

# The CNL<sup>®</sup> Bulletin

## Fall/Winter 2010



The CNL Bulletin, an online newsletter of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) and the Commission on Nurse Certification (CNC), features the latest news and information on the Clinical Nurse Leader<sup>SM</sup> (CNL) initiative and the CNL<sup>®</sup> Certification Program.

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### 2011 CNL Summit

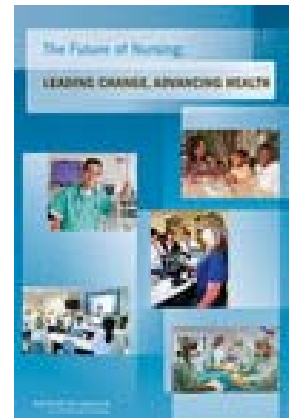
More than 400 nurse faculty, deans, chief nurse officers, physicians, practicing CNLs, and students are expected to attend the 2011 CNL Summit, January 20-22 at the Marriott Biscayne Bay in Miami, FL. Sponsored by AACN in partnership with the Veteran's Health Administration Office of Nursing Services and Employee Education System, the Summit provides a forum for all healthcare and academic audiences currently implementing or interested in exploring the CNL role. Conference topics include the impact and value of the CNL role on improving patient outcomes, implementation of the role within partnerships, using CNLs to advance focus on quality and safety initiatives, CNL education, and healthcare reform's implications for CNL practice.

The deadline for early registration is **January 7, 2011**. Late fees will apply to registrations received after **January 7**. For more information, go to <http://www.aacn.nche.edu/Conferences/11CNL.htm> or contact Horacio Oliveira, CNL Project Coordinator, at [holiveir@aacn.nche.edu](mailto:holiveir@aacn.nche.edu) or 202-463-6930, ext. 250.

## CNL Featured in IOM's *Future of Nursing* Report

The Institute of Medicine (IOM) recognized the CNL role in its landmark report titled the *Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health*. For a free PDF, go to <http://www.nap.edu/catalog/12956.html>.

**The Future of Nursing:  
Leading Change, Advancing Health**  
Committee on the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation  
Initiative on the Future of Nursing, at the Institute of  
Medicine; Institute of Medicine



The following are excerpts from the report:

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*One new role for nurses that taps their potential as innovators is the clinical nurse leader (CNL), an advanced generalist clinician role designed to improve clinical and cost outcomes for specific groups of patients. Responsible for coordinating care and in some cases actively providing direct care in complex situations, the CNL has the responsibility for translating and applying research findings to design, implement, and evaluate care plans for patients (AACN, 2007). This new role has been adopted by the VA system.*

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*....Another aspect of the PCMH at the VA is the clinical nurse leader—which, Ms. Rick said, “is probably one of the most transformational roles that the nursing profession has to offer the health care industry.” The American Association of Colleges of Nursing has defined it as a new leadership role for nurses that is neither administrative nor managerial (AACN, 2007); rather, this nurse with a master’s degree supervises the care provided by the team. At the VA, the clinical nurse leader oversees the care provided by more than one team, while the RN care manager focuses on the care provided by just his or her team. The VA intends to employ clinical nurse leaders in all of its medical centers by 2016 (ONS, 2009).*

—Catherine Rick, MSN, RN, NEA-BC, FACHE, chief nursing officer, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

## CNL Certification Exam Reports and Statistics

Annually, aggregate pass/fail reports are emailed to the Deans of schools of nursing with CNL programs. Institutional reports from November 2009 to August 2010 were emailed to the appropriate Deans the week of September 20, 2010.

Following each CNL testing period, aggregate group summary score reports of the students affiliated with the institution are forwarded to the designated faculty contact/exam administrator by CNC. The exam data allows the program director to identify strengths and weaknesses of the students’ learning experiences, monitor the effectiveness of the program, and modify the CNL program curriculum as necessary.

Overall aggregate pass/fail reports per testing period and other statistics are now posted on <http://www.aacn.nche.edu/CNC/pdf/CNLStats.pdf>. For more information, contact Tracy Lofty, CNC’s Director, at [tlofty@aacn.nche.edu](mailto:tlofty@aacn.nche.edu). NOTE: Individual school pass/fail rates are not made available to the general public.

## **CNC's Roundtable Teleseminar Series**

CNC now offers an opportunity for a peer-to-peer exchange of dialogue and information through the Roundtable Teleseminar Series. Presented by CNLs, the teleconferences are one-hour presentations designed to advance the CNL role. Presentations include:

### **Curriculum Development: Incorporating the CNL Certification**

October 22, 2010 • 2:00-3:00 p.m. (Eastern)  
presented by Mary St. John Seed, PhD, RN, CNL

### **How to Market Yourself as a CNL**

November 19, 2010 • 2:00-3:00 p.m. (Eastern)  
presented by Mary Stachowiak, MSN, RN, CNL

### **Overview of CNC and CNL Certification Application Process**

March 11, 2011 2:00-3:00 p.m. (Eastern)  
Presented by Sue Hartranft, PhD, ARNP, CNL and Tracy Lofty, MSA, CAE

Presentations are recorded and made available for six months. The first teleseminar, *Clinical Nurse Leader: What Is It That You Do?*, was presented by Susan Ottenfeld, MSN, RN, CNL, on September 24, 2010. More than 40 sites registered with nearly 100 participants.

Registration for the teleseminars is complimentary. For more information, go to:  
<http://www.aacn.nche.edu/CNC/roundtable.htm>.

If you are a CNL interested in serving as a teleseminar speaker and sharing your experiences with students and other CNLs, contact Tracy Lofty, CNC's Director, at [tlofty@aacn.nche.edu](mailto:tlofty@aacn.nche.edu).

## **Volunteer To Be a CNL Ambassador**

The Commission for Nurse Certification (CNC) invites you to join its growing network of CNL Certification Ambassadors and help spread the word about the unique expertise certified CNLs bring to healthcare delivery. As you know, CNL certification is a mark of professionalism that signals to patients and colleagues that you are a highly qualified nursing care provider. As a CNL Certification Ambassador, the CNC will provide you with resources and guidance to facilitate your efforts to:

- Promote CNL certification activities in your state or region
- Share your experience as a CNL with students, researchers, and the public to advance the CNL role
- Serve as a speaker to promote CNL certification
- Notify CNC of upcoming education events scheduled in your state/region that may serve as a venue to promote the CNL role and/or CNL certification
- Distribute CNL promotional material at local events
- Serve as an advisor to CNC's Marketing Committee

Service as an Ambassador provides you with rich networking opportunities and widespread recognition as a CNL. As an Ambassador, recognition includes:

- Listing on the Ambassador page of the CNC website
- Recognition in *The CNL Bulletin*
- Recognition at events in which you volunteer
- One point per year towards the general continuing education/contact hour requirement for CNL recertification

CNC is currently seeking CNL Ambassadors from states unrepresented. Go to <http://www.aacn.nche.edu/CNC/cnlambassadors.htm> for a listing of current CNL Ambassadors by state. If you are interested in serving as a CNL Certification Ambassador, please forward your resume along with a letter summarizing your qualifications and interest to Tracy Lofty, CNC's Director, at [tlofty@aacn.nche.edu](mailto:tlofty@aacn.nche.edu). All Ambassadors must be certified CNLs.

## **Call for Volunteers**

### ***CNC Board of Commissioners***

CNC is recruiting for a volunteer from the practice setting to serve on the CNC Board of Commissioners during a three-year term beginning July 1, 2011.

The charge of the CNCBOC Board is as follows:

- Develop bylaws, policies and procedures;
- Outline fiscal and other resources necessary to support the certification program to ensure effective certification and recertification activities;
- Develop annual goals to guide the work of the CNC;
- Design a continuous quality improvement process for the CNL certification process; and,
- Pursue accreditation for the CNL Certification Program.

CNC's Nominating Committee will evaluate the applications submitted and recommend a candidate to fill the vacant position. The CNC Board of Commissioners will review the qualifications and make the appointment selection.

Members of the CNC Board of Commissioners may not serve on the AACN Board of Directors or any other health professional certifying board and may not serve as item writers for the CNL Certification Exam.

The deadline to apply is **February 18, 2011**. For more information about the CNC, go to <http://www.aacn.nche.edu/CNC/about.htm> or contact Tracy Lofty, CNC's Director, at [tlofty@aacn.nche.edu](mailto:tlofty@aacn.nche.edu).

### ***Subject Matter Experts***

In 2011, CNC will begin the process of conducting a job analysis study for the purpose of identifying knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSAs) of the CNL profession to be used for the CNL Certification Exam. As such, CNC is seeking subject matter experts to work with the testing agency, Schroeder Measurement Technologies, Inc. (SMT). Responsibilities include attending a two-day meeting at SMT headquarters in Florida in May 2011 (CNC will reimburse travel expenses), developing the survey tool, and finalizing KSAs.

Eight SMEs and two alternates will be selected by the CNC Board of Commissioners. To volunteer and for more information, please submit a current resume or CV along with a cover letter expressing your interest to serve as a subject matter expert and summarizing your experience/qualifications to [lofty@aacn.nche.edu](mailto:lofty@aacn.nche.edu). The deadline to apply is **January 7, 2011**.

### **CNL Certification Examination Dates and Fees**

Testing for CNL certification is web-based and conducted onsite at the candidate's school of nursing. CNL Program Directors are responsible for coordinating an exam date and notifying CNC. To access the exam site registration form, visit [www.aacn.nche.edu/CNC/pdf/SiteReg.pdf](http://www.aacn.nche.edu/CNC/pdf/SiteReg.pdf).

***Applications must be received by the deadline, not postmarked.***

<b>Testing Period</b>	<b>Application Deadline</b>	<b>Program Registration Deadline</b>
November 29-December 17, 2010	October 29, 2010	October 29, 2010
January 10-January 28, 2011	December 3, 2010	December 3, 2010
April 19-May 13, 2011	March 18, 2011	March 18, 2011
July 18-August 12, 2011	June 17, 2011	June 17, 2011

There is a \$30 late fee for applications submitted after the deadline. Applications submitted more than five days after the deadline will be considered for the next testing period.

## Introducing AACN's New CNL Resource Coach

Linda Rusch, MS, RN, is AACN's new CNL Resource Coach who is available to help advance the CNL role at the local and national level. Linda can assist you in planning, in the communication-and-roll-out phase, and in the actual implementation of the CNL within the



practice environment. She can also assist with financial justification, outcome measurement, and advise you on how to support the CNL over time. Linda has over 30 years experience in nursing administration and has served as the chief nursing officer (CNO) and vice president of patient care services at Hunterdon Medical Center in Flemington, NJ. Because of her efforts, Hunterdon Medical Center was at the forefront of the CNL movement and employed the first group of graduates from the College of New Jersey's CNL program. Linda has given countless presentations across the country on various nursing topics, including "Making the Business Case for the Clinical Nurse Leader" at the recent CNL Conference in Tucson, AZ. Linda can be

reached at [lrusch@aacn.nche.edu](mailto:lrusch@aacn.nche.edu).

## Winner of CNC's Drawing Announced

CNC is pleased to announce the winner of the Apple iPod Nano 8GB – **Carin McCabe** of the University of Maryland! More than 200 students registered this summer with CNC for the prize drawing. Contact information of the registrants was added to CNC's database and they will receive future CNL certification information.

## Electronic Portfolio Service

The Commission on Nurse Certification (CNC) now offers an electronic portfolio service that may be used by students, faculty, and practicing nurses. CNC has partnered with Decision Critical to bring you Critical Portfolio, an electronic web-based portfolio service. Designed to track professional development activities, the online portfolio is an excellent method for maintaining a record of continuing education, employment history, licensure, etc. Unlike a resume or CV, the electronic portfolio also contains supporting documents such as copies of educational transcripts, letters of recommendation, and certificates, all available at the click of a mouse. NOTE: CNC is responsible for the Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL<sup>®</sup>) Certification Program. However, the portfolio service is *not* limited to individuals affiliated with the CNL.

To subscribe, go to [www.aacn.nche.edu/CNC](http://www.aacn.nche.edu/CNC) and use the following promotion code: CNC. The annual subscription fee is \$59.95.

## CNL Wall of Fame

To recognize the achievements of CNLs, CNL education programs, faculty, and students, CNC has created an online **CNL Wall of Fame**. To be featured on the CNL Wall of Fame, e-mail a description to the CNC along with a photograph. For more information, go to <http://www.aacn.nche.edu/CNC/WallofFame.htm>.

Does your institution offer a CNL study guide? Or, did you as a student organize your materials to study for the CNL Certification Exam? CNC is currently collecting sample CNL study guides. Submissions will be reviewed and considered to post on CNC's website. Sample study guides should be emailed to Tracy Lofty, CNC's Director, at [tlofty@aacn.nche.edu](mailto:tlofty@aacn.nche.edu) by December 10, 2010.

## Clinical Nurse Leader Association

Join the Clinical Nurse Leader Association (CNLA). Membership benefits include:

- Networking and interaction with colleagues
- Quarterly newsletters
- Published EBP research by CNLs
- Access to research websites
- Trial access to the EBSCO Database
- Web-based collaborative forums
- Web-based CEUs
- Annual award for achievements and innovations
- and much, much more!

For more information, go to <http://www.cnlassociation.org/> or call 202-463-6930, ext 267. To access a membership application, go to [http://www.cnlassociation.org/forms/CNLA\\_Registration\\_Form.pdf](http://www.cnlassociation.org/forms/CNLA_Registration_Form.pdf).

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