



## MCNP President Notes Milestones and Goals

Dear Members,

I hope this New Year brings health and happiness to each of you. What an exciting few months we've had! Over the past six months we have made great progress in advancing our legislative agenda, thanks to your involvement and activism. Our legislation, Senate Bill 2399 is alive and well, still intact as a stand alone bill. Quite a feat after this last hearing. We again will need your support in the spring to ensure the bill advances without changes. So stay tuned for more on that.

**Another milestone** is our recognition by the Governor as part of a policy making group. We have a seat on the Health Care Cost and Quality Council's Advisory Board. This is the group that advises the Governor and the Health Connector regarding the implementation of universal health care. We have a voice in the policy that will drive this initiative and impact the future of health care in Massachusetts. In fact, I was at a meeting of the Council today and members from the Attorney General's and the Inspector General's offices publicly voiced the need to examine if we have enough "primary care doctors and nurse practitioners." The message was clear. Nurse practitioners will be a part of the solution. All providers will be included. We will talk about the "taboo" subjects. We really have come a long way!

**Our PAC held numerous successful fundraisers** for key legislators, including Senate President Therese Murray. The Senate President has been vocal about the inclusion of nurse practitioners in any health care reform. The Boston Globe quoted her support for nurse practitioners in health reform effort. As Senator Murray is usually noncommittal, her statements were unexpected and very exciting for us. Her support is vital to gaining legislative ground and your support of her was the key that made this happen. Kudos to you all! And keep in mind we have a fundraiser for Senator Moore upcoming. He also is a key player and we need your influence to garner his support.

**The Coalition was present** in the discussion around the opening of Minute Clinics in Massachusetts. The Department of Public Health contacted us and asked for our advice and input. We met with them prior to the public hearings to speak to the scope of NP practice. Many of our officers and members testified at the public hearings. We focused our testimony on the issue of NP practice: safety, quality, access to care and remained non-committal. Yet we delivered a message that clearly stated the public wants the choice, and they

*(Continued on next page)*

## NP Colleague Recognized by Healthcare Team

North Shore member Sally Brown has received a recognition award at her workplace. She is an NP working for Evercare as part of the healthcare delivery team.

She was honored with a team-work award from Dr John Mack, CEO of EverCare, in recognition of exceeding expectations in the area of teamwork. She has accepted a challenging workload over the past several months while still attaining superior delivery of care to the residents of nursing homes. MCNP applauds Sally on this honor!

**Northeast  
Regional  
Nurse  
Practitioner  
Conference:**

**Manchester, NH  
May 7-9, 2008!**

[www.bc.edu/npconference](http://www.bc.edu/npconference)

(President, Continued from page 1)

should have it. We are ready, willing and able to provide excellent care in any venue. I know DPH heard our message loud and clear. So did the consumers.

So, all in all, it has been a very exciting few months for me. As president I am fortunate to be involved in all these efforts and surrounded by a great team of committed individuals. Many of these members have been active since the inception of the Coalition and some are newer to the group. But every one has done a tremendous job of representing you and working very hard on your behalf. I would like to thank them and hope you recognize that their devotion to the cause and their efforts make your daily practice of the profession easier. And I would like to thank each of you for your support and activism. Without you voicing your wishes to the legislators, we could not move our agenda forward. Congratulations to each of you.

So, as we “spring” forward, keep up the good work, stay involved, solicit new membership to help support our progress and think about how you can be instrumental to advancing our professional practice. We are in the right place at the right time. We need to stay focused and goal oriented and we will be successful. Happy 2008, the year of the NP!

**Nancy O’Rourke**  
President MCNP

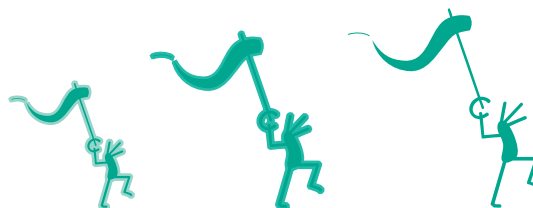
## MCNP Legislative Conference

This fall MCNP sponsored a one-day legislative and legal conference titled “Safeguard Your Practice: Legal and Legislative Pearls, Pointers and Updates” at the UMass Graduate School of Nursing in Worcester. Dr. Connie Morrison, NP and attorney, was our guest lecturer and delivered an excellent program on legal considerations, malpractice, and standards of care. MCNP provided both insight and information on current legislative activities. Sixty-five nurse practitioners from multiple specialty areas as well as student nurse practitioners attended the conference.

Connie began the day with a discussion surrounding the elements of malpractice and negligence. She transitioned into risk management strategies and sources of liability. Case scenarios demonstrated areas of potential malpractice as well as various defenses of malpractice. Dr. Morrison summarized the trial experience in a malpractice case.

The afternoon sessions included updates by MCNP legislative co-chairs, Beth Rowlands and Leah Callan and MCNP lobbyist, Stacey Ober. Attendees were “walked through” the legislative arena and process of passing a bill on the Hill. The significance and potential practice implications of the Limited Service Clinics (a.k.a. Minute Clinics) were identified. Also discussed were the key components involved with lobbying and relationship building with legislators and efforts to pass our current bill, An Act to Ensure Consumer Choice of Nurse Practitioner Services. It became clear as to what passage of this bill means for access to quality care in a state with requirements for health insurance for all citizens. Nurse Practitioners are ready and able to provide high quality care and demonstrate excellent outcomes. The implications of pay for performance and transparency of care are multiple. The conference ended with an interactive discussion of current issues and suggestions for future actions. It was a successful day!

**Lisa Arello, Past President**



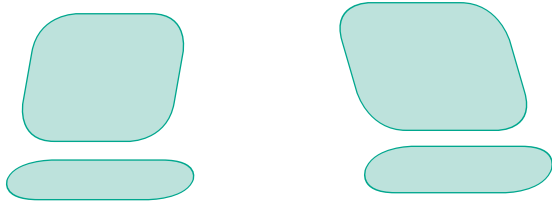
*We are looking into options and costs for possibly publishing a membership directory on CD. MCNP will update you once we have completed the research. Watch your email for updates..*

## New Credentials

The American Nurses Credentialing Center has changed the credentials for nurse practitioners and clinical nurse specialists, effective January 1, 2008. The ANCC will notify the state Boards of Nursing and other stakeholders of the change. Clinical nurse specialists will now use the credential CNS-BC and Nurse Practitioners will use the following, per their individual certification:

<b>Family</b>	<b>FNP-BC</b>
<b>Adult</b>	<b>ANP-BC</b>
<b>Acute Care</b>	<b>ACNP-BC</b>
<b>Pediatric</b>	<b>PNP-BC</b>
<b>Geriatric</b>	<b>GNP-BC</b>
<b>Family or Adult Psych &amp; Mental Health*</b>	<b>PMHNP</b>

\*certificate will state either family or adult



## You Have the Power: Tips for Using MCNP's Email Lists

MCNP now maintains more than a dozen email lists to keep you informed of issues, jobs, legislation, education and more. We want to keep you informed and yet not overwhelm your email box. For this reason there are controls on the MCNP email system and we need your help in using the system efficiently so it does not get out of control or become bothersome and less useful. The system has been updated give you more options for choosing some of the email you receive from the organization.

Some current email issues include unnecessary email RSVPs with regrets, emails with only a nickname or no name in the text making it difficult to figure out how to reply and emails with attachments. To make it clearer how to use the system, a tip sheet was created. Here's hoping it makes us all more successful and less frustrated!

Please take a few moments to look at the tip sheet put together to help us all use the MCNP email system. (<http://www.mcnpweb.org/tips.html>)

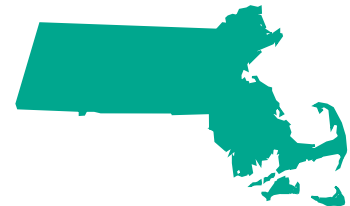
If you have any questions, please let us know!

## Newsletter & Website Advertising

The Massachusetts Coalition of Nurse Practitioners publishes a quarterly newsletter that reaches all of our members throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Our website is [www.mcnpweb.org](http://www.mcnpweb.org). We accept advertising for both on a limited basis—for employment opportunities, educational, or research purposes. Other types of advertisements may be considered by the executive committee at its monthly meeting.

Advertisements are accepted on a space available basis and the cost is \$300. Requests for additional information should be directed to:

[editor@mcnpweb.org](mailto:editor@mcnpweb.org)



## Editorial Policy

The MCNP newsletter is a forum not only for disseminating information but for our members to express opinions and feelings about issues and policies that affect all of us. We hope that editorials, guest opinions, and letters to the editor stimulate serious thought and discussion in this constantly changing health care environment. However, it is important to note that the opinions expressed in editorial pieces are not necessarily endorsed by the MCNP as a whole. We encourage members to respond to our editor about any information presented in the newsletter.

**Lisa Arello, Editor**

## Regional News

### GREATER BOSTON

We had an active autumn season with two business meetings/education programs. On October 15th, 2007, at Maggiano's, our meeting included a presentation on "Post Herpetic Neuralgia and the Herpes Zoster Vaccine" by Dr. Edgar Ross. During this business meeting we were able to raise \$150 which purchased a wonderful gift basket that was donated to the MCNP-PAC raffle at the Annual Legislative Event.

Our second meeting, December 6th, 2007, included a legislative update on the status of our Primary Care Provider bill filed by MCNP earlier this year. The educational portion of the program addressed "Minimally Invasive Treatments for Compression Fractures." Our speaker was a fellow Greater Boston Regional Representative and MCNP Education Committee member, Marion L. Growney, ACNP, who described the latest interventions for vertebral fractures. This program was generously supported by Kyphon, Inc.

Leah and I encourage you to attend our meetings. The group is growing and meetings are a wonderful opportunity to network with colleagues in the Greater Boston area. We intend to organize a small group to plan upcoming education programs. If you are interested, please contact us. Our next business meeting/education program will be held on Wednesday January 30th, 2008 at Davio's. Our speaker, Dr. Om Ganda, will present "Advancing Our Understanding of Glycemic Control: Refocusing on Glucose Regulation in T2DM." More information to follow.

**Barbara G. Rosato, MSN, APRN**  
**Leah McKinnon-Howe, MSN, APRN**

### METROSOUTH

The MetroSouth Region continues to offer quarterly educational dinners. Topics presented this past year included "Meet the MCNP," "End of Life Symptom Management," "Back Pain" and "Diabetes Management." Three of the four topics were presented by nurse practitioners who are experts in their fields.

Assistance in planning educational programs is always welcome; interested members may contact me.  
Susan Frazier

**Susan Frazier**  
**winterfield@comcast.net**

### GREATER WORCESTER

We had a dinner program in October sponsored by AstraZeneca at Castellanos in Worcester. The discussion was about "Strategies and Tools for Treatment for Asthma." Members also brought in items for Abbey's House in Worcester, a facility for women who have been victims of domestic violence. We are planning several programs during the winter and spring but could use our members help! If you have pharmaceutical reps calling on you in your offices and they are willing to sponsor a program, send them my way. They can email or they call and ask to speak to me directly. It would be nice to see some new and old faces at these gatherings! It is a great time to catch up and network with colleagues and enjoy a nice evening out! Whenever possible we try to offer CEUs as well. Happy New Year to all; I hope to see you soon!

**Margaret Kamin**  
**maggiekamin@aol.com**  
**508-831-0708**

### PIONEER VALLEY

The 14th Fall Conference, "Blues Around My Head" took place October 26. We had excellent speakers on cranial nerve problems, dental/oral health, diabetic retinopathy, ear/hearing problems and allergic conditions. We have also had multiple evening programs. Topics included: smoking cessation, the role of primary care providers with patients on immunological agents for rheumatic conditions, and a networking evening with a legislative update. For 2008 we are planning programs on adolescent immunizations, adult immunizations, orthopedic issues in primary care and billing/coding for the PCP.

This region is very active in the community. We continue to collect food, socks, gloves and toiletries at each of our meetings. At the Fall Conference, we had a silent auction of Central American crafts to help buy medications for the Honduras trip, which will be in March next year. We welcome newcomers to the trip to Honduras each year, so if you speak Spanish and have an urge to have some hands-on, cross-cultural experience, let Peggy Warwick (pwarwick@mtholyoke.edu) or me (jeanne.allen@hhcinc.org) know.

There are many job opportunities for nurse practitioners in western Massachusetts these days, we are willing to help anyone thinking of moving out this way.

Have a safe and happy new year.

**Jeanne Allen**

# MCNP-PAC and Legislative Committee

## Three Areas of Action

**Our PCP Bill:** An Act to Ensure Consumer Choice of Nurse Practitioner Services, Senate Bill 2399. It is an exciting time for us as we prepare for another legislative session lobbying for our primary care provider bill. Currently, Massachusetts state statute does not define “primary care provider.” Without this definition, insurance companies are allowed to choose how they will define a primary care provider (PCP) which may or may not include nurse practitioners. With the passage of our bill, insurance companies will be mandated to recognize NPs as PCPs and list them within their provider directory.

Giving NPs primary care provider status will improve access to health care services, support consumer choice of providers and allow for greater transparency of care delivery. Our bill began as S1226 and was sent to the Joint Committee on Health Care Finance. We lobbied the members of this committee through meetings at the State House and grassroots letter writing from our members. A Massachusetts health insurance plan voiced some concerns to the committee, which then led legislators to decide the bill would need further review before being released to the floor for a vote.

While still in committee, language related to the creation of an advanced practice nursing commission was added to the bill. The addition of this wording changed the number of the bill, which is now S2399. Our bill S2399 now sits in the Ethics and Rules Committee for review. We are hoping it will be favorably released and move to the Senate floor for a vote in January.

For the most up to date information on the status of our bill and our legislative strategy, see the MCNP-PAC website. (<http://www.mcnp-pac.org>)

**Building Legislative Relationships:** Our PAC is very active in developing and maintaining relationships with legislators across the state. We plan events throughout the year and extend invitations to all the membership. Your presence at these events helps to give MCNP a greater voice on the hill. Let your local elected officials know an NP lives in their district through phone calls, letters and face to face meetings.

Senate President Theresa Murray has been an integral part of our work in furthering NP practice issues. She has been publicly supportive and included discussion of NPs in her speech to the Boston Chamber of Commerce in October. Her clear message of the importance of NPs in the healthcare delivery system has been vital to gathering support from other state senators for our bill. On September 25, 2007 we held a fundraiser for the Senate President. This successful event demonstrated to the Senate President that we have an active membership base within her constituency and we support her campaign through contributions.

Senator Susan Fargo has been supportive of NPs over the years and we continue to work closely with her. Earlier this year we hosted a fundraiser at the home of a PAC member and invited the Senator. We enjoyed a quiet evening speaking candidly with her on various public health issues while supporting her campaign efforts.

Representative John Rogers has been a long time friend of the MCNP. This past fall we hosted a fundraiser for him and successfully demonstrated our constituency base and campaign support.

MCNP-PAC's website calendar lists upcoming events. If you are interested in hosting an event at your home for your local representative, please contact us.

**MCNP-PAC Activity:** The PAC has been growing since its creation in 2005. We wish to thank all our members who support our efforts. Our work on Beacon Hill could not have been accomplished without the hard work of the PAC members and the financial support of the MCNP. Thank you to all members who made a direct contribution or participated in one of our fundraisers. Our members help make things happen!

We continue to need your support to further our work with our PCP bill. Please consider a contribution of one hour's wages to the PAC. Not only do we use this money to contribute to campaigns but we also use it to support and maintain our website.

Check out our new website! We hope you will find that it now gives you the information you need in an easy to understand format. Add it to your “favorites” and check it out regularly!

For 2008 we are already planning several events to raise money for the PAC. At the Northeast Regional Conference we will again be looking for each regional group to donate an item to be raffled off. Contact your regional representative if you have an item you are interested in donating on behalf of your region. Last year was a huge success and we hope to do even better this year! Anyone interested in helping with the coordination of an event, please feel free to contact us. We welcome all levels of participation!

**Beth Rowlands (bethann  
rowlands@uhc.org)**

**Leah McKinnon-Howe  
(lmckinno@bidmc.harvard.edu)  
Legislative Committee Co-Chairs**

[www.mcnp-pac.org](http://www.mcnp-pac.org)

# Distinguished NP Award

## Distinguished NP of the Year Award Criteria

The MCNP Distinguished NP Award recognizes a member who has made significant contributions in at least two of the following categories: professional association activities and contributions, activities supporting the public image of the NP, a role model for excellence in the provision of health care services, significant research which supports the role of the NP, or significant contributions to NP education. There will be one award determined on an annual basis, presented at the Annual Meeting of the MCNP. The Nominating and Awards Committee will review all nominations for compliance with the criteria, and the award recipient will be determined by a simple majority through secret ballot of the Board of Directors.

## Nomination form, NP of the Year

Name of the nominator (your name) .....

Your home address .....

Your home telephone number .....

Your email address .....

Are you a CURRENT member of MCNP?  YES  NO

Name of member you are nominating .....

Nominee home address .....

Nominee home phone .....

Is the nominee a CURRENT member of MCNP?  YES  NO

State in which the nominee is licensed as an NP .....

Professional information about the nominee:

Certification as:  FNP  ANP  PNP  GNP  WHNP Other: .....

Educational Degree .....

Title at place of business .....

Place of business .....

Business address .....

Business phone .....

In support of the nomination, please include a letter(s) of support which addresses two of the five criteria demonstrating distinguished NP characteristics. Please submit all information by February 28, 2008, to Susan Frazier, 11 Winterfield Drive, East Bridgewater, MA 02333

# Guidelines

## MCNP Distinguished NP Award

### Criteria for all Nominees:

1. Current license to practice in the Advanced Nurse Practitioner Role in the State of Massachusetts.
2. Current member of the MCNP.

### Criteria for Individual Categories above:

1. **For the Professional Activities category:**
  - a. Has held an elective MCNP office, or has chaired an MCNP committee.
  - b. Has demonstrated leadership and contributed to the purposes of the MCNP.
  - c. Demonstrates leadership skills.
  - d. Exhibits strong commitment to the MCNP.
  - e. Is a positive professional role model.
2. **For the Activities Supporting the public image of the NP category:**
  - a. Utilizes the public media, literature, legislation, and/or community in support of the NP role.
  - b. Advocates for NPs and the NP profession.
  - c. Demonstrates leadership skills.
  - d. Enhances the image of the professional NP at the local, state, or national level.
3. **For the Excellence in provision of health care services category:**
  - a. Functions as a role model for excellence in NP practice.
  - b. Contributes innovative, progressive ideas which enhance NP practice.
  - c. Demonstrates positive relationships with patients, as well as colleagues.
4. **For the category Significant research which supports the NP role:**
  - a. Has completed post-baccalaureate, post-masters, or post-doctoral research which supports NP practice and which is for purposes other than degree requirements.
  - b. Critically reviews research related to NP practice, develops new ways to provide care based on the research, and evaluates the effect of the new care.
  - c. Has communicated research to the NP community (list publications).
5. **For the category Excellence in NP education:**
  - a. Involved with the education of NP students.
  - b. Demonstrates creativity in instructional material, or teaching methods.
  - c. Is a positive role model for students and colleagues.

If you would like to nominate someone, please follow the guidelines, and submit your nomination in writing, with supporting documentation to: Susan Frazier, 11 Winterfield Drive, East Bridgewater, MA 02333, by February 28, 2008. All nominations will be reviewed by a special committee, and the award will be given at the Northeast Regional NP Conference in early May.

### The MCNP

#### Distinguished NP

#### Award recognizes

a member who has

made significant

contributions in

at least two of the

following categories:

professional

association activities

and contributions,

activities supporting

the public image of

the NP, a role model

for excellence in

the provision of

health care services,

significant research

which supports

the role of the

NP, or significant

contributions to NP

education. There

will be one award

annually and it is

presented at the

Annual Meeting of

the MCNP.



# MCNP Announces Nominations Open Exceptional Preceptors Award

## The Award

The MCNP Exceptional Preceptor Award recognizes nurse practitioners in **different regions** who demonstrate excellence in the preceptor role to nurse practitioner students. This award provides an opportunity to publicly recognize the unique characteristics of the nurse practitioner who role models, teaches, and evaluates nursing students who are learning advanced nursing practice skills. There will be up to **five awards** presented on an annual basis at the Annual Meeting of the MCNP.

The Nominating and Awards Committee will review all nominations for compliance with the criteria; and the award recipients will be determined by an ad hoc committee comprised of the Board of Directors. We invite you to submit your nominations for the best preceptor in your region.

In support of the nomination, please include a letter which addresses the criteria demonstrating exceptional preceptor characteristics.

## Criteria for All Nominees

1. Current license to practice in the Nurse Practitioner role in the State of Massachusetts
2. Exhibits excellence as a nurse practitioner and as a preceptor by demonstrating expert patient care skills with the added scope of teaching advanced clinical skills and theoretical concepts to the NP student
3. Is creative in approach to nursing care and/or teaching
4. Has had a positive effect on clients and on nurse colleagues
5. Utilizes current research to enhance quality of care and the education of the student

**Nomination form is on the next page.**

## Instructions for Nominating

- ◆ It is not necessary to be a member of the MCNP
- ◆ Nominators must be students or members of the MCNP
- ◆ Awards are presented according to the region in which the nominator lives or works
- ◆ The Nominations Form may be photocopied for multiple nominations
- ◆ All nominations must be typed or clearly printed
- ◆ All nominations submitted become property of the Massachusetts Coalition of Nurse Practitioners.

If you would like to nominate someone for this award, please follow the guidelines, and submit your nomination in writing, with supporting documentation by February 28, 2008 to:

**Susan Frazier, NP**  
**11 Winterfield Dr**  
**East Bridgewater, MA 02333**

All nominations will be reviewed by a special committee, and the awards will be presented at the Northeast Regional NP Conference in early May. ***Incomplete nominations will not be processed.***

**Awards**  
**will be presented**  
**at the Northeast Regional**  
**NP Conference**  
**in early May**

## Nomination form, Exceptional Preceptor

Name of the nominator (your name) .....

Your home address .....

Your home telephone number .....

Your email address .....

Are you a CURRENT member of MCNP?  YES  NO

Name of nominee .....

Nominee home address .....

Nominee home phone .....

Professional information about the nominee:

Certification as:  FNP  ANP  PNP  GNP  WHNP Other:.....

Educational degree .....

Nominee's employer .....



## Education Committee

The education committee announces the 15th Annual Northeast Regional Nurse Practitioner Conference on May 7-9, 2008 in Manchester, NH. The theme of the conference is: "A Reflection of the Health Care System: Strategies to Improve the Access and Delivery of Healthcare."

The education committee is delighted to welcome our keynote speaker, Kelley Tuthill. She is a member of Team 5 Investigates, WCVB-TV's investigative unit. A breast cancer survivor, she will poignantly share her journey from diagnosis to recovery and reflect on the relationship between patient and nurse.

As always, the conference will provide a variety of workshops and clinical sessions led by a diverse faculty who are experts in clinical and professional issues. Please remember to join us for our Thursday evening reception May 8th. We welcome all attendees to participate and recognize nurse practitioners from Massachusetts and New Hampshire who have demonstrated excellence in professional practice. It is also a great opportunity for networking and socializing with colleagues.

The Northeast Regional Nurse Practitioner Conference is committed to providing continuing nursing educa-

tion that expands the basic education and experience of nurse practitioners. The sponsoring members are the New Hampshire Nurse Practitioner Association, the Massachusetts Coalition of Nurse Practitioners and the Boston College William F. Connell School of Nursing, Continuing Education Program.

Take advantage of your membership discount and join us! For online registration details see [www.bc.edu/npconference](http://www.bc.edu/npconference). We look forward to seeing you all in May!

**Ann Dirr, MSN, APRN-BC  
Education Committee Chair**

# The Practice Doctorate: What the future holds for NP education

The information here has been adapted from her newsletter and used with permission of Margaret A. Fitzgerald, DNP, APRN, BC, NP-C, FAANP, CSP; DNP graduate, 5.06, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH; President, Fitzgerald Health Education Associates, Inc., North Andover, MA; Family Nurse Practitioner, Adjunct Faculty, Family Practice Residency Program, Greater Lawrence (MA) Family Health Center; Editorial Board member *The Nurse Practitioner Journal*, *Medscape Nursing*, *Prescriber's Letter*, *American Nurse Today*

**Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) about the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Adapted from The American Association of Colleges of Nursing DNP information website (<http://www.aacn.nche.edu/DNP>) with addition of my personal comments**

## **Why should the NP profession consider changing the current requirement from Master's degree to the Doctor of Nursing Practice as entry into practice?**

According to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) Position Statement on the Practice Doctorate in Nursing, the current advanced practice nurse (APN) graduate programs require didactic and clinical hours far beyond the requirements of Master's education in virtually any other field. Setting the DNP as the entry into practice helps recognize the rigor of current Master's level education in nursing while providing a venue for the APN student to study areas not currently included in programs. Another important factor is need for APNs to achieve educational parity with other professions including law, dentistry, social work, pharmacy, medicine and physical therapy that have established the practice doctorate as entry into practice. This parity is critically important to NP advancement in the area of healthcare policy and leadership. The NP profession has survived and thrived since the transition from the certificate to Master's level as entry into practice. I believe the transition to the DNP will yield similar results.

**Does implementation of the DNP requirement mean that advanced practice nurses will no longer be permitted to practice without a**

## **doctorate?**

No. Advanced Practice Nurses with master's degrees will "grandfathered" to allow practice in their current capacities. Recommendations will be forthcoming from the Roadmap task force on how to facilitate rapid transition to the DNP for master's-level nurses who wish to seek this credential.

## **Does the term "advanced nursing practice" mean that the degree is only for nurse practitioners (NPs) or other APN roles?**

No, the DNP is not targeted nor restricted to NPs or other APNs. The definition of 'advanced nursing practice' includes both direct clinical practice and areas that support clinical practice, for example administration, organizational management and leadership, and policy.

## **Will APNs with a DNP automatically have independent practice privileges?**

State Nurse Practice Acts describe the scope of practice allowed, and these differ from state to state. However, the National Councils of State Boards of Nursing recently published its NCSBN Vision Statement for Advanced Practice Nursing ([https://www.ncsbn.org/Draft\\_APRN\\_Vision\\_Paper.pdf](https://www.ncsbn.org/Draft_APRN_Vision_Paper.pdf)) to help achieve uniformity in regulation of advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) across states. One of the statement's proposed goals is that by 2015, fully licensed advanced practice registered nurses will be independent practitioners. After licensure, there will be no regulatory requirements for further supervision. Adopting the DNP as the minimum education requirement for advanced nursing practice will likely support the movement towards this ambitious goal.

## **How much more can I expect to earn with a DNP?**

There is no guarantee of an increased salary with the attainment of a higher educational degree. In general, salary is not based on level of education but rather the skill set the person brings to the marketplace. Consider how the knowledge you will gain in a DNP program can translate into a broader skill set that can then translate into a higher salary.

### **If I am not going to earn more money, what is the incentive to back to school?**

There is a critical need for clinicians to design, evaluate, and continuously improve the healthcare system. Nurses prepared at the doctoral level with a blend of clinical, organizational, economic and leadership skills will be better able to critique the current healthcare system; evaluate the existing healthcare science; and design programs of care delivery relevant to the geographic area and economically feasible.

### **I have heard this degree called a clinical doctorate, a professional doctorate and a practice doctorate. Which term is correct?**

In its Position Statement on the Practice Doctorate in Nursing, the AACN advocates the use of the term “practice doctorate”. According to the AACN, the term practice, specifically nursing practice, refers to any form of nursing intervention that influences health care outcomes for individuals or populations, including the direct care of individual patients, management of care for individuals and populations, administration of nursing and health care organizations, and the development and implementation of health policy.

### **How does the DNP differ from a PhD in nursing?**

Here are the key points of each type of doctoral preparation in nursing

#### **Doctor of Nursing practice (DNP)**

Prepare nurses at the highest level of practice with a commitment to career in practice and/or service leader who is oriented toward improving outcomes of care. Contributes to improvement in health care via direct service and policy change.

#### **Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)**

Prepare nurse researcher with a commitment to research career. Oriented toward development of new knowledge, and establish a pattern of productive scholarship alone and with others in the discipline. Research contributions, development of new knowledge, and other scholarly products that provide the foundation for the advancement of nursing science.

### **I'm starting a new master's program. Should I continue?**

Without hesitation, I say, “Yes.” We need our profession to grow and thrive during this transition period that will be at minimum 10 years in length. Most DNP programs will

have a post Masters DNP completion program that will allow recently graduated and practicing NPs to achieve this degree.

### **What are our colleagues in physical therapy saying about their transitional Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) programs?**

The leaders in the field of physical therapy have been advocating for Doctor of Physical Therapy as the entry level into clinical practice. Here is a comment from the American Physical Therapy Association website about this transition period.

“For current practitioners...The DPT is not required for the practice of physical therapy. Even so, there are several reasons for considering one. There is value in any educational experience that augments knowledge, skills, and behaviors in a way that will help better position a practitioner in a very uncertain health care environment. The DPT (transition) program will provide practitioners with a degree-based opportunity to acquire new knowledge, skills, and behaviors and to do so with colleagues who bring a wealth of experience in the application of the science and art of physical therapy. Today, preparation to be a physical therapist requires an educational experience that is, in fact, commensurate with doctoral preparation; the DPT is the appropriate degree for that preparation.”  
Source: [www.apta.org/Education/transitiondpt](http://www.apta.org/Education/transitiondpt), accessed 1.20.07.

As you can see, our colleagues in physical therapy are going through a similar time of transition.

### **How many institutions currently offer the DNP?**

There are currently at least 20 practice doctorates in nursing degrees accepting students nationwide, and additional programs are now under development. For a list of DNP programs, for the latest information please visit: <http://www.aacn.nche.edu/DNP/DNPProgramList.htm>

Another helpful resource is the National Organization of NP Faculty Practice Doctorate Resource Center, available at <http://nonpf.com/NONPF2005/PracticeDoctorateResourceCenter/PDResourceCenter.htm>

Adapted and printed with permission.

# Membership Renewals

All memberships in MCNP expire on June 30 each year.  
You can renew your membership two ways:

*to print a form and send in a check, go to*  
[www.mcnpweb.org/joinform.pdf](http://www.mcnpweb.org/joinform.pdf)

*to pay online go to*  
[www.mcnpweb.org/signupall.html](http://www.mcnpweb.org/signupall.html)

## FIRST CLASS MAIL

Massachusetts Coalition of  
Nurse Practitioners

PO Box 1153

Littleton, MA 01460