

ABNS and ABSNC Quarterly Member Update

Spring 2016

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ABNS News & Announcements

The Value of Certification: Building the Business Case for Certification

More than 100 experts in health care, academia, and professional certification gathered in Las Vegas in March to discuss *The Value of Certification: Building the Business Case for Certification*. The purpose of the convening built on existing research on the value of certification, particularly the Institute for Medicine (IOM) Workshop on Credentialing Research.

Through a work group-based discussion facilitated by Stratford Managers, the attendees (representing multi-disciplinary partners from nursing, radiology, pharmacy, occupational therapy, dietetics, osteopathic medicine, physicians and others) built consensus on four research priorities relevant to the value of specialty certification for patients, health care providers, employers, educators, and multidisciplinary health care teams. The research priorities identified by the participants during the convening are:

- Certification improves the recruitment and retention of qualified nurses, enhances their employability and potential job prospects.
- Certification is recognized validation of knowledge in the specialty.
- Certification improves organizational culture of health care delivery, job satisfaction, empowerment and confidence.
- Certification advances safety, improves processes of care, and improves quality of care.

The Value Convening Planning Group will evaluate the results of the meeting and distribute the meeting summary. The meeting participants will determine how to implement a series of specific projects to respond to the identified research priorities. Information on the Value Convening, including slide presentations, meeting objectives, partner organizations and a sponsor listing can be found at <http://www.nursingcertification.org/spring-2016-value-convening-meeting/>.

ABNS Announces New Leadership in 2016

ABNS announced new leadership during the Spring 2016 meeting in Las Vegas. Laurie Ellefson (WOCNCB) joins the Board of Directors as a Member-at-Large and Denise Knoblauch (ABOHN) joins Adele Foerster (PNCB) on the Nominations and Elections Committee. The new leaders will begin their terms July 1, 2016.

Laurie Ellefson, BSN, RN, CWOCN, CFCN, elected as Member-at-Large to the ABNS Board of Directors, is a faculty member at the Western Technical College Faculty Nursing Assistant Program. In this role, she provides face-to-face instruction in the Nursing Assistant Program and participates in curriculum development. For the Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nursing Certification Board (WOCNCB), she has previously served in a number of leadership roles, including President, President Elect and Immediate Past President of the Board of Directors, Liaison to the Item Review and Foot Care Committees and Foot Care Committee Chair. In 2005, she earned the Certified Foot Care Nurse credential, followed by the Certified Wound Ostomy Continence Nurse credential in 2006, each from the WOCNCB.

The ABNS membership elected Denise Knoblauch, BSN RN COHN-S/CM to the 2016 ABNS Nominations and Elections Committee. Knoblauch is the Executive Director of the American Board of Occupational Health Nurses (ABOHN) where she manages the organization's credentialing process, strategic planning and other certification and research matters. She has served in a variety of relevant leadership roles, including: Executive Secretary, Executive Vice President, President, President Emeritus and Education Committee Co-Chair, Illinois Chapter President and Vice President for Association of Occupational Health Professionals in Healthcare (AOHP); Chapter Director for American Association of Occupational Health Nurses (AAOHN); and Case Management Advisory Board chair for ABOHN.

Returning to the Nominations and Elections Committee is Adele Foerster, MSN, RN, CPNP-PC/AC. Foerster is the Chief Credentialing Officer for the Pediatric Nursing Certification Board (PNCB) where she manages and maintains the organization's certification exams and continuing education products, as well as other key strategic initiatives. Previously she has served with the Maryland Chesapeake Chapter of National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP) as Program Committee member, President and Legislative Chairperson. In 2001 she earned the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Primary Care (CPNP-PC) credential, followed by the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Acute Care (CPNP-AC) in 2004.

ABNS welcomes our new volunteer leaders!

ABNS Congratulates the Award Recipients

During the Spring 2016 ABNS Business Meeting held in Las Vegas prior to the Value of Certification Convening, ABNS announced the recipients of the Janel Parker President's Award and the Award for Nursing Certification Advocacy.

Janel Parker President's Award

The Competency & Credentialing Institute (CCI) received the 2016 Janel Parker President's Award for its dedication to and leadership in advancing research in the specialty nursing certification field. CCI has a long-

standing strategic research focus in the industry. To support its goal, the organization has lead or participated in a variety of activities to advance a collaborative environment in which research can succeed. CCI volunteers have served on the ABNS Research Committee and planning groups for industry-wide events discussing and supporting research.

In 2009, CCI served as a lead sponsor of the ABNS/CCI Nursing Certification & Competency Summit. The outcome of the summit was identification of research priorities that served as a springboard for further projects conducted by CCI, the American Board of Perianesthesia Nursing Certification, Inc. (ABPANC) and the National Database of Nursing Quality Indicators™ (NDNQI®).

CCI was also recognized for developing the Perceived Value of Certification Tool (PVCT), a survey instrument used to measure nurses' perceptions of the intrinsic and extrinsic rewards for certification. The PVCT has been used extensively within ABNS membership of organizations offering specialty nurse certifications. The instrument has been administered to more than 25,000 certified and non-certified nurses in a variety of specialties. The use of the PVCT has recently moved beyond nursing and has been implemented in studies measuring the value of certification among certified professionals in other industries.

Award for Nursing Certification Advocacy

The Awards and Recognition Committee recognized Americare Critical Care Transport in Dumont, NJ as the recipient of the 2016 Award for Nursing Certification Advocacy. Currently, Americare employs 12 registered nurses (RNs) who have obtained at least one Board Certification in Critical Care, with five other nurses who have earned two board certifications in the specialty of Critical Care and an additional nurse having recently achieved three specialty board certifications, a first for the organization. Americare's administrative staff, including its managers and directors, also hold Critical Care certification—including certification in other nursing specialties—as certification is greatly weighted during Americare's promotional and hiring activities.

Americare has implemented a variety of strategies to help its staff obtain and maintain certification through providing financial reimbursement for all certification, recertification, and continuing education fees, as well as no-cost review materials and programs. Employees are provided paid leave for exams resulting in a passing grade and for time needed to complete continuing education requirements.

Certification accomplishments are featured at Americare's biannual dinner, recognizing important employee contributions. Certificants are also rewarded through small bonuses and letters of recognition, and their achievement is further recognized through commemorative plaques, staff certification boards and on ID badges, scrubs and other professional attire. Americare also highlights its uniquely trained nursing staff at organizational trainings and important community events, such as job fairs and relevant nursing events.

The Committee also recognized the University of North Carolina Hospitals, where more than a third of its nurses have obtained specialty nursing certification, including 100 percent of their nursing managers. UNC Hospitals provide certificants with reimbursement for certification fees, paid time off for exam day, and updated review tools, including a "Certification Library," with more than 160 study resources covering 20 specialty certification exams. In the first two years of existence, UNC Hospitals invested more than \$8,000 in the library, supporting the certification efforts of nearly 200 people.

UNC Hospitals also offers a “new nurse orientation,” during which the Nursing Certification Committee discusses the value of certification, and how new employees can take advantage of the organization’s willingness to support their certification journey.

Congratulations to this year’s recipients!

Recognition of Member Anniversaries and Milestones

ABNS recognized the following organizations and presented them with a certificate during the March ABNS business meeting for anniversaries or major program milestones:

- The American Board of Perianesthesia Nursing Certification, Inc. (ABPANC) celebrating the 30th anniversary of its CPAN credential;
- The American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) celebrating the 40th anniversary of the following certification programs: Adult Clinical Nurse Specialist, Family Nurse Practitioner, Adult Nurse Practitioner, and Medical –Surgical Nursing, and the 15th anniversary of the Pediatric Clinical Nurse Specialist certification program; and
- The Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation (ONCC) celebrating its 30th anniversary!

Save the Date for the Fall 2016 ABNS Assembly Meeting

The Fall 2016 ABNS Assembly Meeting is scheduled for October 7-8, 2016 at the Hyatt Rosemont Near O’Hare, Rosemont, IL. The Meeting Registration Form will be posted on the ABNS website in May, 2016. The ABSNC Board of Directors meeting will be held on Thursday, October 6.

ABNS Launches New Award in Honor of Bonnie Niebuhr, MS, CAE

The ABNS and ABSNC Boards of Directors announced a new award established in honor of Bonnie Niebuhr, MS, CAE, who will retire as the ABNS and ABSNC CEO in June 2016. The *Bonnie Niebuhr Innovation Award* is designed to support projects by member organizations that advance the ABNS and ABSNC Mission and Vision. The award honors the many contributions Bonnie Niebuhr has made to ABNS, ABSNC, and the larger credentialing and specialty nurse certification communities. In the coming months, the Awards Committee will develop the award description and criteria. More information about the award will be posted on the [ABNS website](#).

ABSNC News & Announcements

Election of Two ABSNC Board Members

At the March 2016 ABSNC Business meeting, held in conjunction with the ABNS meeting, two new members of the Board were elected to serve a three-year term of office: Bridget Wilson, MSN, RN, FNP-BC, CNRN, representing ABNN, and Patricia Kurz, RN, BSN, MPS, CMSRN, representing MSNCB. They begin their term on July 1, 2016.

Patricia, from New York, is a current member of the MSNCB Board of Directors, have served as Secretary from 2011-2013. She has held the Certified Medical-Surgical Registered Nurse (CMSRN) credential since 2006. As a seasoned leader, she has served as the Interim Senior Vice President and CNO at the Good Samaritan Hospital Medical Center, West Islip, New York as well as their Director of Medial Surgical Nursing from 2005 – 2012.

Bridget, from California, is a current member of the ABNN Board of Directors, serving as Secretary/Treasurer. She holds the Family Nurse Practitioner certification credential given by ANCC and the CNRN certification conferred by ABNN. She is employed by the UC Davis Health System in Sacramento, CA.

ABSNC looks forward to the leadership they will bring to the accreditation process.

ABSNC announces the release of the Accreditation Standards for Assessment-Based Certificate Programs

The ABSNC Board of Directors has posted the newly created Accreditation Standards for Assessment-Based Certificate Programs on the ABNS/ABSNC website. Public review and comment on these standards is requested and are due by **May 5**.

Helpful Accreditation Tips When Submitting an Accreditation Application

1. Test any hyperlinks or bookmarks that have been created to be sure they work before submitting your application!
2. There is no need to repeat in the Narrative of each Standard what is plainly written in documentation provided, such as a policy. Just reference the document, i.e., policy and provide a link to the relevant text.
3. Organizations seeking initial accreditation or reaccreditation often struggle with documentation for Standard 18 – Quality Improvement. The evidence submitted needs to show the process of the organization’s discovery of a problem/opportunity for improvement, how this was reported to the board, what action was taken, and how the action worked to resolve the problem or take advantage of the opportunity to improve. Documentation might include minutes from meetings where such a problem or opportunity for improvement was discussed and minutes showing any approval of change in policy, or a new procedure that is implemented to deal with the issue.