

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

To: School and Program Directors of IFNA's Approved Anesthesia Programs

From: Betty Horton, APAP Manger

Date: September 2016

IFNA ADOPTS NEW STANDARDS AT WCNA

The *IFNA Standards of Education, Practice and Monitoring* have been published after approval by IFNA Country Representatives in May 2016. For APAP purposes, the previous 2012 IFNA Education Standards will continue to be used until 2019. We expect that delaying the implementation date for educators will give anesthesia programs the opportunity to make curricular revisions necessary to meet the new 2016 Education Standards. We understand that revising a curriculum is sometimes a lengthy process and will probably take some programs longer to accomplish than others; however, all APAP program directors are encouraged to continually strive to make revisions to their curriculums to meet the international standards. These ongoing efforts by faculty to meet the standards provide the Education Committee with evidence that programs are progressing toward fully meeting the standards based on their abilities and resources. Please review the 2016 Standards at (www.infa-site.standards).

Programs applying for initial approval or renewal of approval status through APAP will receive this notice:

Programs are requested to review all of the new 2016 IFNA Education Standards while noting that these standards will not be included in APAP applications until May 2019; current applications forms based on the 2012 Education Standards will continue to be used until May 2019 when self studies for Accreditation will include all of the 2016 Education Standards and applications for Recognition will include curriculum audits for Standard III, Curriculum and Standard IV, Graduate Competencies. This advance notice should allow programs time to revise their curricula, if needed, so graduates will have the knowledge and skills identified for graduate nurse anesthetists.

Deciding that the 2016 IFNA Standards will be implemented for APAP in 2019 supports APAP's goal:

The goal of the approval process is to encourage programs to comply with IFNA's Educational Standards for Preparing Nurse Anesthetists through an approval process that takes cultural, national or regional differences into consideration.

Four Programs Receive Awards at World Congress

Four programs received APAP awards in May 2016 during the IFNA World Congress for Nurse Anesthetists in Glasgow Scotland. They were among the first to receive official Level #2 Recognition through IFNA's APAP that was launched in 2010.

Decisions on renewals followed a new renewal process conducted by the IFNA Education Committee. This included the Education Committee's review of completed applications and analysis of student and faculty evaluations for each program. The Education Committee found all 4 programs met eligibility requirements, complied with Education Standards to the best of their abilities, and attempted to continually improve. Decisions on their approvals were made by the IFNA Education Committee, IFNA Executive Committee, and Country National Representatives.

Programs receiving renewed IFNA Level #2 Recognition for 5 years are:

- Fontys University of Applied Sciences
Eindhoven, The Netherlands
Director: (Hans) J.F.W.A. Peters, CRNA
- Lund University, Faculty of Medicine, Department of Health Sciences
Lund, Sweden
Director: Karin Bjorkman Bjorkelund, PhD
- University of Alabama at Birmingham Nurse Anesthesia Program
Birmingham, AL 35294
Director: Susan McMullan, PhD, MSN, CRNA
- University of Tennessee Health Science Center
Memphis, TN 38163, USA
Director: Dwayne L. Accardo, DNP, CRNA

Luncheon for APAP Program Representatives at WCNA

A luncheon was held on May 15, 2016 in honor of APAP programs during the 2016 World Congress in Scotland. Anesthesia educators attended the event at the invitation of Dr. Karin Björkman Björkelund, IFNA Education Committee Chair.

Discussions during the luncheon included reflections about participating in APAP procedures. Feedback from this discussion was interesting and will be used in evaluating APAP for improvement. Another topic of interest was the feasibility of national certification examinations for individual countries. Michael Rieker DNP, CRNA, an APAP Program Director, and Karen Plaus PhD, CRNA, FAAN, CAE, Chief Executive Officer, National Board of Certification and

Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists (NBCRNA) led the discussion on certification. NBCRNA also paid for the lunch, which everyone enjoyed.

Bergen Norway Seeking Accreditation

The nurse anesthesia program in Bergen Norway is currently seeking Level #3 Accreditation:

Bergen University College Master Program Clinical Nursing - Nurse Anesthesia

Marit Vassbotten Olsen, Assistant Professor Programme Coordinator/Nurse Anesthetist

Bergen, Norway

Ms. Olsen has completed a self study and hosted an on-site visit on September 20-22, 2016.

IFNA On-site Visitors were: Marianne Riesen, Switzerland, Team Chair, Hui-Ju (Jennifer) Yang – Taiwan, Team Member and Berit Valeberg, Local Expert. An accreditation decision is tentatively scheduled for December 2016.

RENEWAL OF AWARDS FOR APAP PROGRAMS IN 2017

One program with Level #2 Recognition and one with Level #3 Accreditation will be asked to renew their applications that expire in May 2017. The reviews should be completed in time for decisions at the May 2017 meetings of the IFNA Education Committee and IFNA Executive Committee. A renewal document *Steps in Level #3 Recognition Process*, is included in the recently revised APAP Operational Policies and Procedures (<http://ifna.site>).

IFNA Offering an Accreditation Grant

Are you interested in seeking a Level #3 Accreditation Grant or do you know someone who might like to seek IFNA Accreditation for his or her nurse anesthesia program? (Approved expenses will be paid by IFNA.) Eligible nurse anesthesia programs include those who have never applied to APAP and those who currently hold Level #2 IFNA Recognition. An application can be found on IFNA's website at <http://ifna.site>. The completed application should be e-mailed to Pascal Rod at the IFNA Executive Office at ifna.rod@wanadoo.fr.

Details about the IFNA Accreditation Grant:

One nurse anesthesia program will be selected to complete the accreditation process which requires completion of all steps in the written procedure for accreditation as outlined in the IFNA *Anesthesia Program Approval Process (APAP) Operational Policies and Procedures*.

The selected program will be required to pledge to meet the 2016 *IFNA Educational Standards for Preparing Nurse Anesthetists*; and 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 the program meets the IFNA Education Standards. Guidelines for this international experience will be provided. A timeline that is satisfactory to

the program will be arranged by the APAP Manager. Ideally, the process will be completed in 2017 or early 2018.

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

Eligibility Requirements:

- 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.
- 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.

All nurse anesthesia programs are welcome to apply. We are especially interested in applications from programs located in IFNA member countries that do not currently have a program/school with IFNA accreditation; however, applicants from all IFNA member countries will be considered.

DEEMED ACCREDITATION STATUS

An alternative pathway to Level #3 Accreditation, "Deemed Accreditation Status", was approved by the IFNA Country National Representatives. A Deemed Accreditation Status application requires a pledge from the nurse anesthesia program to meet the *IFNA Educational Standards for Preparing Nurse Anesthetists*. A self study and onsite visit by IFNA is not required; however, the program is required to submit a copy of the governmental or non-governmental standards under which it operates for review. The Education Committee will compare the standards for

equivalency to IFNA's standards, which must include completion of an onsite visit by the approval agency. Following a successful review process, the program's identity, title of award, and curriculum will be posted on IFNA's website with a statement that IFNA has determined the program substantially meets all of the Educational Standards. The title of award is IFNA Anesthesia Education Program Accreditation. An application form is located on the IFNA website so it can be downloaded by programs. Completed applications are to be forwarded by e-mail to the IFNA Executive Office at ifna.rod@wanadoo.fr

Transitions on IFNA's Education Committee

I am happy to report that Karin Björkman Björkelund continues to serve as Chair of the Education Committee with several new committee members. New Members of the IFNA Education Committee appointed in May 2016 are:

- Hsiu-Yun Chang, Taiwan
- Thorunn Elisadottir, Iceland
- Rebecca Madsen, USA
- Christian Herion, Switzerland will replace Marianne Riesen, Switzerland in May 2017

Retiring Education Committee Members are:

- Susanna Anang, Ghana Africa who was honored at the WCNA for an amazing 16 years of service to IFNA's Education Committee! President Rowles expressed deepest appreciation for her contributions to advancing the education of nurse anesthetists throughout the world on behalf of the entire IFNA community.
- Hui-Ju (Jennifer) Yang, Taiwan who will continue to serve on IFNA's Executive Committee.
- Betty Horton who finished her term on the Education Committee in May will continue to serve as APAP Manager until May 2017.

Transition Year for APAP Managers

A transition of APAP Manager from me (Betty Horton – USA) to Marianne Riesen, Switzerland, is underway. Marianne has been involved in APAP since its beginning and has chaired several on-site visits for Level #3 IFNA Accreditation. Both of us are committed to APAP's success and the transition process has been smooth. The scheduled date for completion of this transition is following the IFNA Executive Committee Meeting and IFNA Committee Meeting in May 2017. This allows time for an

orientation of the new APAP Manager and drafting major revisions to APAP documents that are needed due to the newly adopted 2016 IFNA Standards.

APAP Spotlight

Lund University, Faculty of Medicine

Lund, Sweden

Postgraduate Diploma in Specialist Nursing - Anesthesia Care

60 credits (ECTS),

Master of Medical Science, Major in Nursing.

Information about the Program Director:

Karin Björkman Björkelund, PhD, is an Associate Professor and Director of Professional Studies and Program Director at Lund University in Lund, Sweden. She is both a nurse anesthetist and intensive care nurse who has been a member of the IFNA Education Committee since 2001 and its Chair since 2014. Karin is known for her contributions to assuring quality in nursing education. She is responsible for the Quality Assurance process for the Specialist Nursing programs, Midwifery program and Master one year program. She assures each program's compliance with the requirements of the Quality Assurance in Higher Education - Swedish Higher Education Authority Evaluation. Karin was also deeply involved in the IFNA Education Committee's quality assurance project for international education as part of Pilot Accreditation Project that laid the groundwork for what is now IFNA's Anesthesia Program Approval Process (APAP). Her nurse anesthesia program was one of the first to receive approval from APAP. The following information about the nurse anesthesia program at Lund University was written by Karin.

Information about the Program:

The Nurse Specialist program in Anesthesia Care, 60 credits at Lund University, was in 2010 the first Swedish program that was awarded Level #2 Recognition offered by the International Federation of Nurse Anesthetists (IFNA). The program has in 2016 successfully completed the renewal process for Level #2 Recognition, having completed the requirements of the Anesthesia Program Approval Process based on the IFNA Standards of Education.

The Anesthesia program in Lund started in 1969 as a continuing education program for nurses ruled by the Governmental Entity for Education in a County Council College of Care. Since then the program has gone through several revisions controlled by the Board of the Higher Education. In 1998 the Anesthesia program together with the Nursing program moved from the County Council College of Care into the Faculty of Medicine of Lund University. This change meant a lot to the program as we got closer to the resources within the special area that the students were educated. We also increased the use of simulation in our program, which has provided students with experiences in handling different anesthesia situations, team collaboration, and crisis management. In 1998 we initiated a Nordic network "Nordannet" including eight Nordic

Anesthesia programs in which we in the last 20 years have developed facilities for student and faculty exchange, intensive courses and pedagogical development.

In 2006/2007 all the Swedish university programs went through a fundamental change under the Bologna process. Now the Swedish Nurse Specialist programs moved from “ground level” to “advanced level” (second cycle) which meant that all our courses in the Anesthesia program gives credit for going into a full master or a doctorate. The Lund University Anesthesia program includes a mandatory master thesis (since 2013/2014) which gives the student the right to get a Master’s degree of one year. The length of the program is 12 months plus 6 additional months of any required postgraduate residency (Postgraduate clinical training).

We proudly received the award IFNA Recognition in conjunction with the 12th IFNA World Congress for Nurse Anesthetists in Glasgow, May 2016.

Submitted by Karin Björkman Björkelund, Director of Studies/Program director, PhD, Assistant Prof, RNT, Registered Nurse Anesthetist & Intensive care



PHOTOS

Article and photos submitted by Karin Björkman Björkelund, Lund University



End Note

Remember to add dates to your calendar for the next **IFNA World Congress for Nurse Anesthetists in Budapest, the capital of Hungary**. The dates are **June 18-20, 2018**.

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.