APAP Newsletter, June 2021

To: Program Directors of IFNA's Approved Anesthesia Programs
The Country National Representatives (CNR)
IFNA Committee Members
From: Marianne Riesen, APAP Manger

Dear Program Directors, CNR, Education Committee, Executive Committee and Practice Committee Members,

This year has shaken healthcare systems all over the world. According to the ICN the pandemic has put nurses under enormous pressure and there has been a huge increase in the number intending to leave the profession worldwide. The greatest number intending to leave are older, experienced nurses. The world entered the pandemic with a shortfall of up to six million nurses and an additional four million expected to retire by 2030, which puts the global nursing workforce under an intolerable strain [(https://www.icn.ch/news/covid-19-pandemic-one-year-icn-warns-exodus-experienced-nurses-compounding-current-shortages).](https://www.icn.ch/news/covid-19-pandemic-one-year-icn-warns-exodus-experienced-nurses-compounding-current-shortages)

Assumingly this shortfall of experienced nurses may well have a negative impact on the clinical education of Nurse Anesthesia students. Effective supervision by experienced Nurse Anesthetists and clinical faculty is vital for student learning. Clinical faculty guide the students to do the right interventions and improve their skills and knowledge and gain confidence in their future profession (Tiwaken, Caranto & David 2015). Ensuring Nurses and Nurse Anesthetists are supported, respected, protected, motivated and equipped to safely and optimally contribute in their practice settings will be an even bigger challenge in many countries. The role of Nurse Anesthesia has been critical even before the pandemic. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the role of Nurse Anesthetists, as other Advanced Practice Nurses, has been crucial to the care, treatment and very survival of patients.

Now the good news: After a lot of work and collaboration with the IFNA the ICN issued the **GUIDELINES ON ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSING, NURSE ANESTHETISTS, 2021.** This will certainly increase the visibility of nurse anesthesia worldwide. The IFNA developed standards for global nurse anesthesia practice in 1991, in an effort to establish requirements for safe nurse anesthesia care and to advance nurse anesthesia worldwide. The *Standards* document defines IFNA's code of ethics, role definitions, standards of practice, graduate competencies, monitoring standards and educational standards. The last and very substantial rewrite was approved in 2016. All of you know those because they are the basis for the approval processes. These 2016 standards can be found in the ICN Guidelines under

"Appendices" and they are still the basis for the IFNA program approval process. You will find the ICN Guidelines as an extra attachment.

Unfortunately this virus still shakes the world and the face to face IFNA meeting in May 2021, in Zagreb, Croatia, fell victim to it again. The Education Committee held a meeting by Zoom on May 2021 though.

Information for the World Congress will be posted on the website. Since the Congress Planning Committee (CPC9 meeting, hotel information has been uploaded. Registration and abstract information will be available soon. Please watch for updates to website. The Practice Committee (PC) and Education Committee (EC) sessions will be integrated into one session of 6 hours with alternating presentations. Before they were separated. Usually the EC session was in the morning and the PC session in the afternoon. More information on the content will follow on the website over time (https://wcna2022.org/)

The APAP processes went on as usual.
We have only one newly recognized program this year. Due to the Corona pandemic the members of the Education Committee electronically approved the following **new program**:

Registration
Master Degree in Nursing applied to Anaesthetics
Recovery and Pain Management (MIA-ARiD),
Escola Superior Infermeria del Mar
University Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain

The following Level 2 Recognition programs were applying for renewal
The programs were notified end of September and provided with all the necessary applications and policies, and a timetable containing the steps of the process. The Education Committee reviewed the documents and the student and faculty evaluations and recommended to approve the renewal of all programs. The members of the Executive Committee and Officers followed the recommendations and electronically awarded the following **program renewals** on May 14th 2021

University of Tennessee Health
Science Center, College of Nursing, Nurse
Anesthesia Concentration
Memphis, Tennessee

University of Alabama at Birmingham Nurse Anesthesia Program
1701 University Blvd, NB Suite 1007
Birmingham, AL 35294

Lund University, Faculty of Medicine, Department of Health Sciences
P.O. Box 157
SE-221 00
Lund, Sweden

Fontys University of applied science Human and Health
P.O Box 347

5600 AH Eindhoven
The Netherlands

Updated curricula were put on IFNA's website. All recognized programs can be found under
https://ifna.site/ifna-accreditation-program/

Renewal of APAP programs 2022
The programs will be asked to renew their applications that expire in spring 2022. The reviews should be completed in time for decisions at the spring 2022 meetings of the IFNA Education Committee and IFNA Executive Committee. The relevant program directors will be notified by the APAP manager in late September – early October 2021.

Recognition:
Amstel Academie
VUmc Amstel Academie
Postbox 7057
1007 MB Amsterdam
The Netherlands

Accreditation:
Ecoles spécialisées Infirmiers Anesthésistes Diplômés d'Etat Infirmiers de Bloc Opératoire Diplômés d'Etat
CFDC DRH AP-HP
BATIMENT LERICHE 4ième étage
8, rue Maria Helena Vieira Da Silva
75014 Paris
01 40 27 40 16
Secrétariat : 01 40 27 40 10 ou 40 11

Western Norway University of Applied Sciences, Program of Master in Clinical Nursing – Nurse Anesthesia Specialization, Campus Bergen
Street Address (or P.O. Box)
Bergen University College
Høgskolen i Bergen, Inndalsveien 28 / PO Box 7030
Code: City: 5068 Bergen
Country: Norway

School of Nurse Anesthesia
Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science, Department of Nurse Anesthesia, 3333 Green Bay Road North Chicago,
IL 60064-3095

Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Virginia, Nurse Anesthesia Program
West Hospital 2nd floor
1200 East Broad Street 980226
Code: 23298-0581
Richmond, Virginia, USA

IFNA is offering one Accreditation Grant

Are you interested in seeking regular Level3 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 must substantially meet the IFNA Educational Standards as determined by a full review of the program including a written self -study and on-site review. Programs who have never applied to APAP and those who currently hold Level2 IFNA Recognition intending to upgrade are eligible to apply. One grant is currently available that covers the costs of the accreditation process. An application can be ordered from the APAP manager: apap@ifna.site The completed application should be e-mailed to Pascal Rod, at the IFNA Executive Office at ifna.rod@wanadoo.fr. or to Marianne Riesen, IFNA APAP Manager at: apap@ifna.site Deadline: 31.July 2022.

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 Level3 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.

If program directors are interested about any category of recognition they can download an eligibility form and send it to: apap@ifna.site (APAP Manager) or to ifna.rod@wanadoo.fr

(Executive Director). The eligibility forms for Level2 Recognition, Level3 Accreditation can be found under: https://ifna.site/ifna-accreditation-program/approval-process-for-nurse-anesthesia-programs/

Currently 32 Nurse Anesthesia and Non-Physician Anesthesia programs are approved by IFNA in all three categories of the Anesthesia Program Approval Process (APAP) https://ifna.site/ifna-accreditation-program/. It is IFNA's goal to have at least one program approved in every member country. IFNA has well over 40 member countries. In some countries more than one program is approved. To advertise APAP more widely I would appreciate if you pass this letter on to the presidents of your National Associations and to all Nurse Anesthesia (NA) or Non – Physician Anesthesia Practitioner (NPAP) schools in your country.

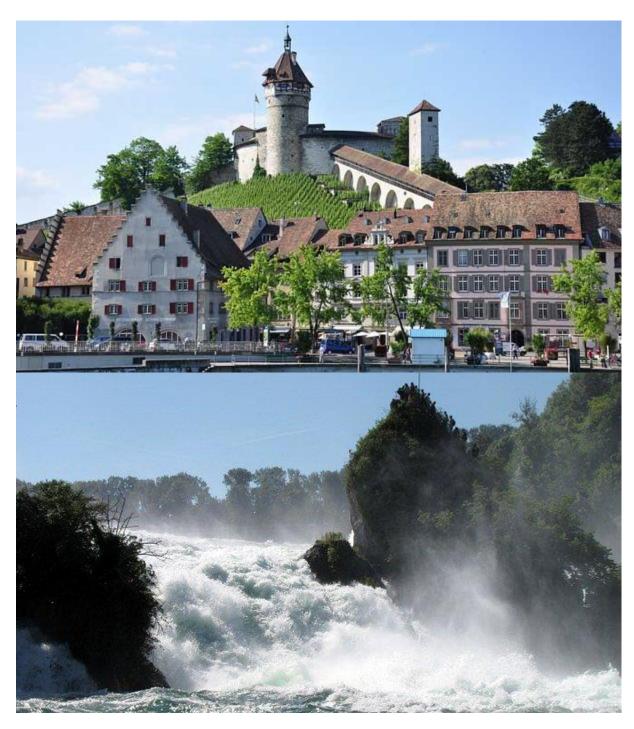### Benefits of APAP and Responsibilities of NAs and NPAPs
Together with APAP the new ICN Guidelines for Nurse Anesthesia will further increase the visibility of Nurse Anesthesia. The International Federation of Nurse Anesthetists (IFNA) believes that it is possible to improve the health and welfare of humanity by promoting international educational standards for non-physician anesthesia programs. Based on this belief and for the purposes of program approval, it is the policy of IFNA to approve programs that admit students who are nurses or who are educated in another scientific area which prepares students to succeed in their anesthesia education.
http://ifna.site/app/uploads/2017/06/Operational-Policies-APAP-June-2017.pdf

IFNA would also like to see more programs applying for 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. An onsite visit by a national approval agency must be included as well. If the national standards 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/.

Sincerely
Marianne Riesen, APAP Manager
Schaffhausen, Switzerland, June 2021

Above: Munot Castle, Schaffhausen, Switzerland
Below: The Rhine Falls at Schaffhausen, Switzerland

References:

COVID-19 pandemic one year on: ICN warns of exodus of experienced nurses compounding current shortages
https://www.icn.ch/news/covid-19-pandemic-one-year-icn-warns-exodus-experienced-nurses-compounding-current-shortages

The WFSA Global Anesthesia Workforce Survey . Peter Kempthorne, MBChB, FANZCA,*†
Wayne W. Morriss, MBChB, FANZCA,†‡Jannicke Mellin-Olsen, MD, DPH,†§ and Julian Gore-
Booth, MA† . September 2017 • Volume 125 • Number 3 www.anesthesia-analgesia.org

Tiwaken S., Caranto l. & David J. (2015). The Real World: Lived Experience of Student Nurses
during Clinical Practice. International Journal of Nursing Science 5(2): 66 - 75