Record Interest in AACN’s Student Policy Summit

AACN would like to thank its member schools and their students for the overwhelming interest in AACN’s 2015 Student Policy Summit! The 2015 Summit, which will take place on March 22-24 in Washington, DC, reached full capacity within just one week after announcing the opening of registration. At this time, AACN can only accept applications for the waitlist. With over 630 baccalaureate and graduate students from AACN member schools having attended the Summit over the past five years, AACN is pleased to offer this opportunity as a commitment to developing future generations of policy and advocacy leaders for the nursing profession.

The Student Policy Summit is open exclusively to baccalaureate and graduate nursing students enrolled at AACN member institutions. This year’s registration was expanded to 200 students, up from 135 students in previous years, to help meet the strong demand for this program. Students who attend the Summit are immersed in dynamic program sessions focused on the federal policy process and nursing’s role in professional advocacy. For more information about the 2015 Student Policy Summit, including a draft agenda and waitlist details, visit: http://www.aacn.nche.edu/government-affairs/student-policy-summit.

Interested in sponsoring the 2015 Summit? Sponsorship opportunities are still available and help ensure that the cost of attendance is reasonable for member students. Learn more about sponsorship packages here: http://www.aacn.nche.edu/government-affairs/2015-SPS-Sponsorship.pdf.

Mark Your Calendar! Join Us for AACN’s Virtual Advocacy Day on Monday, October 27, 2014

AACN will be hosting its Virtual Advocacy Day on Monday, October 27, 2014. AACN’s Grassroots Network members are urged to participate in this virtual advocacy effort alongside AACN member deans and directors attending the 2014 Fall Semiannual Meeting in Washington, DC. AACN will send an email to its membership and Grassroots Network requesting that advocates contact their federal legislators to support for nursing education, research, and practice in upcoming decisions surrounding federal appropriations.

With over 11,000 AACN member deans/directors, faculty, students, practicing nurses, and other stakeholders, AACN’s Grassroots Network comprises a vital component of the association’s work to promote the profession’s voice into the forefront of the policy realm. This call to action is a critical response to the threat of potential cuts that discretionary funding—including funding for nursing and healthcare programs—face in light of the current fiscal climate. As Congress
continues to work toward a legislative solution for Fiscal Year (FY) 2015, it is imperative that AACN members ask their Senators and Representatives to prioritize programs that impact the nursing workforce and the patients it serves. After AACN advocates send a virtual advocacy message, they will have the opportunity to share details about their efforts on Twitter. AACN appreciates all that our Grassroots Network members do to support programs and legislation that advance our profession and the health of our patients.


Additionally, AACN will be hosting a *Reception to Celebrate Nursing Education: Join the Social Media Trend* at the National Press Club on the evening of Monday, October 27. AACN members in attendance of the Fall Meeting are invited to join a Twitter campaign to Tweet about issues including the 50th Anniversary of the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development programs. AACN is pleased to have the support of Florida International University (FIU) Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences at this event. FIU will be sponsoring a room at the National Press Club during AACN’s reception and will ask members to Tweet about the Campaign for APRN Consensus through its [Nursing Academia ACTIVATE](http://www.aacn.nche.edu/government-affairs/take-action) social media campaign.

**AACN Goes to Capitol Hill during Rally for Medical Research**

On September 17-18, 2014, AACN participated in the *Rally for Medical Research Capitol Hill Day* in Washington, DC. AACN was one of over 200 organizations who collectively called upon Congress to make funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) a national priority and provide first-hand insight on how investments in NIH translate into discoveries that improve the quality and quantity of patients’ lives. Given the direct impact that the funding pipeline has on the research community and the broader healthcare system, the coalition urged Congress to strengthen investment in NIH to restore its purchasing power. Over 300 individuals representing these national organizations met with more than 200 Congressional offices.

AACN staff and Valerie Dernetz, a doctoral nursing student at the University of Maryland whose research focuses on chronic urogenital pain disorders in women, discussed with Congressional staff how strong support for NIH, including the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR), is critical to sustaining and strengthening healthcare science and delivery. AACN is a proud sponsor of the Rally for Medical Research and was honored to represent nursing’s voice in this event.

**New GNSA Policy Committee Selects Members to Serve As Student Leaders**

AACN is excited to announce the seven graduate students selected to serve on AACN’s Graduate Nursing Student Academy (GNSA) Policy Committee. Members of this committee will receive support to become highly-skilled advocates and learn about the essential tools for effective advocacy. The GNSA received 106 applications for the seven-member committee, making the selection process highly competitive. These graduate students will have the opportunity to enhance their professional development and acquire the necessary knowledge and skills to be effective policy and advocacy leaders for nursing. Members will serve a one-year term and will work collaboratively
with GNSA and government affairs staff to: amplify AACN’s policy and advocacy messages; participate in quarterly conference calls; and contribute insight to help inform AACN’s advocacy efforts.

Members of the inaugural GNSA Policy Committee include:

- **Teresa Hagan**
  - Doctoral Student
  - University of Pittsburgh

- **Marlena Fisher**
  - Master’s Student
  - Saint Xavier University

- **Sheba Kuriakose**
  - Doctoral Student
  - University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston

- **Daniel Ochylski**
  - Doctoral Student
  - University of Michigan

- **Onome Henry Osokpo**
  - Doctoral Student
  - Stony Brook University

- **Anne Rendeiro**
  - Doctoral Student
  - University of California, Irvine

- **Shelly Tran**
  - Master’s Student
  - Georgetown University

To learn more about the members of the GNSA Policy Committee, click [here](#).

If you are a graduate student at an AACN member school and would like more information on the GNSA, please visit the [GNSA webpage](http://gnsa.aacn.nche.edu/).

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**Additional Investment in the National Health Service Corps to Strengthen Primary Care Access**

On October 9, 2014, Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Sylvia Burwell announced an additional $283 million-dollar investment for the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) to help increase access to primary care for communities in need. Regarding this additional funding, which will help to support a greater number of health providers in underserved areas, Secretary Burwell stated, “These investments are another example of how the law is working to deliver accessible, affordable, quality care.” Mary Wakefield, PhD, RN, Administrator at the Health Resources and Service Administration, additionally commented, “In fiscal year 2014, we provided more than 5,100 loan repayment and scholarship awards to clinicians and students, and grants to 38 states to support state loan repayment programs.”

Since 1972, the NHSC has been linking primary care providers to some of the nation’s most underserved areas. Providers in nursing, medical, dental, mental, and behavioral health are all collaborating in this initiative. The NHSC provides scholarship and loan repayment services to care providers who agree to serve in limited access areas. Today, over 9,200 clinicians, including nurses, are providing care to more than 9.7 million underserved patients across the nation. To read the full announcement, please click [here](http://nhsc.hrsa.gov/index.html). For more information on the NHSC and scholarship opportunities please visit: [http://nhsc.hrsa.gov/index.html](http://nhsc.hrsa.gov/index.html).
NIH and CDC Working to Address Ebola

According to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Director’s Blog, recent efforts of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease (NIAID) to address the recent Ebola outbreak include working to develop treatments and a vaccine to prevent further spread of the virus. NIAID has collaborated and supported outside companies toward this endeavor, including Mapp Biopharmaceutical, Inc. to manufacture an experimental product to treat Ebola-infected patients, and the Department of Defense on human safety studies surrounding possible vaccination. Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, Director of NIAID, states:

*During this extremely serious outbreak of Ebola virus disease in West Africa, we must balance the urgent desire to deploy experimental countermeasures with the need to ensure safety and determine the efficacy of the products. We would not want to introduce products, particularly preventive measures for healthy, uninfected individuals, if they are ineffective or even harmful. “*

Randomized, controlled clinical trials remain the “gold standard” for the evaluation of candidate drugs and vaccines because they represent the most efficient way to prove efficacy and safety. This is an imperative for any intervention delivered to healthy individuals. As we proceed through clinical testing, NIH will continue to work with our partners at BARDA, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and elsewhere to accelerate efforts to develop and provide access to Ebola vaccines and treatments in a manner that is both scientifically and ethically sound.

Learn more about NIAID’s current work to address Ebola here.

On October 14, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) held a teleconference on how U.S. Hospitals can take proper precautions to safely treat and transport patients who are suspected or diagnosed with Ebola. Key officials from CDC, Emory Healthcare, and Nebraska Medical Center explained procedures and protocols for preventing the transmission of the virus. To view the slides that accompanied the teleconference discussion, click here.

HRSA Webinar on Interprofessional Education

The Health Resources and Service Administration in collaboration with the National Center present *Measuring the Impact: Evaluating Interprofessional Education and Care in the Community Clinical Setting*. Join experts Jennifer Morton, DNP, MPH, APHN, Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Nursing at the University of New England and Susan Kimble, DNP, RN, ANP-BC, Clinical Associate Professor & Program Director of MSN and DNP Programs at the University of Missouri, Kansas City, as they discuss lessons learned while studying interprofessional education and collaborative practice (IPECP). More specifically, the presenters will:

- Illustrate how National Center resources can be used to support IPECP studies
- Share how program plans, including evaluation, translate across various demographics
- Describe attributes that contribute to a high-functioning interprofessional team
- Describe how an interprofessional student interface is beneficial to a clinical partner’s organizational culture
- Showcase the linking of isolated IPECP effort.

The webinar will be aired on **Thursday, October 16, 2014 from 11:00am-12:00pm CDT**. To sign up for the webinar please visit: [https://nexusipe.wufoo.com/forms/zzdi09317i6f3k/](https://nexusipe.wufoo.com/forms/zzdi09317i6f3k/).
PCORI Accepting Public Comment on Proposal for Peer Review of Primary Research

Last month, the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) released its draft report Getting the Word Out: PCORI’s Proposal for Peer Review of Primary Research and Public Release of Research Findings. The document “outlines PCORI proposed process for fulfilling its statutory mandate to develop and implement a process for peer-reviewing its primary research and making research findings publicly available in a form and format useful to patients, clinicians, and others.”

The agency is now accepting public comment on the proposal through Friday, November 7, 2014. After consideration of received comments, PCORI will submit an updated draft for its Board to approve in early 2015. Click here for more information on how to provide and submit comments.

Palliative Care Briefing Examines How Nursing Can Strengthen End-of-Life Care

On September 18, 2014, AACN attended a Congressional briefing “Palliative Care and the Role of the Oncology Nurse.” Hosted by the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) on Capitol Hill, the briefing centered around two main policy issues: improving education about palliative care and decision-making at the end of life for patients and their families, and strengthening the palliative healthcare provider workforce. These topics are timely in light of the Institute of Medicine's 2014 report, Dying in America: Improving Quality and Honoring Individual Preferences Near the End of Life, which supports the need for palliative care education that could help relieve the healthcare system of factors that hamper delivery of high-quality care near the end of life. During the briefing, Dr. Laura Fennimore, DNP, RN, Director of Clinical Programs at UPMC Health Plan in Pittsburgh, PA discussed how the high incidence of cancer in our nation presents the need for palliative care to alleviate pain, stress, and suffering, and necessitates the awareness and utilization of palliative care in patients with cancer diagnoses toward the end-of-life.

Committed to expanding the education of nurses and other health professionals in the delivery of safe, high-quality, and appropriate end-of-life care, AACN administers the End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium (ELNEC), a national initiative to improve palliative care. To date, over 19,000 nurses and other healthcare professionals in all 50 states have received training through ELNEC national courses. For more information, please visit our website.

AACN’s 2015 Faculty Policy Intensive Accepting Applications

AACN is currently accepting applications for its third annual Faculty Policy Intensive (FPI) set to take place on March 23-26, 2015 in Washington, DC. This fully-funded, four-day immersion program is designed for faculty from AACN member schools who are interested in actively pursuing a role in healthcare policy. The FPI offers participants the opportunity to enhance existing knowledge of policy and advocacy through sessions that will strengthen understanding of the legislative process and the dynamic relationships between federal departments and agencies, national nursing organizations, and the individual advocate. At the conclusion of the intensive, participants will put their new advocacy skills to use as AACN Faculty Policy Fellows. Applications are due by 5:00pm ET on Monday, November 24, 2014. For more information about FPI, including a draft agenda and application details, visit: http://www.aacn.nche.edu/government-affairs/fpi.