

## ***International Federation of Nurse Anesthetists Anesthesia Program Approval Process (APAP) Newsletter***

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**To:** School and Program Directors of IFNA's Approved Anesthesia Programs  
**From:** Betty Horton, APAP Manger  
**Date:** January 2015

### **APAP Awards in 2014**

Congratulations to the faculty of four programs who received APAP awards in October 2014! Decisions on their approvals were made by the IFNA Education Committee and the IFNA Board of Officers.

#### *Awarded Level #3 IFNA Accreditation in October 2014*

Programs holding IFNA Accreditation have completed a successful self-study and on-site visit to demonstrate substantial compliance with *IFNA's Educational Standards for Preparing Nurse Anesthetists*. The newly accredited programs are:

- Aargauische Fachschule fuer Anaesthesie- Intensiv- und Notfallpflege (AFSAIN), Aarau, Switzerland. Director: Markus Gautschi
- Goldfarb College of Nursing at Barnes-Jewish College Nurse Anesthesia Program, St. Louis, Missouri USA. Director: Bernadette Henrichs
- Specialized Nursing Postgraduate Diploma, Faculty of Nursing, University of Iceland; Reykjavik, Iceland. Director: Lára Borg

#### *Awarded Level #2 IFNA Recognition in October 2014*

Programs holding IFNA Recognition have undergone a successful curriculum audit to demonstrate substantial compliance with the "Curriculum Standard" in IFNA's Educational Standards. The newly recognized program is:

- Nurse Anesthesia Program Mount Marty College, Sioux Falls, South Dakota USA.  
Director: Alfred Lupien.

## International Council of Nurses (ICN) Article

An article authored by the IFNA Education Committee, "International Federation of Nurse Anesthetists' Anesthesia Program Approval Process", was published in ICN's Journal, *International Nursing Review*. The abstract is published in the US National Library of Medicine National Institute of Health, PubMed.gov. The abstract can be found at: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24754539>

The authors are: Betty J. Horton, USA, Karin Bjorkman-Bjorkelund, Sweden, Susana Anang, Africa, Marianne Riesen, Switzerland, and Hui-Ju (Jennifer) Yang, Taiwan.

## New Grant Application

Applications are being accepted for nurse anesthesia schools or programs (programs) interested in applying for Level #3 IFNA Accreditation. Two programs will be selected to complete the accreditation process which requires completion of all steps in the written procedure for accreditation as outlined in the International Federation of Nurse Anesthetists *Anesthesia Program Approval Process (APAP) Operational Policies and Procedures*.

The selected programs will be required to pledge to meet the *IFNA Educational Standards for Preparing Nurse Anesthetist*. They will also be asked to submit their curriculum and related material in a written self study for review by the IFNA Education Committee. The information will also be evaluated by a team of on-site visitors to determine if it meets the IFNA Education Standards. Guidelines for this international experience will be provided.

There is no cost to the selected programs for participating in the project; approved expenses will be paid by a grant from IFNA. Anesthesia programs interested in participating in the project should submit a written request to participate by **March 30, 2015**. The completed application should be e-mailed to the IFNA Executive Office at [ifna.rod@wanadoo.fr](mailto:ifna.rod@wanadoo.fr).

### Eligibility Requirements for the Grant:

A nurse anesthesia program must meet the following requirements to be selected to complete the application process for Level #3 IFNA Accreditation.

- The country where the program/school is located needs to be an IFNA member or become an IFNA member prior to hosting an IFNA onsite visit.
- First preference will be given to a program/school located in a continent that does not have an IFNA accredited program. This includes: Africa, Asia, South America, Australia, and Antarctica\* if there is an eligible education program presently operating in the area.

- Second preference will be given to a program located in an IFNA member country that does not currently have a program/school with IFNA accreditation.
- Admission requirements include an education in nursing that prepares a student to succeed in the program.
- There is official evidence from a governmental entity that the program is currently authorized, recognized, chartered, audited, accredited or has some equivalent official status in the country, if available.
- There is evidence that the program has not been denied approval, recognition or accreditation by a governmental or nongovernmental accreditation or quality assurance entity. (This requires the signature of a program official for confirmation.)
- The program has graduated at least 5 classes of students from essentially the same curriculum.
- A completed application, "IFNA Accreditation Grant Application for Nurse Anaesthesia Program Accreditation", must be submitted.
- A statement that addresses how accreditation will benefit the program is required.
- A pledge by the program that it will cooperate with the IFNA Education Committee in meeting timelines is required.

An application is available on IFNA's website. The deadline for submitting applications is **March 30, 2015** to Pascal Rod, IFNA Executive Director, at [ifna.rod@wanadoo.fr](mailto:ifna.rod@wanadoo.fr). Please consider applying if you are eligible or encourage others to apply for this opportunity.

## **World Congress**

It is not too early to plan on submitting a poster abstract for the May 27-30, 2016 World Congress in Glasgow, Scotland, United Kingdom. Deadlines for submitting applications for poster presentations are generally the Fall before the meeting i.e., Fall 2015. Information will be posted on IFNA's website at a later date. A few poster topics are usually selected for podium presentations in the Free Communication Session. Please consider submitting abstracts for the World Congress! We hope to see you in Scotland.

## **APAP Spotlight**

In November 2010, the Nurse Anesthesia Program at the University of Alabama in Birmingham, Alabama was awarded Level #2 Recognition. This was the first APAP award to be given by IFNA under its newly approved Anesthesia Program Approval Process. (Previous awards had been given to anesthesia programs participating in a 2006-2008 pilot project leading to the implementation of APAP.) The current Program Director, Dr. Laura Wright graciously accepted an invitation to provide an update on the USA based program.

### **The University of Alabama at Birmingham Birmingham, Alabama, USA Nurse Anesthesia MSN Specialty Track**

What an honor it was for the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) Nurse Anesthesia Program to be the first officially recognized anesthesia program with the IFNA in 2010. In the past 5 years, we are proud of several changes that have taken place. In 2014 we graduated the 61<sup>st</sup> class of students. In this class was the recipient for the 2014 American Association of Nurse Anesthetists Student Excellence Award, Elizabeth R Fuller. She is a stellar representative for our program.

In 2012, the program moved from the School of Health Profession and found a new home in the School of Nursing (SON). The support and collaboration we have experienced with this move has helped elevate our program to a new level. We now offer a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN), and we have a new name; we are the Nurse Anesthesia MSN Specialty Track. While we have not yet moved to the Doctoral degree for entry into practice, the UAB SON has a post-master's Doctorate in Nursing Practice (DNP) that our students have access to once they graduate. We have also been able to incorporate two DNP courses into our curriculum that help prepare our students for Doctoral education. One of the courses is designed to develop their manuscript writing skills. The other course helps develop their role as a DNP prepared nurse. We are very excited to have the first cohort of students begin these courses in the fall.

Bright, energetic faculty teach our curriculum. Among our faculty are 2 PhD prepared nurse anesthetists, 1 DNP prepared nurse anesthetist, and a 4<sup>th</sup> faculty who will graduate in the spring with his DNP. Our entire faculty is involved with the Alabama Association of Nurse Anesthetists, the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists, or the Alabama State Board of Nursing. We have also worked to increase the use of simulation in our curriculum, which has provided students with excellent experiences in crisis management, team collaboration, and handling rare situations.

We are very proud of our IFNA Recognition and look forward to maintaining the high standards required by IFNA's Anesthesia Program Approval Process..

*Article and photo submitted by Laura Wright PhD, MNA, CRNA / UAB Associate Professor,  
Nurse Anesthesia Specialty Track Assistant Coordinator*



Nurse anesthesia students in Simulation Lab at the University of Alabama.

## **End Note**

Have you changed addresses or program directors? If yes, please send the changes to [bettyhorton10@gmail.com](mailto:bettyhorton10@gmail.com). Questions are also welcome at anytime!

***Anesthesia Program Approval Process (APAP): The International Federation of Nurse Anesthetists believes that it is possible to improve the health and welfare of humanity by promoting international educational standards through an approval process that takes cultural, national or regional differences into consideration.***