expose their students to professional opportunities in the field. Of the 26 student chapters we currently have, only one is in a School of Nursing – we would love to have more! Most are in schools of public health or medicine. And of course there are many leadership opportunities as well. Our Board vice-chair is Robin Newhouse, dean of nursing at Indiana University-Purdue University! We plan several annual events for different segments of our membership in addition to our flagship meeting, the Annual Research Meeting. We are always looking for volunteers to help us plan these events. Membership also conveys opportunities to access a course syllabi database, funding opportunities database and serve as abstract reviewers and on other committees that expand your professional network and give you a first look at promising research.

8) What is the best way for nurses to stay informed of AcademyHealth’s activities?

Becoming a member is the best way to stay informed. You can also follow us on Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn.

Simmons College to Host NursingCAS Learning & Networking Day

Do you serve on an admissions committee, chair a program, interview applicants, or help with recruitment? If so, please join us at the NursingCAS Learning & Networking Day at Simmons College in Boston, MA to learn more about the centralized application service, connect with colleagues, and share best practices. This free event is open to current and prospective users, click here to learn more and RSVP.

9) What are AcademyHealth’s goals for the near future?

Right now, our focus is on building the field and expanding membership value, increasing diversity, and advocating for health services research funding. We also have major initiatives in the health data space.

10) What challenges are ahead for health services research?

I think it comes down to three things. First, is figuring out how we do a better job of communicating the evidence our field generates to those who need it in a crowded and partisan space. Research that isn’t used isn’t valued; and research that isn’t valued isn’t funded. Second is the complexity that comes with our expanding definition of ‘data’ – from newly available public data to patient reported data and non-traditional data sources related to a culture of health like housing or crime statistics. Third, and maybe the most important is the challenge of open science and, related to that, how we evaluate the impact of our work. We need to understand what this means for both quality and quantity of work produced.
Endowed Associate Dean for Nursing

Georgetown University’s School of Nursing & Health Studies is known for its innovative, values-based approach to education. Building upon a 113-year history in nursing education, the incumbent will lead efforts to craft the future-facing agenda for the nursing program at Georgetown University.

The Endowed Associate Dean for Nursing will serve as the chief academic nursing officer of the School. This newly created position includes administration of the departments of Advanced Nursing Practice and Professional Nursing Practice and reports to the School’s Dean.

The position is ideally suited for a mid-career nurse leader with a strong track record of academic administration at the department chair or assistant/associate dean level. Additional Qualifications include: Earned PhD degree in nursing. Meets the qualifications for tenure at the rank of Professor. Eligible for an RN license in DC. A portfolio that displays sustained excellence and strong achievement in research, scholarship, and teaching. Ability to maintain a program of research in addition to an administrative-heavy management role. Skilled leader who will identify goals in teaching experience in higher education. The SON has
collaborates with others to oversee and support processes related to Appointment, Promotion, and Tenure, sabbaticals, etc.; serves as the IUSON link to regulatory agencies; maintains an evaluation system for monitoring, facilitating and evaluating academic operations; establishes productivity and workload standards; ensures recruitment and retention of qualified and diverse faculty including leadership of the search process; and other related duties.

Qualified applicants must hold an earned doctorate [PhD] in nursing or a related field with a Master’s in nursing, and be eligible for or currently hold a license to practice nursing in California. The successful candidate will possess administrative educational leadership experience and an established, substantial research program with evidence of teaching effectiveness. This position reports to the Director of the School of Nursing and is responsible for overseeing the educational programs of the SON. Experience in educational leadership is required.

Salary and benefits are competitive and are commensurate with experience and academic preparation. The School supports the teacher-scholar model that emphasizes teaching and research.

SDSU SON offers the following programs: generic baccalaureate, RN to BSN, and Master’s degree. We are seeking applicants with expertise in leadership and curriculum management. The SON has dynamic educational programs, uses creative

Continued on page 7
and innovative teaching methods, and offers research opportunities and support in acquiring funding. The School of Nursing offers graduate concentrations in Advanced Practice Nursing of Adults and Elderly (NP/CNS), Nursing Leadership in Health Care Systems, and Nurse-Midwifery/Women’s Health Care Nurse Practitioner. See our website at [http://nursing.sdsu.edu](http://nursing.sdsu.edu) for more information.

San Diego State University is the largest University in San Diego and the third largest in California. SDSU is currently designated as a Doctoral / Research-Intensive University by the Carnegie Foundation and has been named on the Faculty Scholarly Productivity Index as the No. 1 small research university in the nation. Additional information about the University is available at [http://www.sdsu.edu](http://www.sdsu.edu).

Apply via Interfolio at [http://apply.interfolio.com/35460](http://apply.interfolio.com/35460). We anticipate beginning applicant review in September 2016. The position will remain open until it is filled. For questions, please contact Dr. Willa Fields at wfields@mail.sdsu.edu. SDSU is a Title IX, equal opportunity employer.

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**SOUTHERN VERMONT UNIVERSITY**

**Division of Nursing – BSN Program**

Seeking clinical experts who share our passion for teaching in a student-centered BSN, CCNE accredited program. Full time positions are available for the 2016-2017 academic year.

Full Time (2):

- Adult Health/Medical-Surgical Nursing Faculty. Responsibilities include teaching didactic and/or clinical components of adult-health/medical-surgical nursing courses. Clinical sites include Berkshire Medical Center and Southern Vermont Medical Center.
- Nursing Simulation Lab Coordinator/ Clinical Faculty. Responsibilities include oversight of high and low-fidelity simulation labs; development and teaching of creative, high quality simulation experiences in collaboration with course faculty; and, clinical teaching in the area of clinical expertise.

Qualifications:

- Master of Science in Nursing and eligibility for licensure to practice in the States of Vermont and Massachusetts. Demonstrated clinical competence and expertise in area of specialty. Professional engagement and presentation required. Teaching experience in a BSN program preferred. Doctoral preparation preferred.

To Apply:

E-mail a letter of interest, current resume, and the names and contact information of 3 professional references to Human Resources at jobs@svc.edu. Application review will begin immediately. Positions will remain open until filled.

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**VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY**

**School of Nursing Faculty Positions**

Vanderbilt University School of Nursing (VUSN) invites applications for a full-time faculty position in the Master of Science in Nursing and Doctor of Nursing Practice programs. With the exception of the Genetics DNP Fellowship Program, all the positions are in the MSN program. However, opportunities may be available to teach in other courses in the MSN, DNP, or pre-licensure programs in addition to clinical practice prospects. These positions are a 12-month non-tenure appointment at the title/rank of Assistant Professor or higher. Scholarship related to advanced practice is expected.

Faculty Openings in the following specialties:

- Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner
- Neonatal Nurse Practitioner
- Pediatric Nurse Practitioner - Acute Care
- Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (Lifespan)
- Women’s Health Nurse Practitioner
- Genetics faculty in DNP fellowship program: This is through a collaboration with the Pediatric Department at the Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt. Applicants must have expertise in clinical genetics, medical genomics, and metabolic disorders.

**Qualifications:**

- A doctorate in nursing or related field
- National board certification
- An unencumbered license as a registered nurse and advanced practice nurse in Tennessee or eligibility to obtain licensure in Tennessee
- Three years high-quality formal teaching experience in an advanced practice program preferred
- Substantive advanced practice clinical experience with five years preferred

Apply at [http://www.nursing.vanderbilt.edu/facultystaff/employopp.html](http://www.nursing.vanderbilt.edu/facultystaff/employopp.html). Inquiries are confidential.

**VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY, AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER.**

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WINONA STATE UNIVERSITY

Winona, MN

Winona State University invites you to join our Community of Learners as an Assistant Professor of Adult Health Nursing. This position is a fixed-term/9 month appointment with the possibility of renewal up to 4 years depending upon departmental need and budget. As a faculty member, you will be responsible for instruction, scholarship, continuing professional development, contributions to student development, and service with an emphasis in adult health nursing in a variety of settings in Winona and surrounding areas. Additional duties include (1) classroom, laboratory, and/or simulation instruction; (2) clinical supervision of undergraduate students; (3) academic advising; (4) committee participation in a baccalaureate CCNE accredited nursing program; and (5) use of computer and educational technology to enhance instruction. Minimum qualifications for this position are (1) a graduate degree in nursing from a CCNE or NLN accredited program or an international equivalent; (2) licensed as a Registered Nurse with current registration or eligible for licensure in MN and WI; (3) a minimum of 3 years nursing experience with at least 2 years acute care and/or transitional care adult health; and (4) CPR certification and up-to-date immunization, including influenza. Official academic transcripts and a background check will be required prior to appointment (8/15/2016). For a complete job description and information on applying for this position, please go to http://agency.governmentjobs.com/winona. Review of applications begins immediately.

WSU is a member of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System and is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

Tenure-Track Nursing Position

The College of Nursing of the University of Texas of the Permian Basin is seeking a full-time, 9-month, on-campus, PhD prepared faculty to teach and develop/participate in a program of research and scholarship. Qualifications include:

- PhD in nursing
- Recent effective practice experience or classroom teaching at the baccalaureate level or higher
- Unencumbered license and eligibility to practice in the state of Texas
- Demonstrated ability to work as a valued member of a team
- Dedication to preparing students for caring, scholarship, and innovation/imagination in nursing care and leadership
- Participation on college and university committees; provide service to the community and the profession

Applicants should send letter of interest and curriculum vita via email jackson_d@utpb.edu addressed to:

Dorothy Jackson, PhD, RN, Dean, The University of Texas of the Permian Basin
College of Nursing, 4901 E. University, Odessa, Texas 79762

Questions may be directed to the Office of the Dean by phone at 432.552.2560. EOE
Opportunities

Take advantage of the summer and view AACN’s Webinar Archives for free and earn your continuing nursing education credits! All Webinars are available at no charge to any AACN member including deans, faculty, staff, and students from AACN member schools. Visit the AACN website for full details!

AACN CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

**Faculty Development Conference**

November 16-17, 2016  
Hilton Anaheim | Anaheim, CA  
Call Opens: August 1, 2016  
Due Date: September 2, 2016

**Baccalaureate Education Conference**

November 17-19, 2016  
Anaheim Marriott | Anaheim, CA  
Call Opens: August 1, 2016  
Due Date: September 2, 2016

For more information, please visit the Call for Abstracts page.  
If you have questions, contact Kristin Downs,  
Conference Coordinator, kdowns@aacn.nche.edu.

ABOUT SYLLABUS

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