



For Immediate Release

News Release

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**The American Association of Neuroscience Nurses
Moves Forward With The 2010-2011 Board of Directors**

Glenview, IL—June 2010—The American Association of Neuroscience Nurses (AANN), a professional association of nurses dedicated to the advancement of neuroscience nursing, inducted their 2010 board of directors at their annual educational meeting in March.

Incoming **AANN President Barbara Mancini, MBA BSN CNRN NEA-BC**, spoke of the association's impact on the future of health care during the AANN membership meeting, held on the final day of the meeting. "Neuroscience nursing is at the forefront of the latest medicine and technology. Neurological disorders and traumatic injuries continue to affect millions of Americans, especially the men and women serving in our armed forces abroad. AANN reaffirms our dedication to the education, certification, and advancement of neuroscience nurses to provide excellence in patient care."

Mancini, a long-time AANN volunteer, and member and director of the Neuroscience Service Line at Inova Fairfax Hospital of Fairfax, VA, is joined by three new leaders and seven returning leaders dedicated to serving the AANN membership:

Kathy Helmick, MS CNRN CRNP, returns to the AANN Board in 2010 as president-elect. Helmick will serve in 2011 as president and an additional year as immediate past president. She previously served on the AANN Board—from 2005 to 2008 as director-at-large—and as a volunteer with the AANN Special Focus Groups and during the publication of the *Foundations of Neuroscience Nursing*. Helmick is the senior executive director for traumatic brain injury with the Department of Defense Center of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury.

Donna Wallace, MS RN CPNP, joins the AANN Board in her first year as director-at-large. An active AANN volunteer, author, and award winner, Wallace was the 2009 recipient of the Mary Decker Mentorship Award, presented by AANN and the Hydrocephalus Association. She is a pediatric nurse practitioner at Barrow Neurologic Institute in Phoenix, AZ.

Sue Pugh, MSN RN CNRN CRRN, steps into the role of director-at-large with the AANN Board. A long-time contributor to AANN publications and educational meetings, she currently works as an advanced practice nurse with Sinai Hospital of Baltimore in Baltimore, MD.

Cathy Cartwright, MSN RN PCNS, enters her final year of service on the AANN Board, serving as immediate past president. An instructor, author, and editor, Cartwright works as a pediatric clinical nurse specialist in neurosurgery at Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City, MO.

Megan Keiser, PhD(c) RN APRN CNRN, continues her term as secretary/treasurer with the AANN Board. The 20-year AANN member is a neurosurgery nurse practitioner at William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, MI.

Sandra Brettler, MSN RN CCRN CNRN, enters her third year as director-at-large. Brettler is a Gamma Knife nurse coordinator at the Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center in Hershey, PA.

Linda Littlejohns, MSN RN CCRN CNRN, is serving her third year as director-at-large on the AANN Board. In addition to her association service, Littlejohns is an accomplished author and lecturer. She is Vice President of Clinical Development at Integra, a leading worldwide medical device company.

Lorraine Fields, MSN CCNS CCRN CNRN, continues her service to the AANN Board of Directors as director-at-large. The 8-year association member is on the nursing faculty of Herzing University in Akron, OH.

Cindy Sullivan, ANP-C CNRN, remains as director-at-large with the AANN Board. In addition to her AANN service, Sullivan is involved in the World Federation of Neuroscience Nurses as a member of the scientific program committee. She is employed by Codman & Shurtleff, a Johnson & Johnson company, as a neuro clinical specialist.

Stacy Sochacki, MS, continues to serve as an ex-officio board member as executive director of AANN. Sochacki has more than 30 years of experience in the healthcare industry and has worked with AANN since 2007.

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About AANN

Founded in 1968, the American Association of Neuroscience Nurses (AANN), an organization of more than 4,500 members worldwide, is committed to working for the highest standard of care for neuroscience patients by advancing the science and practice of neuroscience nursing. AANN accomplishes this through continuing education, information dissemination, standard setting, and advocacy on behalf of neuroscience patients, families, and nurses. For more information, visit www.AANN.org.