

## AANN Names Clinical Practice Guideline Series Board

Hilaire Thompson, PhD RN CNRN, AANN Clinical Practice Guideline Series Editor

As I approach the end of my first year as editor of the AANN Clinical Practice Guideline (CPG) Series, I am pleased to announce that as a result of the call for volunteers, four AANN members have been appointed to the CPG Editorial Board. They are Patricia Blissitt, PhD RN CCRN CNRN CCM APRN BC; Matthew Hendell, MSN CNRN CPNP; Tess Slazinski, MN RN CCRN CNRN APRN; and Pat Zrelak, PhD RN CNRN CNAABC. The board's first order of business was to change the name of the series from AANN Clinical Reference Series (CRS) to AANN Clinical Practice Guidelines to better reflect their overall goal.

Patricia Blissitt is a neuroscience clinical nurse specialist at Harborview Medical Center, Seattle, WA. She has held numerous roles within the field of neuroscience nursing and previously worked as a neuroscience clinical nurse specialist, case manager, trauma nurse coordinator, and nurse manager. Blissitt has published



extensively on neuroscience nursing topics and has served as a reviewer for journals, books, and the CPG.

Matthew Hendell is a pediatric neurology nurse practitioner with WellSpan Neurology in York, PA, and is a captain in the Nurse Corps, U.S. Air Force Reserve. He has previous experience as a pediatric home-care nurse. Hendell recently served as the president of the American Board of Neuroscience Nursing (ABNN) and has published and presented nationally on a variety of neuroscience topics.




Tess Slazinski is a staff nurse in the NICU at the University of Utah, Salt Lake City. Previously, she worked as a neurosurgery nurse clinician, a nurse researcher, a neuroscience clinical nurse specialist, and a clinical educator for industry. She has presented widely on a number of neuroscience topics, was a contributor to the *AANN Core Curriculum*

for *Neuroscience Nursing, 4th Edition*, and has served as a reviewer for the CRS.

Pat Zrelak is a nurse researcher in the Center for Health Services Research in Primary Care at the University of California, Davis, and an assistant professor in the School of Nursing at Samuel Merritt College, Oakland, CA. She previously served as the stroke program manager at Sutter Medical Center, Sacramento, CA. She is currently working as a coauthor of AANN's *Guide to the Care of the Patient with Subarachnoid Hemorrhage*.



During the last year, thanks to the combined efforts of volunteer member authors and reviewers, AANN has published second editions of two guidelines as well as three new guidelines. These CPG publications are available free of charge on the AANN Web site, [www.AANN.org](http://www.AANN.org). We are very excited about these guidelines—and as well as upcoming guidelines—and hope that you will find them beneficial in your practice. 

### Preview the AANN Conference Brochure

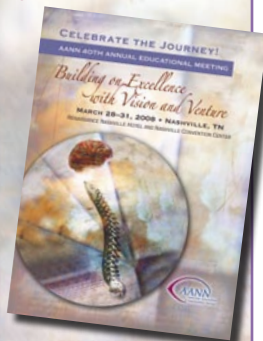
AANN 40TH ANNUAL EDUCATIONAL MEETING

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MARCH 28-31, 2008 • NASHVILLE, TN

At [www.AANN.org](http://www.AANN.org), you can see the AANN 2008 conference brochure in PDF format and register online, beginning in November. The printed conference brochure will be mailed to all current AANN members in mid-November.



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# Vision and Venture: Celebrating 40 Years

Susan B. Fowler, PhD RN CNRN FAHA





The 40th annual educational meeting will take place in Nashville, TN, in March 2008. Symbols that celebrate a 40th anniversary include the nasturtium flower and the ruby. The nasturtium flower comes in a kaleidoscope of colors with five petals or sepals that are united into one cuplike calyx. It requires regular watering and grows in sun or light shade. Hummingbirds often insert their long bills into the nasturtium to sip the nutritious nectar but get pollen on their faces, resulting in further pollination. The ruby is red in color and symbolizes passion and sorrow. It is described as an eternal inner flame.

So what do these symbols have in common with the 40th celebration of the foundation of AANN? Like the nasturtium flower, AANN members represent a

kaleidoscope of practice settings and neuroscience subspecialties across the United States and beyond its borders, united into one specialty organization. AANN members thirst for information and educational opportunities, as evidenced by the high number of individuals downloading the Clinical Practice Guideline Series from the Web site and attending the annual meeting. We continually mentor one another, especially through the special focus groups, resulting in "pollination" of competent, skilled neuroscience nurses. In this manner, AANN members represent the vision of the organization in creating the future for our specialty. Like the ruby, AANN inspires a passion for excellence in neuroscience nurses. Just read the stories about our award winners and you can sense an inner flame in each one of them, driven by a passion for best practices.

The upcoming annual meeting will be a celebration of AANN's achievements during the last 40 years, in addition to the

educational event that members have come to expect. Some of the plans to celebrate the occasion in 2008 include storyboards depicting the last 40 years that will be on display at the annual meeting in Nashville; calendars highlighting memories of the last 40 years that will be mailed to members; and a DVD compilation of interviews with AANN's past presidents. In addition, a special reception will be held at the annual meeting that will give attendees an opportunity to celebrate with their colleagues. The 40th Anniversary Task Force, under the leadership of AANN past president Donna Avanecean, is working hard to make the 2008 annual meeting truly a memorable experience, "Building on Excellence with Vision and Venture." Please plan on venturing to Nashville next year, and join your colleagues who share the same vision for neuroscience nursing. It will be your opportunity to not only celebrate where AANN has been, but also where it is going! 



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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 McCollian, 847/375-4803, jmccollian@aann.org.

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## Participate in the Spirit of Neuroscience Nursing Photo Contest

To celebrate the spirit of neuroscience nursing, the American Association of Neuroscience Nurses (AANN) established the Spirit of Neuroscience Nursing Photo Contest. AANN accepts photos from its members year-round for the contest. Photos should convey the spirit of neuroscience nursing and can include neuroscience nurses, their colleagues, patients, and families.

Pictures must be received by **March 15** to be entered into this year's Spirit of Neuroscience Nursing Photo Contest. Photos will be displayed during the AANN Annual Educational Meeting where attendees will cast a vote for their favorite photo. The individual who submitted the image garnering the most votes will receive a complimentary conference registration to the 2009 annual meeting.

There is still plenty of time to submit your photo for the 2008 Spirit of Neuroscience Nursing Photo Contest! For more information on the contest, including specific submission criteria, please visit [www.AANN.org/about/SpiritContest.html](http://www.AANN.org/about/SpiritContest.html).



*This photograph was submitted in the 2007 AANN Spirit of Neuroscience Nursing Photo Contest by Amy Gover, Durham, NC. In her description of the photo, Ms. Gover described her patient's symptoms as well as her hope for improvement during her hospital stay.*



[dukenursing.org](http://dukenursing.org)

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We are currently seeking **REGISTERED NURSES** for our **Neuro ICU, Intermediate, Step Down.**

Duke offers a myriad of benefits including but not limited to a generous retirement package, affordable healthcare options, as well as continuing education time and funding.

For more information and to apply online, please visit us at [dukenursing.org](http://dukenursing.org) or contact **1-800-BE-A-NURSE.**

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# Facing the Challenge Together

**S**taying on top of the ever-changing ways to deliver the best care to patients is a huge challenge that neuroscience nurses face every day. The Neuroscience Nursing Foundation (NNF) is the only foundation solely dedicated to finding ways to help you and your colleagues meet these challenges. NNF does this by supporting research to identify the best ways to provide care and by supporting expansion of neuroscience nurses' knowledge and expertise as they manage more complex patients, technologies, and medications.



With a growing number of neuroscience patients and an increasing scarcity of nurses to care for them, NNF's mission is more critical than ever.

## NNF Mission

The Neuroscience Nursing Foundation exists to advance the science and practice of neuroscience nursing by identifying and promoting research and evidence-based practices that optimize patient-centered outcomes for people with neurological conditions.

The foundation is reliant upon the generous donations of AANN members, chapters, and other supporters to continue its program offerings. Join your colleagues in supporting neuroscience nursing through NNF by making a donation to the foundation this year. Thanks to UCB Pharma, each donation will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$15,000—doubling your contribution!



## Levels of Recognition

Up to \$99	Bronze
\$100–\$249	Silver, Supporter
\$250–\$499	Gold, Mentor
\$500 and above	Platinum, Master Mentor

Outright donations can be sent directly to NNF or can accompany your AANN dues renewal. We know there are many competing interests for your charitable dollars and thank you for donating to NNF.

## 40/40/40

Consider applying for assistance to travel to Nashville next year when the Foundation is going to award 40 travel grants in honor of AANN's 40th anniversary. NNF has launched the 40/40/40 Campaign to raise the necessary funds for this ambitious project. You can lend your support to NNF by sending \$40 to the campaign. Visit [www.AANN.org/nnf](http://www.AANN.org/nnf) to download a donation form.

# Time to Apply

**T**here is still time to apply for some of the scholarships and grants offered by the Neuroscience Nursing Foundation (NNF). For applications, please visit [www.AANN.org/nnf](http://www.AANN.org/nnf).

## Travel Grant to AANN Annual Educational Meeting

Through the NNF Travel Grant Program, NNF awards monies to AANN members attending the AANN Annual Educational Meeting in the spring. Award monies can be used toward any direct expense that will assist the member in attending the meeting—from registration to airfare and hotel accommodations.



- **Award amount:** \$1,000
- **Deadline:** November 15, 2007

## NNF Scholarships

The NNF Scholarship Program promotes excellence in neuroscience nursing. Scholarships are awarded annually to registered nurses pursuing studies to advance a career in neuroscience nursing at the undergraduate or graduate level.

- **Award amount:** \$1,500
- **Deadline:** January 15, 2008

# Submit Nominations for Awards Recognizing Excellence

**A** AANN members are accomplished professionals with diverse talents and expertise. To recognize our members, AANN presents the following awards every year at the annual meeting:

- **Melanie Minton CNRN of the Year:** Nominee must have been an AANN member and a CNRN for at least 1 year. Nominations deadline: December 31.
- **Rising Star in Clinical Practice:** Nominee must be an AANN member with 1–3 years' experience in neuroscience nursing.
- **Excellence in Advanced Practice Nursing:** Nominee must be an AANN member practicing in an advanced practice neuroscience nursing role.
- **Excellence in Clinical Practice:** Nominee must be an AANN member with 3 or more years' experience in neuroscience nursing and must provide direct patient care

as a staff nurse or manager. Those in advanced practice roles are not eligible for this award.

- **Excellence in Neuroscience Education:** Nominee must be an AANN member who provides education related to neuroscience nursing (e.g., clinical educator, clinical nurse specialist, academic faculty, staff nurse).
- **Outstanding Chapter of the Year:** Nominee must be an AANN-chartered chapter whose annual reporting is current.

The application deadline is January 15, 2008, for all awards except the Melanie Minton CNRN of the Year, which has a December 31, 2007, deadline. Please do your part to help us recognize excellence in the field of neuroscience nursing: Nominate your peers for an AANN award! For more information and for nomination and application forms, please go to [www.AANN.org](http://www.AANN.org).

## ABNN Seeking Candidates for 3-Year Trustee Terms

The American Board of Neuroscience Nursing (ABNN) is comprised of an eight-member board of trustees that oversees the development, operation, and integrity of the Certified Neuroscience Registered Nurse (CNRN) certification process and examination. Trustees serve rotating 3-year terms that commence annually in concurrence with the spring AANN Annual Meeting. One elected board position and one appointed board position are available for the 2008–2011 term.

Candidates must be CNRNs and have a minimum of a baccalaureate degree with

a major or focus in nursing. ABNN Meetings are held twice annually (one meeting is held at the AANN Annual Meeting).

There are occasionally additional conference calls as well as regular e-mail correspondence. In addition to overseeing the policies and procedures, finances, and promotion of the CNRN exam, trustees set the strategic vision and plan for neuroscience nursing certification.

If you are interested in running for or being appointed to a position on the board, please visit [www.CNRN.org](http://www.CNRN.org) to complete the online trustee application by

**December 1, 2007.** To learn more about the expectations and workload of trustees, contact ABNN at 888/557-2266.


Positions are also available on ABNN's Test Development Committee (TDC), which meets once a year at the AANN Annual Meeting. TDC members also write and review test questions throughout the year. We are especially looking for CNRNs working in pediatrics to join the TDC. To learn more about TDC membership, contact TDC Chair Cecelia Roscigno at [graymtr@u.washington.edu](mailto:graymtr@u.washington.edu).

## Nominate a Colleague for the Melanie Minton CNRN Award

The Melanie Minton CNRN Award recognizes outstanding achievement in neuroscience nursing clinical practice by a Certified Neuroscience Registered Nurse (CNRN). The award was first presented in 2003 as the CNRN-of-the-Year Award and subsequently was named for an AANN member, Melanie Minton, who passed away in 2004. Melanie was one of AANN's finest leaders, an esteemed colleague, and a valued friend. At the time of her death, she was an American Board of Neuroscience Nursing (ABNN) Board Member. Melanie was also a member of the very first class of CNRNs. Her passion for neuroscience nursing and commitment to certification helped us all to be better and smarter nurses.

The 2008 award recipient will receive a plaque and a complimentary registration to the AANN Annual Meeting. Presentation of the award will take place during the AANN Annual Meeting to be held March 28–31, 2008, in Nashville, TN.

Nominees must have been CNRNs for a minimum of 1 year at the time of nomination and members of AANN. Each nominee must have two written recommendations from colleagues describing the nominee's performance as a CNRN exemplar (e.g., providing nursing staff education sessions, teaching a neuroscience nursing course, encouraging national membership participation, encouraging CNRN board certification, developing hospital protocols, or demonstrating neurological assessment skills).

Interested parties may nominate themselves or nominate others with their permission. Application forms are available online at [www.CNRN.org](http://www.CNRN.org) or by sending an e-mail to [info@aann.org](mailto:info@aann.org). Nominations must be received (not postmarked) by ABNN by **December 31, 2007**. For more information, contact the ABNN Manager at 888/557-2266. 

## CNRN Exam Receives Reaccreditation

In July 2007, the American Board of Neuroscience Nursing (ABNN) received notice from the Accreditation Council of the American Board of Nursing Specialties (ABNS) that the CNRN exam has been reaccredited until 2012.

ABNS, the only accrediting body specifically for nursing certification, has been granted "deemed status" by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing. ABNS was incorporated in 1991 to create uniformity in nursing certification and to increase public awareness of the value of certification. The organization serves as an advocate for consumer protection by establishing and maintaining standards for professional specialty nursing certification.

**Reminder:** CNRN recertification applications for 2007 can be submitted, with a \$75 late fee, until January 31, 2008. However, only CE earned through December 31, 2007, can be counted toward the recertification requirements. Visit [www.CNRN.org](http://www.CNRN.org) to see a list of CNRNs due to recertify this year.

# The European Association of Neuroscience Nurses Experience in Iceland

Susan Edwards, RN ADN

“Please join us in Iceland for the 8th Quadrennial Congress of the European Association of Neuroscience Nurses (EANN),” was the invitation extended to the nurses at the close of the 7th Quadrennial Congress of the EANN in Copenhagen, Denmark, in 2003. I made a mental note to check the Internet and watch for further information. And am I glad I did.

Now, fast-forward to May 29, 2007. It was a long flight from Sacramento, CA to Reykjavik, Iceland. I was grateful to be traveling with my coworker and fellow presenter, Tish Campbell. We arrived in Iceland 15 hours after leaving California and all we wanted to do was find transportation to our hotel and sleep. As we stood in line to purchase tickets for the “FlyBus,” I recognized a face from the recent American Association of Neuroscience Nurses (AANN) conference in Orlando, FL. It was our new president, Sue Fowler. And thus began 4 days of learning, teaching, and networking.

The Icelandic Minister of Health welcomed us during the opening session. Paul van Keeken, president of the 2,500-member



Tish Campbell, Susan Fowler, and Susan Edwards were among the AANN members who attended the EANN Congress.

EANN, spoke next and shared the goals of EANN research and education. EANN is working hard to have neuroscience nursing recognized as a specialty in Europe. To meet this end, they have taken on the large task of gathering information and designing a platform for education. This is the beginning of the “Neuro-Blend” project. EANN is hopeful that this undertaking will be completed in 2 years and a research-based, standardized neuroscience education will be available to all nurses in Europe.

Stroke was a large focus at the conference. Topics ranged from “Better Care for Stroke Patients” to research projects on “Support and Education for Stroke Survivors and Their Relatives.” To a lesser degree, there were sessions on brain trauma, ethics, pediatrics, oncology, and rehabilitation. There were also workshops and 31 poster presentations. I am proud to say that the United States and AANN were well represented by the following podium and poster presenters: Tish Campbell, Susan Edwards, and Heidi Dahlke, University of California, Davis Medical Center, Sacramento, CA; Elizabeth Agbetsiafe-Awuah, Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, MD; Anne Moessner, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, NY; Susan Fowler, Morristown Memorial Hospital, Metuchen, NJ; Barbara Mancini, Inova Fairfax Hospital, Falls Church, VA; and Mary King and Virginia Prendergast, Barrow Neurological Institute, Glendale, AZ.

We all know that conferences are not all work and no play. The City Council of Reykjavik hosted a “get-together” at City Hall. Many nurses also attended the EANN-sponsored banquet at an old-fashioned Viking restaurant that included a tour of the Icelandic landscape. Others opted for private tours that provided a glimpse of Iceland from glaciers to waterfalls and geysers. All in all, we could not have had a friendlier, more welcoming host country.

Before I knew it, I was at the closing sessions and saying good-bye to newly acquainted fellow neuroscience nurses. Then, from over the audio system, came “Please join us in 2011 for the 9th Quadrennial Congress of the European Association of Neuroscience Nurses to be hosted by Belgium!” Hmmm... CHOCOLATE! Make a mental note....

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## Chapter News

The **Gold Coast Chapter of Florida** has nearly tripled its membership since November 2006. We expect more than 100 attendees at our 4th annual Neuroscience/CNRN Review Seminar in February. We rotate elections for our officers every November, and the election for secretary and treasurer will be held this year. Our attraction to membership lies in our commitment to helping those who have aspirations of being a CNRN and free continuing education units. Visit our Web site ([www.aanngoldcoastchapter.freesevers.com](http://www.aanngoldcoastchapter.freesevers.com)) and see that we are reaching and recognizing our members and other organizations. The key to our success will be to keep the momentum of our growth and focus on individual members.—Bob Enquist, President

The **Triangle (North Carolina) Chapter** is having a busy year. The quarterly dinner meetings with educational offerings continue to be a great success. Topics this year have included “Neuroscience Nursing: Past, Present, and Future,” “Management of the Patient with Parkinson’s Disease,” and “Care of the Complex Spine Surgery Patient.” The November presentation will be “Treatment of Brain Tumors: Blanks or Silver Bullets?” Each program has been approved for continuing education credit. The chapter’s Web site is currently under development, and we recently chose a logo for the chapter. Officers for 2008 will be elected at the November meeting.—Pat Blissitt, President

On August 6, the **Greater Mississippi Chapter** presented a “2007 NeuroScience Update” and had three dynamic speakers. Dale Hoekema, MD, assistant professor of neurosurgery neuro critical care at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, Jackson, MS, lectured on spinal cord injury, and Beverly Spicer, MSN RN ACNP, also of the University of Mississippi Medical Center, lectured on traumatic brain injury (TBI). Our guest speaker for the morning session was Mary K. Bader, MSN RN CNRN, from Mission Hospital Regional Medical Center, Mission Viejo, CA. We are planning to make this an annual event. Also during this conference, we had 11 people join our chapter, bringing our total membership to 42.

We are now preparing for our third conference on November 5, 2007. Linda R. Littlejohns, MSN RN CCRN CNRN, vice president of clinical development at Integra NeuroSciences, San Diego, CA, will lecture for the entire day. Her topics are slated to include the anatomy and physiology of the brain and spinal cord and TBI.—Beverly Tabb, President


Welcome to the three newest members of AANN’s chapter family: the South Carolina Upstate Chapter, the Upstate New York Chapter, and the South Plains Chapter. Both of our “upstate” chapters have an enthusiastic start and some exciting plans for the future. “We were thrilled to receive our chapter charter from AANN,” said Cynthia Burns of the **South Carolina Upstate Chapter**. “We had a dinner

lecture meeting on cervical spine disorders and a meeting with a lecture on seizure disorders. Our membership is growing steadily. We hope to host an 8-hour neuro workshop in the spring.”

The **Upstate New York Chapter** has been very busy. According to President Louann Bala, the chapter has had two informational meetings and membership drives, which increased their membership to 20. Members of the chapter will be working at a “helmet fair” at the local ski slope and are planning on a rock ‘n’ bowl benefit this fall for children with brain tumors. They will also cosponsor a CNRN review with continuing education credit October 29–30 at Ellis Hospital, Schenectady, NY.

The **South Plains Chapter** of Lubbock, TX, has been formally meeting since July 2007. Our chapter currently has 26 members/associate members attending the meetings.

Covenant Health System sponsors an Annual Neuroscience Symposium that we will begin to cosponsor. We hosted a speaker in September for a certification review course. Together with Covenant Medical Center and Covenant Neuroscience Institute, we have applied to be an independent test site for the November 9, 2007, certification exam with 24 applications submitted along with the independent test site application.

We are new, excited, and hoping to continue to grow.—Kathleen Davis, President 

## Calendar

**November 16, 2007**

**CNRN Computer-Based Testing Window Closes**

Contact: [www.CNRN.org](http://www.CNRN.org)

**December 31, 2007**

**Application deadline: Melanie Minton CNRN of the Year Award**

Contact: [www.CNRN.org](http://www.CNRN.org)

**January 15, 2008**

**Application deadline: AANN awards**

Contact: [www.AANN.org](http://www.AANN.org)

**January 31, 2008**

**Application deadline: CNRN recertification (with late fee)**

Contact: [www.CNRN.org](http://www.CNRN.org)

**February 1, 2008**

**Application deadline: CNRN independent test site**

Contact: [www.CNRN.org](http://www.CNRN.org)

**February 15, 2008**

**Application deadline: Spring CNRN exam**

Contact: [www.CNRN.org](http://www.CNRN.org)

**February 16, 2008**

**Neuroscience Nursing Symposium  
Ritz Carlton South Beach, Miami Beach, FL**

Sponsor: Neurosurgical Institute of Florida

Contact: Mark R. Shaya, MD, 305/325-4873

Web site: <http://neurosurgicalinstituteofl.com/>

**February 18–19, 2008**

**4th Annual Update Symposium on Clinical  
Neurology and Neurophysiology**

**Tel Aviv, Israel**

Sponsors: Weill Cornell Medical College; The Adams Super Center for Brain Studies at Tel Aviv University;

and the Joseph Sagol Neuroscience Center at the

Chaim Sheba Medical Center, Tel Hashomer, Israel

Contact: [www.neurophysiology-symposium.com](http://www.neurophysiology-symposium.com)

**March 14–April 11, 2008**

**Spring CNRN Computer-Based Testing Window**

Contact: [www.CNRN.org](http://www.CNRN.org)

**March 15, 2008**

**Submission deadline: Spirit of Neuroscience  
Nursing Photo Contest**

Contact: [www.AANN.org](http://www.AANN.org)

**March 28, 2008**

**Spring CNRN exam  
Nashville, TN**

Contact: [www.CNRN.org](http://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](http://www.AANN.org)

