



Florida Nurse Practitioner Network

MARCH 2010 News Bullets

Good Morning!

It is March 2010, we would like to bring you up to date on what's new in your own backyard of Florida. In this newsletter you will find the following:

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Quote of the Month: "A leader is a dealer in hope".

RALLY ON TALLY

Rally in Tally Fast Approaching:

Dr. Chris Saslo

On March 24, 2010, the Florida Nurse Practitioner Network will host its first annual "Rally in Tally". This legislative effort is designed to encourage NPs from around the state to put aside the apathy that has held us back for so many years. In our 16 years of trying to obtain controlled substance prescribing authority, we believe that only through strength and numbers can we be successful in having legislators hear us once and for all.

The sad truth is, as a profession, **we have perpetuated our own weakness by disregarding our own power.** Currently in Florida, there are more than 10,000 NPs and more than 14,000 Advanced Practice Nurses active in the workforce. In light of the challenge that the American Association of Medical Colleges estimates that there will be a shortfall of as many as 46,000 primary care doctors by 2025, we have the opportunity to make an impact.

But will you be part of the change? Or will you be content to sit idly by while your physician colleagues continue to leave primary care, reduce access to care and deny our own educational preparations that demonstrate our ability to provide quality, comprehensive care? We hope you will choose **advocacy over apathy**; but only you can make that decision. This rally asks you to sacrifice only ONE DAY out of your busy

week to make your voice heard. If you cannot, however, attend for whatever the reason, make a commitment to be active in other ways. Promise yourself to be active through following legislative updates on the website or perhaps being part of the CapWiz link that gives you a wealth of information and communication to legislators at the click of a mouse. Encourage your colleagues to become active as well and help build the commitment to change we so desperately need.

We hope to see you in Tallahassee, but if you can't make the trip, be sure to make the commitment!

Education Updates:

The following important educational opportunities have been posted for March, & April; be sure to check back on our website at www.fnnp.org for additional updates and additions!

Mar
06 [2010 LorSand CME - Pain Medicine and Controlled Substances](#)
Sat at 07:00am (EST) Tampa - Florida 8.0 CE credits

Mar
13 [Treating Women in Menopause with Bio-Identical Hormones](#)
Sat at 08:00am (EST) Estero - Florida 9.0 CE credits

Mar
22 [Florida's H1N1 Forum](#)
Mon at 05:00pm (EDT) Tallahassee - Florida

Mar
24 [FNPN "Rally In Tally" - Statewide APN Event](#)
Wed at 12:30pm (EDT) Tallahassee - Florida 4.0 CE credits

Apr
15 [NPACE Primary Care Conference](#)
Thu at 08:00am (EDT) Lake Buena Vista - Florida 18.0 CE credits

Apr
16 [Tallahassee Area Council of Advanced Practice Nurses Conf...](#)
Fri at 02:00pm (EDT) Tallahassee - Florida 10.0 CE credits

Apr
23 [104th Family Medicine Weekend](#)
Fri at 08:00am (CDT) Tampa - Florida 2.0 CE credits

Sep
23 [National Summit of Clinicians for Healthcare Justice](#)
Thu at 07:00am (EDT) Arlington - Virginia

Job Announcements!

There have been many new **job postings** around the state on our web site at www.fnnp.org for those of you that may have an interest. On our new website, the most recent postings are on the front page. Please feel free to pass this along to your colleagues who may be interested in it as well, or who may have an interest in finding out more about our network. For those of you that have found jobs on our website, please be sure to let us know! ([back](#))

Do you know an employer who might find the FNPN Job posting a worthwhile site? If so, please be sure to tell them about the website and the fact that on average 20 or more jobs are posted each month. The traffic to

our website is incredible and we have more and more folks seeking employment through this site than ever before. Let them know you saw it on the FNPN Website!

Membership Update

Armando Riera-Membership Chair

Renewal Reminder

Membership in FNPN runs on an annual basis Jan-Dec.

Please renew your membership today.

Membership in FNPN can be as a group or individual member.

Individual members belong and receive many benefits as part of their membership-frequent communication during the legislative session (or special sessions), a paid lobbyist based in Tallahassee, access to posted job opportunities, access to posted upcoming conferences and many more benefits. If you belong to your local NP group you are not an FNPN member until you join FNPN individually, group and individual membership are two separate levels of membership. I encourage you to visit our newly redesigned web page today www.fnpn.org and while you're there you can renew online.

Group Presidents please renew today and continue to be an integral part of our growing organization. We value our group members as this creates a vital network of NP groups throughout the state. These groups help disseminate information about trends, issues and changes impacting NP's at the state and national level. As a group member we will also assist with conference planning and obtaining approval for CEU's if offered. We will also assist with promoting your conferences and activities and can provide assistance or link you with support in web design.

Just a reminder, students have special rate dues, and we encourage you and your peers to join!

FNPN PAC Update

Marifrances Gullo

Announcing that the FNPN PAC is up and running strong! Donations to the PAC can be made at the FNPN website FNPN PAC or if you chose snail mail to PO Box 25422, Tampa, FL, 33622. Please be sure to put PAC donation in the memo section of your check.

This is the time to take ACTION! The legislative session will begin soon. We realize that many of you are disappointed that you cannot Rally in Tally! We have a solution for that, if you can't go, please help support the cause by donating to the PAC as soon as possible. Your colleagues are going to Tally to fight for you and your patients. We need to support their efforts.

We are looking for people to join the PAC committee. The committee is responsible for monitoring PAC funds and following legislative agendas to determine where the funds would best be allocated. If you are interested in joining the PAC Committee, please contact Marifrances @ mgullo@cfl.rr.com

Finally, if your professional organization is having an annual conference, please let us know so we can attend and meet you personally.

Thank you, and hope to see you in Tally.

Around the State and Around the Nation

AANP Leadership Summit – A recipe for Success

FL and AL Leadership discuss legislation



Jan Towers give legislative update



Dr. Aertker greets AANP CEO



In February, 2010, leaders from Florida, Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi gathered together to discuss legislative issues that affect our profession. Jan Towers, AANP Legislative Director, along with the CEO and Executive director encouraged each state to identify ways to overcome obstacles in our health care system. From local to national issues, leadership left feeling empowered and rejuvenated in our mission and vision. With the upcoming legislative rally in Tallahassee, Florida, this boost of confidence was just what the ‘doctor’ ordered. The photos above represent just a few of the snapshots from a one day summit that left everyone wanting more.

The Leadership at FNP Network would like to encourage each and every reader to visit the Florida Nurse Practitioner Network website and register today for the quickly approaching “Rally in Tally”. Currently, more than 200 NPs from around the state will be gathering together to demand to have our voices heard. We encourage you to be among the change that is slowly but surely taking over our state’s health care reform.

The Luminary Project

Gail Sadler, NP shares this great information for all....

The Luminary Project - Call for 2010 Nominations for the Charlotte Brody Award.

To honor a colleague who exemplifies advocacy in environmental health and who inspires others to do the same.

At CleanMed 2006, the Luminary Project honored Charlotte Brody, RN as the first-ever recipient of the Charlotte Brody Award. This award was created in honor of a lifelong advocate for social change, and will be presented annually to a Luminary nurse who is brilliantly lighting the way to environmental health and inspiring other nurses to do the same. The 2010 Charlotte Brody Award will be presented at CleanMed 2010 to be held in Baltimore, MD. View full guidelines and nomination procedures

<http://www.theluminaryproject.org/article.php?id=42>. We have extended the deadline for nominations to March 8, 2010, 5:00pm Eastern

AANP Invitational Leadership Fellowship Meeting-Washington DC

Submitted by Doreen Cassarino

Last week I was fortunate to attend the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners Invitational Leadership Fellowship meeting in Washington, DC. During this three day meeting attendees are updated on national health policy issues and also have the opportunity to meet with representatives from the administration and their own legislators. We also met with staff from the committees of jurisdiction for the health care reform legislation.

Of course, with the timing of the meeting, the main topic of conversation was health care reform.

I met with legislative aides from the offices of Senators Bill Nelson and George LeMieux and Representative Connie Mack. We discussed several issues including the AANP's "Common Sense" Provisions for Health Care. This document lists specific recommendations for inclusion of nurse practitioners in health care reform legislation and states that "Nurse practitioners and nurse practitioner practices need to be included in all health care models developed and/or funded by the federal government." Nurse Practitioners are clearly part of the common sense measure for health care legislation!

Also we discussed medical economist Jeffrey C. Bauer's article "Nurse Practitioners as an Underutilized Resource for Health Reform: Evidence-Based Demonstrations of Cost-Effectiveness." As the title suggests, the conclusion states "all the evidence supports using nurse practitioners as one of the most cost-effective and feasible reforms to solve America's serious problems of cost, quality and access in health care." The article has not been published as of yet. Watch for the April issue Journal of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners!

Lastly we discussed the growing need to augment the number of primary care providers. I requested that the legislators support Title VIII funding which would increase moneys available to nurse practitioner education programs, thereby increasing the number of graduates resulting in the number of available primary care providers.

If you haven't reached out to your legislators please do so by going to the AANP website www.aanp.org and click on the AANP Advocacy Center where you will be directed to the Cap Wiz site. There are letters there for your use and there will be more in the near future to address these and other topics.

News you can use

If you are having trouble navigating Capwiz, this is the link for finding out who your legislators are <http://capwiz.com/fnnpn/directory/statedir.tt?state=FL&lvl=state>

Kudos Corner

The NP Council of Palm Beach County is please to recognize Eileen Ginsburg as the NP of the Year!



The Nurse Practitioner Council of Palm Beach County is please to recognize Eileen Ginsburg, ARNP-BC, BC-ADM as the Nurse Practitioner of the Year. This award is given to a practitioner who exemplifies a professional role through their practice, community involvement, and research. Eileen practices in a rheumatology setting and has been active in the Council as the Coordinator of Education Programs organizing our continuing education dinners.

The Annual Nurse Practitioner primary care conference, held each October has been fortunate to have Eileen as committee chair for several years. Although she is now a doctoral student at the University of Alabama at Birmingham Eileen continues to be an integral member of the Council. It is our pleasure to recognize the commitment of Eileen to our profession.

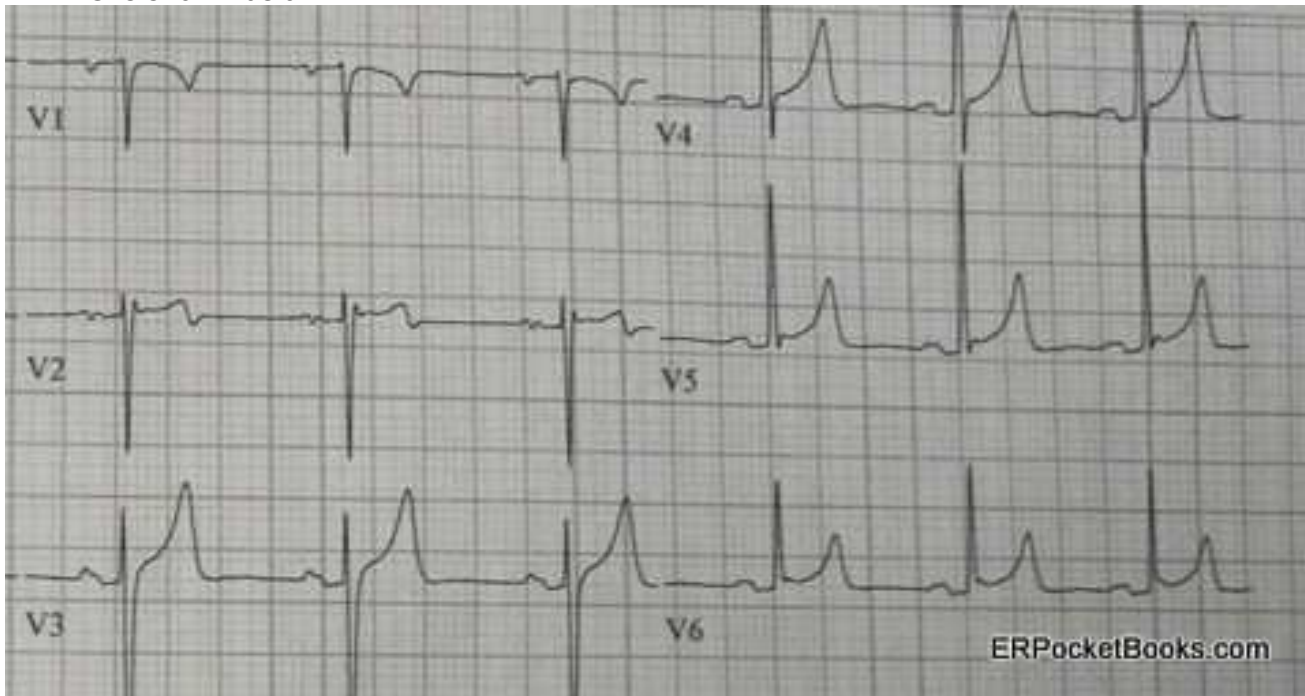
March Medical Mystery

48: Numb Hands

A 32 year old male presents with 2 days of a pins and needles sensation in both hands. He states he fainted about 1 hour ago and hit his head. He denies chest pain or trouble breathing, or any symptoms in his legs or feet.

Physical exam is unremarkable except for a 2cm eyebrow laceration.

An EKG is shown below.



What findings should you search for in a patient who has fainted?

What findings on this EKG might be important?

What if any other tests would you recommend?

CLICK HERE FOR CASE ANSWER AND TO MAKE COMMENTS:

<http://www.erpocketbooks.com/em-cases-41-60/48-numb-hands/>

