

## **Association News**

### **Bylaw Amendments Approved by Membership**

Members of the American Association of Neuroscience Nurses (AANN) were recently asked to vote on a series of amendments to the association bylaws. The AANN Board of Directors had undertaken the task of revising the governing documents to bring AANN into conformity with current practice among associations and, most importantly, help the organization be better able to respond to the needs of members.

For the first time, voting was available online via proxy to allow every voting member the opportunity to participate. On July 1, during a special meeting to count the proxy votes, it was reported that 13% of the membership voted; a participation rate of 10% was needed in order to effect any changes. Ninety-nine percent of those who voted were in favor of the amendments, thus the bylaw amendments passed.

The following list outlines the approved amendments to the AANN bylaws.

### **Business of the Association**

Addition of the following standard provisions found in association bylaws and recommended by legal counsel:

- Article IV—Meetings, Section 6: adds a definition of quorum as 10% of members entitled to vote, consistent with requirements of Illinois law
- Article V—Voting Rights: clarifies number of votes required for mail (including electronic mail) voting
- Article XV—Gifts: outlines provisions in which the association has the power to accept gifts
- Article XVII—Waiver of Notice: clarifies process for waiving notice (of meetings, etc.)
- Article XVIII—Indemnification: requires the association to indemnify all officers, directors, committee members, employees, and agents of the association
- Article XIX—Use of Electronic Communication: clarifies that actions and notices may be delivered or transmitted by electronic mail or other electronic means.

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Removal of the following provisions as they pertain to the association's operations and inclusion in the AANN Policies and Procedures:

- Article XIV—Awards
- Article XV—Publications.

### **Voting**

- Article IX—Nominations and Elections: adds a reference to using the candidate selection criteria in the operational policies and procedures when determining the final slate of candidates for election
- Article XVI—Amendments: clarifies that a quorum must be present when voting on bylaw amendments and clarifies the means by which bylaws may be presented for a membership vote.

A full set of the revised bylaws can be viewed on the AANN Web site, [www.AANN.org](http://www.AANN.org), in the “About AANN” section. We thank members for your active participation in AANN and in this important vote!

### **Final Call for Nominations for Board of Directors**

Are you interested in getting more involved in helping shape the future of your specialty? It's not too late to apply to be a member of the American Association of Neuroscience Nurses (AANN) Board of Directors! AANN is a member-driven organization whose leaders are determined by its diverse membership. Members share a commitment to the advancement of neuroscience nursing as a specialty and promote excellence in patient care.

The nominating committee is looking for members who are interested in becoming part of the AANN leadership and helping shape the future of neuroscience nursing. Applications for the 2009–2010 Board of Directors are being accepted through July 14, 2008. Open positions include president-elect, secretary-treasurer, and two directors-at-large. The election will be held in October, and terms will begin in conjunction with the 2009 AANN Annual Educational Meeting in Las Vegas, March 28–31, 2009.

To learn more about these positions or to download application materials, please access the candidate application materials on the AANN Web site, [www.AANN.org](http://www.AANN.org). Completed applications must be submitted electronically no later than close of business on July 14, 2008. Please direct any questions about the nomination process to 2008 Nominating Committee Chair Norma McNair at [NMcNair@mednet.ucla.edu](mailto:NMcNair@mednet.ucla.edu).

### **JNN To Receive Impact Factor**

The Journal of Neuroscience Nursing (JNN) was recently selected by Thomson Scientific to receive an Impact Factor (IF) rating. The IF is used to evaluate the impact that selected professional journals have on the body of scientific knowledge. Over the next year, Thomson Scientific will index JNN in order to calculate its IF; JNN will receive an IF score during 2009.

To learn more about the IF and how it affects JNN, please check out Susan Carroll's editorial, “We Are Making an Impact,” in the upcoming August issue of JNN.

### **JNN Ensures Compliance with NIH Public Access Policy**

Effective April 7, 2008, a new policy from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) requires that scientists who receive NIH funding for research submit the resulting journal articles to PubMed Central. This policy—the NIH Public Access Policy—ensures that the published results of all NIH-funded research are available to the public. To meet these requirements, the Journal of Neuroscience Nursing (JNN) will provide final published copies of NIH-funded articles to PubMed Central on an annual basis. JNN authors will not need to take any action to ensure their compliance aside from disclosing NIH funding as part of the JNN publishing process.

For further information on the NIH Public Access Policy, particularly as it pertains to applications for future NIH funding, please visit <http://publicaccess.nih.gov>.

## **Online Calendar of Events Now Available**

Keep track of important dates with the new AANN Calendar of Events! This new feature of the AANN Web site includes key deadlines, meeting and conference details, and other important information for the neuroscience nursing community.

To view the new calendar of events, click [here](#) or go to [www.AANN.org](http://www.AANN.org) and click on the Calendar of Events link at the bottom of the page.

## **Member Benefits**

There are many benefits associated with your membership in AANN. These include

- *Journal of Neuroscience Nursing*—AANN’s peer-reviewed bimonthly journal containing articles on neurological technology, procedures, and the role of the neuroscience nurse
- E-mail discussion lists—clinically-focused Listservs to network with fellow members and colleagues

Be sure to take advantage of these benefits to make the most of your membership!

## **Celebrating Neuroscience Nurses Week 2008**

Neuroscience Nurses Week (NNW) was observed May 18–24, 2008, presented by the American Association of Neuroscience Nurses (AANN), the American Board of Neuroscience Nursing (ABNN), and the Neuroscience Nursing Foundation (NNF). Many of you shared with us how you celebrated this special week that honors the time, value, and commitment that neuroscience nurses across the country and around the globe dedicate to their patients and families. Events included in-services, giveaways, and neuro-focused games. These events increased exposure and heightened community awareness of the valuable contributions neuroscience nurses make year-round.

### **How the Week was Celebrated**

This was the first year Neuroscience–9Northwest, the neuroscience unit at **Children’s Hospital Boston**, celebrated NNW with organized activities. The unit even created a flyer to promote the week’s activities in advance. Activities included a breakfast, a neuro sudoku, a neuro puzzle, and daily in-services on topics including ketogenic diet, subgaleal shunts, and moyamoya disease. To support the week’s activities, the unit sold t-shirts with a logo depicting a child’s drawing of a brain inside a heart. The organizers also gave out brain tumor awareness pins, which were provided by the National Brain Tumor Foundation, to all of their certified neuroscience registered nurses (CNRNs).

The neuroscience nurses at **Primary Children’s Medical Center** in Salt Lake City marked NNW with “A League of Our Own” theme and various baseball-related activities. For “opening day,” Nicole A. Wolthuis, BSN RN, asked her two nephews, who were wearing Milwaukee Brewers t-shirts, to kick off the week by passing out peanuts to

the nurses. The bags of peanuts carried the message “We’re nutt’n without our neuro nurses.” Throughout the week, staff members played a baseball board game with neuroscience questions. The teams were the Day Shift versus the Night Shift—and the Day Shift won! There was also a “game day” that included a baseball piñata and a spinning-baseball race. In addition to these activities, there was a staff luncheon and an online seizure lecture by a hydrocephalus researcher.

At **United Hospital** in St. Paul, MN, three in-services were held during NNW to provide an opportunity for neuroscience nurses to increase their level of knowledge on neuroscience products. In one such in-service, representatives from Medtronic taught nurses about ventriculoperitoneal shunts and lumbar drains. In another special event gift bags of goodies and plants were delivered to the hospital’s five CNRN’s; the gesture was meant to encourage growth and development in neuroscience education. NNW celebrations were capped off with a cake, which was decorated with the NNW 2008 logo, delivered to the neuroscience unit and the neuroscience intensive care unit (NICU) for staff members to enjoy.

The ortho/neuro/trauma unit at **Bethesda North Hospital** in Cincinnati conducted a community stroke risk assessment survey on May 12, just prior to the start of NNW. Nurses assessed 142 participants for blood pressure, pulse regularity, carotid bruits, cholesterol, and glucose. At final evaluation stations, nurses and participants reviewed the participant’s risk for stroke over the next 10 years based on the data from the Framingham Heart Study. Literature on stroke signs and symptoms, risk factors, and correct response information was distributed to the participants.

During NNW, nurses received guidelines for the emergency treatment of stroke from the hospital’s Genentech representative and completed William V. Hofmann Jr.’s stroke quiz, which appeared in the September 2006 issue of the *Journal of Neuroscience Nursing*.

The **Inland Northwest Chapter** of AANN celebrated NNW by making treats for the neuro staff at Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center in Spokane, WA. After individual nurses baked 3–4 dozen cookies, the chapter gathered together to assemble platters of cookies for the nurses on the neuro floor, the NICU, and the neuroradiology department.

### **Beyond One Week**

NNW celebrates the contributions neuroscience nurses make year-round, and the neuro team at **OSF Saint Francis Medical Center** in Peoria, IL, shared the activities they engage in throughout the year. They have a brain and spinal cord injury prevention program, called “Think First,” which they have presented at more than 25 area high schools; they are planning to expand the program to include grade schools. The program includes a PowerPoint presentation on brain and spinal cord injury and prevention and a VIP—voice of injury prevention—who gives a presentation on his or her injuries and the effects on his or her life. In addition, the hospital has a stroke team that does several community events each year. This year, their stroke prevention and education programs have included caregiver support groups, a first-grade health fair, a grandparent support group, and a blood pressure and stroke risk assessment screening.

### **A Special Dedication**

**American Association of Neuroscience Nurses**  
**888/557-2266, 847/375-4733**  
**www.AANN.org**

One neuroscience nurse shared a story about a poem her daughter had written for NNW in 2005. At the time, Jody Zanca, MN RN, worked in the NICU at **Charity Hospital** in New Orleans. Jody's daughter, Tanya, who was afflicted with cerebral palsy, loved to write poetry. When her mother asked her to write a poem for NNW, she eagerly took on the task, asking her mother for more information about what neuroscience nurses do. Jody explained to Tanya that because Charity Hospital was the only trauma hospital in the state at the time, most of the patients there had sustained trauma injuries, including many brain and spinal injuries. Tanya responded, "Oh, your patients are like Humpty Dumpty." Jody shared the poem with nurses in her unit, and we would like to share it with you as a celebration of neuroscience nurses.

*Poor Old Humpty Dumpty*

Humpty Dumpty was sitting on that wall  
Nobody knows what caused his fall  
All the King's horses and all the King's men  
Couldn't put poor ole Hump together again  
The crack in his head they were not prepared for  
Too bad for Hump they didn't know about Charity's 7th floor  
'Cause they would have had old Humpty fixed up in no time flat  
That's where their specialty is at  
There are the best, the head and shoulder above the rest  
They will retrain your brain to send its wave and teach it to behave  
You will be regrooving and moving much better than new  
Thanks to the group on 7th floor neuro  
Humpty Dumpty sat on that wall  
Nobody knows what caused his fall  
We do know that the rhyme would have a much different ending  
If to the Charity's Neuroscience department he would have went

Thank you to all who shared NNW 2008 activities with us!