



Synapse

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Official Newsletter of the American Association of Neuroscience Nurses

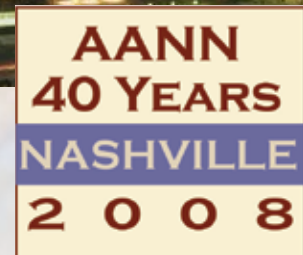
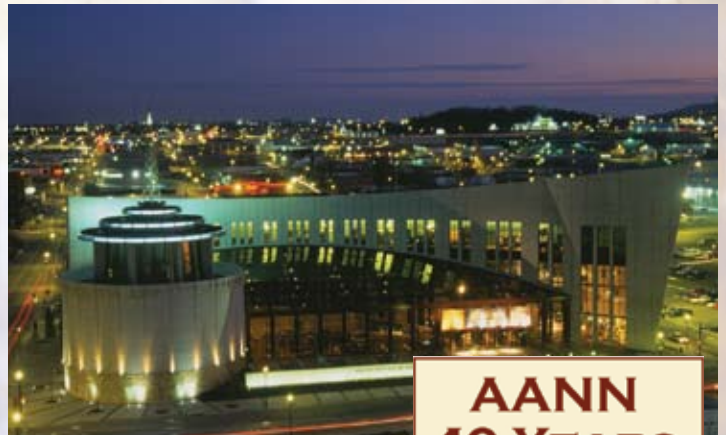
PACK YOUR BAGS FOR NASHVILLE!

There's still time to register for the 40th Annual Educational Meeting, which will take place in Nashville, TN, March 28–31, 2008. Don't miss this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to hear keynote speakers, Lee and Bob Woodruff, Maria J. Amador, Dr. Pamela H. Mitchell, and Mary Kay Bader! Preregistration for the meeting is available through Wednesday, March 19 (5 pm CDT). After this date, registrations will be accepted onsite at the registration desk. So send in your registrations or head to www.AANN.org today!

Registered attendees will have online access to session handouts a month in advance of the meeting. You are strongly encouraged to print the handouts early, as the server gets heavy traffic in the days leading up to the meeting. In addition, all participants will receive the program guide onsite, which includes a CD-ROM of session handouts.

New This Year

AANN meeting evaluations are going electronic! If you're seeking continuing education (CE) credits, you now have the ability to print your certificate of credit upon completion and submission of the evaluation form. Log-in information to access evaluations will be distributed via e-mail closer to the meeting date and will also be included with your name badges. Evaluations open the first day of the meeting and will remain open for 30 days following conference.



Painting the Town Red

Get ready for the Ruby Lounge Anniversary Reception! It's AANN's 40th Anniversary, and in honor of our ruby year, we're stepping out in style! Don your snazziest red attire and join your colleagues for hors d'oeuvres, dancing, and the swanky sounds of the Ruby Lounge. Leave the black tie at home because tonight we're painting the town red!

Synapse is Going Green— Electronic Green!

The American Association of Neuroscience Nurses (AANN) is happy to announce that issues of *Synapse* will now be coming your way electronically. Starting in May 2008, AANN is launching a new bimonthly electronic newsletter, which includes the same useful and valuable information as in the past—as well as a few new features—but in a more timely and convenient fashion. It's news when you want it!

AANN has held true to our pledge of joining the electronic evolution, as you can see through this project and the online advancements for annual meetings. AANN is not only committed to staying on top of technology, but by going electronic, we're also taking care of our environment.

So welcome aboard! *Synapse E-News* will be a great resource for all. To make this endeavor even more successful, we need your help to keep your information updated. If AANN doesn't have your current contact information (specifically your e-mail address), you'll be missing out on this and other valuable news. Visit www.AANN.org or call 888/557-2266 to update your information today!

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Final Reflections on Vision and Venture

Susan B. Fowler, PhD RN CNRN FAHA



My last president's message provides me the opportunity to reflect on this past year and the future of the American Association of Neuroscience Nurses (AANN). My vision


begins with a belief that if we work as a team and stay strategically focused, the future is ours to be had. The AANN Board of Directors asked various questions when it considered the future activities of the association, such as: Does this activity support the strategic plan? What presently exists and does it need to be repositioned or enhanced based on this proposed activity? What new programs need to be developed? Do we have the resources to support these activities?

The AANN team consists of members, some of whom are the elected or appointed leaders of AANN, the American Board of Neuroscience Nursing (ABNN), and the

Neuroscience Nursing Foundation (NNF), and our staff leadership team at AANN's national office. We will continue to grow in our recognition as the leading authority in neuroscience nursing, inspiring passion in nurses and creating the future for our specialty. This tangible image, which is our mission, is a clear and compelling goal that unifies us and our efforts. Karen Potocki, ABNN president, views the increased collaboration among the leadership of AANN, ABNN, and NNF as a positive effort to define the future vision of neuroscience nursing. She also notes that each organization's strategic plan has common elements that also help formulate our vision and facilitate achieving greatness for AANN and its members.

If you are on any of the Special Focus Group (SFG) Listservs®, you can feel the passion for excellence in neuroscience nursing and its many subspecialties. Nadine Nielsen, Pediatric SFG facilitator, reports that this group has grown from 11 members to more than 50 in the past few years.

AANN's mission stretches our thinking and challenges us. Core values, which we developed this year, are part of this vision and related mission, and represent what AANN stands for: collaboration, excellence, innovation, integrity, and vision. All of us are challenged to live these core values as we promote neuroscience nursing to our colleagues and the community. The idea of a pediatric nursing neurosurgical text was brought to the Pediatric SFG in 2005, and, in 2007, numerous members contributed to the fruition of such a book, edited by Cathy Cartwright and Donna Wallace. According to Nadine, this effort provides "exemplary examples of the collaboration, excellence, innovation, integrity, and vision that Sue speaks of."

As I have said previously in my messages, vision needs to be followed with venture. As independent scholar Joel Barker commented, "Action with vision is making a positive difference." I hope, as your 40th president, I have made a difference in the history of AANN by bridging the present with the future. 



AANN

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Synapse, the official newsletter of the American Association of Neuroscience Nurses, is published in January, March, May, July, September, and November. AANN members are invited to submit articles and announcements for possible publication.

Submission inquiries should be directed to Kari Lee, klee@aann.org, 847/375-4823. Advertising inquiries should be directed to Jeff McCollan, 847/375-4803, jmcollan@aann.org.

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Get Ready for Neuroscience Nurses Week 2008!


Neuroscience Nurses Week is just around the corner, and we want you to be ready! Presented by the American Association of Neuroscience Nurses (AANN), the American Board of Neuroscience Nursing (ABNN), and the Neuroscience Nursing Foundation (NNF), this special week happening May 18–24 honors the time, value, and commitment neuroscience nurses—across the country and around the globe—dedicate to patients and their families.

We welcome you to join in the celebrations. Not only do these events bring us together, but they also help increase exposure and heighten community awareness of the valuable contributions neuroscience nurses make year round. From luncheons to open houses, or

a dedicated Neuroscience Nurses Day, the event possibilities and reasons to celebrate are endless! For more recognition events, ideas, and giveaways, check out www.AANN.org!

And as an added recognition feature, free continuing education (CE) opportunities will again be offered throughout the entire month of May! Free CE is available anytime between May 1 and May 31, 2008 (ending at 5 pm CDT)—a value of \$15 per contact hour.

So join us in observing this special week dedicated to you and your colleagues, your patients, and their families.

Let the celebrations begin! 



WE MOVE: Raising Awareness of Movement Disorders

Judith Blazer, MS, WE MOVE Executive Director

The American Association of Neuroscience Nurses (AANN) is proud to announce its collaboration with WE MOVE, a not-for-profit organization that educates and informs the movement disorder community, in certification of *PD Workbook: The WE MOVE Clinicians' and Nurses' Guide to Parkinson's Disease* for nurses specializing in the care of patients with Parkinson's disease (PD).

There are more than 40 million Americans living with movement disorders, including PD, essential tremor, dystonia, spasticity, and restless legs syndrome. Despite this staggering number, these progressive and frequently debilitating conditions often go undiagnosed or mismanaged for years.

WE MOVE has been assisting the movement disorder community for more than a decade and believes that increased knowledge and understanding promote timely, accurate diagnoses and up-to-date treatment, resulting in a better quality of life for individuals affected by movement disorders.

Each month, more than 125,000 people visit WE MOVE's award-winning



Web sites to access accurate, timely, and balanced information and resources.


Visit the Web sites listed below for more information:

- www.mdvu.org: the Movement Disorder Virtual University for healthcare professionals
- www.wemove.org: for patients, families, caregivers, and the public.

WE MOVE is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) as a provider of continuing medical education. WE MOVE draws on the expertise of its education committee, which comprises more than 50 thought leaders (including nurses) in the treatment and management of movement disorders in the development of targeted educational activities.

Neuronurses play a critical role in the diagnosis, treatment, and ongoing management of individuals with movement disorders. Recognizing this, WE

MOVE included Susan Heath, MS RN, a neuronurse, on the *PD Workbook* faculty, and obtained AANN continuing education certification for the activity. The *PD Workbook* not only provides practical tools for diagnosing and tracking PD, but also for communicating with people living with PD. Included is a new survey by Heath, which is designed to uncover the sometimes less obvious symptoms of PD. "The survey was developed for patients and family members to complete while waiting to see the physician," Heath says. "It introduces symptoms that might be embarrassing for them to address or they believe are not related to their Parkinson's disease or medications, including sleep problems, sexual difficulties, or depression."

The *PD Workbook* and other educational activities about movement disorders can be accessed through the AANN Web site at www.AANN.org/ce/index/htm or on the WE MOVE Movement Disorder Virtual University Web site at www.mdvu.org/classrooms/cme. A free e-newsletter is also available from WE MOVE. To subscribe, visit www.mdvu.org/emove. 

AANN-ABNN-NNF Working Together

As American Association of Neuroscience Nurses (AANN) members, it is important to understand the relationships we share with our sister organizations—the American Board of Neuroscience Nursing (ABNN) and the Neuroscience Nursing Foundation (NNF)—and how each organization contributes to the advancement of neuroscience nursing as a specialty.

AANN

Founded in 1968, AANN, an organization of more than 4,400 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.

Mission

AANN is committed to the advancement of neuroscience nursing as a specialty through the development and support of nurses to promote excellence in patient care.

Vision

AANN, as the leading authority in neuroscience nursing, inspires passion in nurses and creates the future for the specialty.



Governance

AANN is governed by a 10-person board elected among the membership consisting of the president, president-elect, immediate past president (in a nonvoting capacity), secretary/treasurer, and six directors-at-large.

ABNN

ABNN is the independent, not-for-profit, certifying organization responsible for the development, administration, and evaluation of the certification process for professional nurses involved in the specialty practice of neuroscience nursing. The Certified Neuroscience Registered Nurse (CNRN) certification program was developed in 1978 to formally recognize professional achievement and to promote excellence in neuroscience nursing. Certification in neuroscience nursing is the recognition of the attainment and demonstration of a unique body of knowledge necessary for practice in neuroscience nursing.

Mission

ABNN promotes the practice and the contributions made by neuroscience nurses to the health of the nation through certification of registered nurses.



continued on page 4


What You Give Comes Back to You!

Philanthropy is not always easy, but it can make a true difference—a difference in research that can be done, in education that can be continued, in professional advancement that can be undertaken, and, most importantly, in the lives of your patients and your colleagues.


In 2006*, what you gave to the Neuroscience Nursing Foundation (NNF) made it possible for five of your colleagues to recertify for the CNRN credential and for 10 of them to travel to the AANN Annual Educational Meeting. Further, your contributions—along with your corporate

partners', the Integra Foundation and UCB Pharma—provided for more than \$20,000 in research funds that were awarded to your colleagues in 2006. That number almost doubled in 2007!

Through your local chapter—the direct contributions and the baskets they send to the annual meeting to represent you in the NNF Silent Auction—you are directly part of the vision of NNF. So make sure you stop by the NNF booth in the exhibit hall to find ways for you and your chapter to become more involved with NNF.


*Most recent audit figures available. 

Chapter Challenge

The NNF Silent Auction is part of the fun of the annual meeting, and this year each chapter has been challenged to send a basket that best represents itself. Make sure your chapter is represented at the Silent Auction, which will be open during exhibit hours and closes on Sunday, March 30, at 10:30 am. All funds raised through the Silent Auction will go to NNF. 




Do the Neuro-Boogie

For the first time at an annual meeting, NNF will be offering attendees the opportunity to learn the NeuroBoogie. The NNF Fundraiser—Line Dancing Reception will be held Saturday, March 29, from 5:30 to 6:30 pm. So bring your stompin' boots and a bit of Western bling, and we'll relieve some of the travel stress by learning the NeuroBoogie. Watch for the event on your conference registration form! Registration is \$30 with proceeds going to fund NNF grants and scholarships. 

NNF Names New Executive Director



The Neuroscience Nursing Foundation (NNF) has recently selected patient advocate JD Meacham, MA CBE, as its new executive director. JD has a long history of involvement in AANN, where he served as the deputy executive director. He was also the first executive director of ABNN, and he has been a long-time volunteer on the NNF Board of Trustees and is the outgoing NNF Secretary/Treasurer. 

AANN-ABNN-NNF Working Together *continued from page 3*

Governance

ABNN is governed by a board of eight members, including an appointed public member and liaison representing AANN who is appointed by the AANN Board of Directors.

NNF

NNF is the independent, not-for-profit organization whose purpose is to stimulate education, research, prevention, and other activities related to the care of persons with real or potential nervous system dysfunctions; to foster the improvement of care and services to such persons; and to perform and do any and all such other acts as are necessary, convenient, or proper to the attainment of these objectives, all for the betterment of the general public and the results of which shall be available to the general public.

Mission

To advance the science and practice of neuro-




science nursing by identifying and promoting research and evidence-based practices that optimize patient-centered outcomes for patients with neurological conditions.

Vision

NNF is the premier foundation generating knowledge, promoting quality patient outcomes, and advancing neuroscience through awareness and partnerships.

Governance

The NNF Board of Trustees is made up of 10 members within the guidelines that, at all times, 50% of the sitting board shall be AANN members, one of whom shall be appointed by the AANN Board of Directors.


As a membership organization, AANN is committed to advancing the practice of neuroscience nursing. We work together with our sister organizations to support research and certification through fundraising, continuing education, professional development, and networking. 



ABNN Announces New Executive Director

The American Board of Neuroscience Nursing (ABNN) is pleased to announce the appointment of its new executive director, Laura Baerenklau, CMP. Laura has 10 years of experience working with not-for-profit organizations in the fields of service, program development, and strategic and tactical planning. She believes in working

closely with volunteer leaders to ensure an organization meets its goals, proceeds in accordance with its mission, and provides efficient administration of its programs and services. With a strong background in quality improvement, a commitment to the customer, and keen communication skills, Laura is a valuable asset to the ABNN leadership.

Laura earned a bachelor's degree from Miami University in Oxford, OH. 


Is It Time to Recertify?

If you achieved your CNRN designation in 2003, you are due to recertify in 2008. Your application to recertify as a certified neuroscience registered nurse must be received by October 3, 2008, so visit www.cnrn.org today to download the recertification handbook and application, which includes renewal options. And remember, a great place to earn the continuing education (CE) credit you may need to recertify is the upcoming AANN 40th Annual Educational Meeting, to be held March 28-31 in Nashville, TN!

You have worked hard to achieve your CNRN designation, so don't let it expire! 

Tell Your CNRN Story

The American Board of Neuroscience Nursing (ABNN) invites you to share your experiences about how the CNRN certification has had an impact on your career or the lives of your patients. How has earning your CNRN certification made a difference in your nursing care? Have you received unexpected recognition from your employer and peers? How has it affected your relationship with your patients?

If you are interested in sharing your testimonial, in 500 words or fewer, please send it to info@cnrn.org or ABNN, 4700 W. Lake Avenue, Glenview, IL 60025. Your story may be selected to be placed on the ABNN Web site or in an upcoming issue of *Synapse*. 

On the leading edge of neuroscience and nursing



The Institute for Neurology & Neurosurgery at St. David's Medical Center provides a continuum of care for the neurological patient. We are one of only 5 facilities in Texas offering Gamma Knife procedures, and have the only Physical Therapist board-certified in Central Texas as a Neurological Clinical Specialist. Our healthcare system is proud to have the only two hospitals in Central Texas offering Deep Brain Stimulation for Parkinson's/Tremors. Two of our hospitals are Certified Primary Stroke Centers.

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Thank You, AANN 2007 Volunteers!

AANN would like to recognize the following individuals for their service during 2007:

40th Anniversary Task Force: Donna Avanecean (Chair), Janice Hinkle, Agnes Marshall-Walker, Roseann Pokoluk, Roberta (Bobbi) Stewart, Chris Stewart-Amidei, Karen March (Board Liaison)

AANN/AACN Neuroscience Protocols Task Force: Linda Littlejohns (Chair), Mary Kay Bader (Cochair), Joseph Haymore (Board Liaison)

Alliance Task Force: Chris Stewart-Amidei (Chair), Michael Anderson, Cynthia Blank-Reid, Kathy Gilliland, Linda Littlejohns, Barbara Mancini, Joseph Haymore (Board Liaison), Karen March (Board Liaison)

Annual Meeting Planning Committee: Roseann Pokoluk (Chair), Shari Eversman, Angel Reeves, Susan Smith, Bonita Gordon (Board Liaison)

APN Scope of Practice Task Force: Nancy Villanueva (Chair), Cynthia Blank-Reid, Rich Jones, Chris Stewart-Amidei, Cathy Cartwright (Board Liaison), Joseph Haymore (Board Liaison)

Archives Task Force: Janice Hinkle (Chair), Virginia Prendergast (Cochair), Elizabeth Reedy (Consultant), Kathleen Baker (Board Liaison)

Awards Committee: Joan Censullo (Chair), Susan Beverung, Lorraine Fields, Kathryn Van Dyke Hayes, Stephen Roberts (Board Liaison)

Business Performance Task Force: Katherine Helmick (Chair and Board Liaison), Cathy Cartwright, Deborah Shpritz, Allison Shuttz, Donna Wallace

Clinical Practice Guideline Series Editorial Board: Hilaire Thompson (Editor), Patricia Blissitt, Matthew Hendel, Tess Slazinski, Patricia Zrelak, Glenna Dowling (Board Liaison)

Education Provider Committee: Leslie Goddard (Chair), Roseann Pokoluk, Chris Stewart-Amidei, Andrea Strayer, Bonita Gordon (Board Liaison)

Journal of Neuroscience Nursing Editorial Board: Chris Stewart-Amidei (Editor-in-Chief), V. Susan Carroll (Assistant Editor), Janice Buelow, Deborah Downey, Sherry Fox, Barbara Habermann, Janice Hinkle, Denise Lemke, Laura McIlvoy, Kathleen Baker (Board Liaison)


Membership Recruitment and Retention Task Force: Teresa Romano (Chair), Regina Floyd, Mary Guanci, Davonna Ledet, Leigh Ann Morrill, Karen Olson, Angela Starkweather, Jennifer Sulanke, Kathryn Van Dyke Hayes, Lynn Goodloe (Board Liaison), Stephen Roberts (Board Liaison)

Nominating Committee: Norma McNair (Chair), Jeanie Bachand, Christine O'Dell, Jeanine Swails, Lynn Goodloe (Board Liaison)

Products and Publications Task Force: Sue Pugh (Chair), Stacy Baldrige, Jane Harper, Jean Stewart, Therese West, Cathy Cartwright (Board Liaison)

Research Review Committee: Anne Jones Miers (Chair), Janice Buelow, Glenna Dowling (Board Liaison)

Special Focus Group Facilitators: Catherine Tucker, Epilepsy; Mary Johnson, Geriatric; Pamela Primus, Movement Disorders; Marylyn Kajs-Wyllie, Neuromuscular; Jean Arzbaeher, Neuro-Oncology; Cindy Sullivan, Neurotrauma; Nadine Nielsen, Pediatric; Lynn Camera, Spine; Claranne Mathiesen, Stroke; Stephen Roberts (Board Liaison)

Liaisons to Allied Organizations: Susan Fowler, World Federation of Neuroscience Nurses (WFNN), Board Liaison; Bonita Gordon, Neuroscience Nursing Foundation (NNF); Joseph Haymore, Council of State Neurosurgical Societies (CSNS), Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS), American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS); Susan Heath, WE MOVE; Katherine Helmick, American Board of Neuroscience Nurses (ABNN); Barbara Mancini, American Heart Association (AHA), Brain Attack Coalition (BAC); Patricia Pagnotta, American Academy of Neurology (AAN) 

MS Maximizing **2008** Care Strategies *A multi-disciplinary, continuing medical education conference*

Join neurologists, nurses, OTs, PTs, social workers, speech language pathologists, and other medical professionals searching for answers to the complex problems of MS.



Saturday, May 3, 2008
Hyatt Regency Phoenix

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nationalMSsociety.org/MS2008

Offers 6 hours of CMEs or CEUs

Presented by the National MS Society, AZ Chapter and Banner Health



dukenursing.org

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OPPORTUNITIES FOR A LIFETIME WITH DUKE



Many healthcare facilities offer challenging, rewarding jobs. But very few offer what Duke University Hospital, an integral part of Duke Medicine, does: opportunities for a lifetime. For some this means the ability to move and grow within the system or having the flexibility to allow for personal time. For others, it's just knowing that they work for one of the nation's best.

Neuroscience nursing has become one of the most progressive specialties in the nursing profession. It challenges medical know-how and technical expertise. But, it also challenges your heart, your soul, your emotions. At Duke, we believe it takes a community of nursing professionals to guide and grow nurses so that our patients receive the best care possible. Because of this belief, we offer many opportunities for the experienced nurse as well as the new graduate.

The Duke Neuroscience Center possesses the latest technology and is staffed with the field's top clinicians. Staff are encouraged and support to advance their practice professionally and academically as they provide care to patients.

We are currently seeking **REGISTERED NURSES** for our **Neuro ICU, Intermediate and Step-down units, as well as the Neurosurgical Operating Rooms.**

We offer excellent benefits and compensation packages. Visit our website, dukenursing.org to apply online or call **1-800-BE-A-NURSE** for more information on **Relocation Assistance, Tuition Reimbursement, Clinical Ladder, One time certification pay and many other options.**

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Duke Medicine prohibits discrimination and harassment, and provides equal implement opportunity without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, sex, or age.



DukeMedicine

Calendar

March 15, 2008

Submission deadline: Spirit of Neuroscience Nursing Photo Contest

Contact: www.AANN.org

March 21–April 11, 2008

Spring CNRN Computer-Based Testing Window

Contact: www.CNRN.org

March 28, 2008

Spring CNRN exam

Nashville, TN

Contact: www.CNRN.org

March 28–31, 2008

AANN 40th Annual Educational Meeting

**“Celebrate the Journey!
Building on Excellence with
Vision and Venture”**

Nashville, TN

Contact: www.AANN.org



April 7, 2008

Online Abstract Submission for 2009 Opens

Contact: www.AANN.org

May 18–24, 2008

Neuroscience Nurses Week

June 23, 2008

Online Abstract Submission for 2009 Closes

Contact: www.AANN.org


July 14, 2008

Board of Directors Candidate Applications Due


Contact: www.AANN.org

Chapter News


The **Pittsburgh Chapter** participated in “BODIES: In-Depth Guided Tour” on February 20, 2008. The guided tour of the BODIES exhibit at Carnegie Science Center, Pittsburgh, included a sheep-brain dissection done by a forensics intern.

On January 10, 2008, the **Mid-South Chapter** copresented “The Rising Cost of MRSA,” featuring speaker Michael Gelfand, MD, with a local chapter of the National Association of Orthopaedic Nurses. Attendees could earn 1 hour of continuing education credit for the session. The Mid-South Chapter also held a presentation, “Parkinson Disease Update,” on November 29, 2007, with speaker Vishad Kumar, MD. 

AANN Bylaws Update

The AANN Board of Directors has prepared a series of amendments to the association bylaws. Later this spring, the membership will be asked to vote on these amendments via proxy ballot. In order to incorporate these changes into the governance of our organization, we will need to receive a response from a minimum of 10% of the membership. This is an opportunity for you to be part of guiding the future of AANN, so please be sure to keep an eye out for more information and cast your vote. 

Member News

The *Textbook of Medical-Surgical Nursing* by Suzanne C. Smeltzer, Brenda Bare, Janice L. Hinkle, and Kerry H. Cheever was awarded a 2007 *American Journal of Nursing* Book-of-the-Year Award. Suzanne C. Smeltzer, EdD RN FAAN, and Janice L. Hinkle, PhD RN CNRN, are AANN members and were recognized for this award in the January 2008 issue of the *American Journal of Nursing*. 



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Address Correction Requested

To access the members-only section of the AANN Web site, you will need your membership ID number.

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