



IFNA Program Approval Process (APAP) Newsletter, July 2017

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

From: Marianne Riesen, APAP Manger

Transition of APAP Management

The transition of APAP Manager from Betty Horton, USA, to me, Marianne Riesen, Switzerland, was completed in May 2017. I'm looking forward to be in contact with all of you and hopefully meet as many as possible at the next IFNA World Conference (WCNA2018) in Budapest, Hungary. I have been involved in APAP from the beginning and some of you may know me personally as I have been on several on – site visits during Level 3 Accreditation Processes.

The goal of 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. IFNA operates with one set of standards, but provides an approval system with various thresholds, that take into account that all providers may not be able to meet every standard. (see: [http://ifna.site/ifna-accreditation-program/approval-process-for-nurse-anesthesia-programs/.](http://ifna.site/ifna-accreditation-program/approval-process-for-nurse-anesthesia-programs/))



Cultural and national differences

There are several models of anesthesia care delivery worldwide which include:

- Anesthesiologists working alone
- Anesthetists working with anesthesia assistants with varying qualifications
- Anesthesiologists supervising Nurse Anesthetists (care team)
- Nurse Anesthetists working independently

Significant variations in training, roles and scope of practice exist. Without graduate competencies and training conditions these groups are difficult to compare (1). There are also variations between institutional settings, types of health systems and organizational peculiarities (2).

IFNA would like to see at least one program approved in each member country independent of the level.

- The primary purpose of the program is to educate graduates to meet the needs of the country or region in which it resides.

If you know of somebody who is interested in any level of approval, please contact: APAP@ifna-site

IFNA Standards 2016

The IFNA Standards of Practice, Monitoring, and Education have been published after approval by IFNA Country Representatives in May 2016. As mentioned in the newsletter of September 2016 by Betty Horton, for APAP purposes, the previous 2012 IFNA Education **Standards will continue to be used until 2019**. This will give anesthesia program educators the opportunity to make curricular revisions necessary to meet the new 2016 Education Standards (see: <http://ifna.site/ifna-accreditation-program/approval-process-for-nurse-anesthesia-programs/>). Consequently, for the upcoming renewals in 2017/18 it is still the 2012 Standards.

From May 2019 self - studies for Accreditation will be based on the 2016 IFNA standards and will include all of the Education Standards. Applications for Recognition will include curriculum audits for Standard III, Curriculum and Standard IV, Graduate Competencies.

IFNA is offering two Accreditation Grants

Are you interested in seeking regular Level #3 Accreditation or do you know someone who might like to seek IFNA Level 3 Accreditation for his or her nurse anesthesia program? Eligible nurse anesthesia programs include those who have never applied to APAP and those who currently hold Level #2 IFNA Recognition. Two grants are currently available that cover the costs of the accreditation process. An application can be found on IFNA's website at <http://ifna.site/ifna-accreditation-program/application-for-grant/>. 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:

Applying nurse anesthesia 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 IFNA *Anesthesia Program Approval Process (APAP) Operational Policies and Procedures* (<http://ifna.site/ifna-accreditation-program/approval-process-for-nurse-anesthesia-programs/>).

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.
- 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.

Newly Approved Programs and Renewals

Three new programs (two Level 3 Accreditations and one Level 1 Registration) have successfully been evaluated by the Education Committee and were approved by the IFNA Executive Committee in May 2017. Two programs have undergone the renewal process. 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 the two programs met eligibility requirements, complied with Education Standards to the best of their abilities, and attempted to continually improve. The programs were approved by the IFNA Education Committee and IFNA Executive Committee at the annual meeting in Budapest in May 2017

Newly approved programs

Level 3 Accreditation for 5 years:

Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science College of Health Professions

Program director: Franklin McShane, DNP, CRNA
Department of Nurse Anesthesia
Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science
3333 Green Bay Road
Office HSB #1.604
North Chicago,
IL 60064-3095

Western Norway University of Applied Sciences, Program of Master in Clinical Nursing – Nurse Anesthesia Specialization, Campus Bergen

Program director: Sigrunn Drageset
Master in Clinical Nursing – Nurse Anaesthetist Specialization
Bergen University College
Høgskolen i Bergen, Inndalsveien 28 / PO Box 7030
Code: City: 5068 Bergen
Country: Norway

Level 1 Registration for 5 years:

Puerto Rico School of Nurse Anesthetists

Program director: Wilson Medina, CRNA, MSA
728 Ponce de Leon Ave. – Suite 201
City: San Juan
State: Puerto Rico (PR)
Country: United States of America

Congratulations to the programs that have successfully renewed their approval and welcome to the new programs.

Renewals

Level 3 Accreditation for 5 years:

Ecole Des Infirmiers Anesthésistes (Nurse Anesthesia Program) Hopital Salpetriere, Paris, France

Program director: Monique Guinot
Ecole Des Infirmiers Anesthésistes
Hopital Salpetriere
47 Boulevard De L'Hopital
75013 Paris France

Level 2 Recognition for 5 years:

Amstel Academie Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Program manager: Mrs. Marjolijn de Nijs
Team member: Jacqueline Bloemzaad
Correspondence: j.bloemzaad@vumc.nl
VUmc Amstel Academie
Postbox 7057
1007 MB Amsterdam
The Netherlands

New policies approved in Budapest May 2017

Level 1 Registration: Since applications for Level 1 Registration are not evaluated but published for information only they do not have to be approved by the CNR and Executive Committee. Consequently, these programs don't have to wait until the next IFNA meeting to receive approval and can be published on the website immediately after the majority of the Education Committee has found them eligible for Level 1 Registration.

Deemed Accreditation: If nurse anesthesia programs of a country have to meet national education – and graduate standards and if those standards are equivalent to the *IFNA Educational Standards for preparing Nurse Anesthetists*, the national standards can be compared to the IFNA standards. If they are found equivalent, the programs operating under those standards can be awarded “Deemed Accreditation”. The compared standards have to be approved by the IFNA Executive Committee. Criteria can be found under: <http://ifna.site/ifna-accreditation-program/approval-process-for-nurse-anesthesia-programs/>. Completed applications are to be forwarded by e-mail to the IFNA Executive Office: ifna.rod@wanadoo.fr

World Congress 2018 Budapest Hungary

From 18-20. June 2018 the next World Congress for Nurse Anesthetists is taking place in Budapest, Hungary. The Education Committee, chaired by Karin Dr. Karin Björkman - Björkelund from Lund Sweden, will be hosting an event during the World Congress for all program directors who have received APAP Registration, Recognition and Accreditation. Invitations will be sent in February 2018. As in Glasgow 2016 a luncheon will be held in honor of all APAP programs. The invitations from Dr. Karin Björkman -Björkelund, Chair of the IFNA Education Committee will contain more explicit information.

APAP program directors will also be recognized on stage at the closing ceremonies. Please be in Budapest to join us in celebrating your achievements! Also, watch IFNA's website for the opportunity to present posters during the World Congress. The application due date for poster abstracts is January 10, 2018. Information will be posted on IFNA's website soon at: <http://wcna2018.com/congress-information.php> In addition to the poster session, a limited number of poster topics will be chosen for podium presentations in the Free Communication Session. Please consider submitting abstracts for the World Congress 2018!

Renewal of awards for APAP programs 2018

Two programs with Level #2 Recognition and two with Level #3 Accreditation will be asked to renew their applications that expire in May 2018. The reviews should be completed in time for decisions at the May 2018 meetings of the IFNA Education Committee and IFNA Executive Committee. The program directors will be notified by the APAP manager in late September.

Changes in the IFNA's Education Committee

Chair: Karin Björkman Björkelund, Sweden (before)

- Rebecca Madsen, USA, appointed 2016 (before)

New Members of the IFNA Education Committee appointed in May 2017:

- Hsiu-Yun Chang Sunny, Taiwan
- Thorunn Eliasdottir, Iceland
- Christian Herion, Switzerland

Literature:

1. Meussen, V., Van Zundert, A., Hoekman J, Rawal R, Knape H. (2010) Composition of the anaesthesia team: a European survey *European Journal of Anaesthesiology* 27: 773-77
2. Wismar, M., Maier, C.B., Glinos, I.A., Dussault, G. & Figueras, J. (eds). (2011) *Health Professional Mobility and Health Systems*. Evidence from 17 European countries. World Health Organization, on behalf of the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies