

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Sharon Baranoski, MSN, RN, CWOCN

“**T**eamwork” and “Being a team player” are frequently heard expressions. The concept of working together as a team is a very important part of most organizations. People can work together, serve on committees and projects and still not be part of the “team.” To function effectively, members of a team must be involved, informed, have open communication, respect the opinions of others, and be willing to roll up their sleeves and work to achieve the end result.

I cannot think of a better “team” than the National Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel. All panel members are committed to making this objective our highest priority: pressure ulcer prevention and management for all continuums of care. We speak as one voice in our commitment to reaching our goal.

The NPUAP Board is composed of 15 well-respected individuals who address the needs of our patients in many different ways. This issue of the newsletter will highlight the officers of NPUAP; future issues will highlight other board members. We feel it is important for you to know and recognize the NPUAP Board members and encourage you to contact them. We appreciate your continued support.

I had the privilege of representing NPUAP in September at the European Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel (EPUAP) conference held in beautiful Pisa, Italy. The theme of their conference was “Pressure Ulcers—Technology in the New Millennium.” Jeen Haalboom, president of EPUAP, has written a conference summary in this issue. The NPUAP philosophy has spread to many other countries. We believe our model of research, education, and public policy has had an impact on all developed countries. We congratulate EPUAP on a successful 4th annual conference.

I encourage you to review our new Web site. We have a new section of “Most Frequently Asked Questions” and ongoing information about our conferences. You have the ability to “link” to our collaborative organizations as well.

Finally, I would encourage all of you to mark your calendars: February 23–24, 2001, is the NPUAP Conference in Washington, D.C. This will be an exceptional conference, with emphasis on Prevalence and Incidence and the Challenge 2000 Project. Day one will focus on research dissemination and day two on practical applications of research. This is one conference you won’t want to miss!

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Look Inside

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4TH ANNUAL EUROPEAN PRESSURE ULCER CONFERENCE

By Jeen RE Haalboom, MD, PhD, EPUAP President

The European Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel was started in Oxford (UK) four years ago. Our 4th Annual Open Conference was held the last week of September 2000 in Pisa, Italy, with no less than 750 attendants. EPUAP membership is a mixture of nurses and doctors who believe the collaboration of both groups is essential.

At present, all European countries are represented, increasingly by individuals representing the national working groups. Following the Deming management model, EPUAP started identifying the magnitude of the problem by stimulating prevalence recordings (grants from several governments). Attention was given to various aspects such as the definition of stages of pressure ulcers, how to implement new knowledge in general practice, and the introduction of quality markers for anti-pressure ulcer devices.

EPUAP developed ad hoc working groups whose major focus is to review and interpret the literature (how to compare patient studies, for instance), evaluate overlays, determine the content of a minimal data set for patient-study recordings to enable comparisons between the different countries and types of institutions, and prepare a pan-European prevalence study (to be performed in March 2001). Guidelines were established for prevention and

treatment, following the format of AHCPR. The guidelines were translated in all European languages and distributed widely.

During the Pisa conference, the working groups reported their findings during a heavily attended open meeting. The minimal data set was accepted and implemented in the prevalence study. The group

In only five years, EPUAP has become a major organization in Europe, where good quality and cooperation of pressure ulcer prevention and treatment are concerned.

reviewing the study of overlays concluded that judgment based on tissue-interface pressures was only one possible way of recording effectiveness. The relation between pressure and the development of a pressure ulcer/lesion was not as clear as one would expect, especially tissue deformation and the development of occlusion-reperfusion damage. This group will continue its work and report on it at the next meeting in 2001.

A new working group was formed to study risk assessment. The contents of risk assessment tools and their predictive value will be studied. Since the use of a

tool implies an identified increased risk, the sensitivity and specificity of costly preventive measures must also be determined. In most European countries, financial resources are limited, so the validation of the tools used is of direct importance to the financing of health care.

In only five years, EPUAP has become a major organization in Europe, where good quality and cooperation of pressure ulcer prevention and treatment are concerned. Cooperation with NPUAP is growing and considered to be very important. The problems we face together are mostly the same—as are the solutions.

EPUAP's next meeting will be in Le Mans, France, the last week of September 2001.

MEET THE NPUAP BOARD

President

Sharon Baranoski, MSN, RN, CWOCN, is director of clinical programs and development at Silver Cross Hospital and Medical Centers, in Joliet, IL. She is responsible for the operations of the Home Health Agency, the Wound Healing & Treatment Center, and the Continence and Diabetes Centers. She is a board-certified wound, ostomy, and continence nurse. She has been actively involved in wound and pressure ulcer clinical practice, research, and lecturing and has been an expert witness for 20 years.

Sharon has been an associate editor for *Advances in Skin and Wound* for a number of years. She is the director of the Clinical Symposium on Skin and Wound Care, held annually by Springhouse, Lippincott, Wilkins & Wilkins, and she is currently president of United Cerebral Palsy of Will County, her favorite charity. Sharon is completing her first term as president of NPUAP.

Vice President

Janet Cuddigan, PhD, RN, CWCN, CCCN, is an assistant professor at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, College of Nursing. Her research focuses on pressure ulcer prediction and prevention in critically ill adults and children. Janet has served as the panel manager for the AHCPR Pressure Ulcer Panels and as an expert witness in pressure ulcer litigation cases. She is serving her second term as vice president of NPUAP.

Secretary

Diane Langemo, PhD, RN, has been a professor of nursing at the University of North Dakota, College of Nursing, for the past 13 years. She has been actively involved in conducting research on wound care and pressure ulcers. For the past four years, Diane, has served as principal investigator for the American Nurses Association Nursing Care Quality Outcome Study, in North Dakota, which is a three-year, multi-state study in which ANA hopes to demonstrate that patients have better outcomes when cared for by professional nurses. She also serves on the editorial board for *Advances in Wound Care*, *Journal of Wound, Ostomy, Continence Nursing*, and *Annals of Internal Medicine*.

Diane currently serves as vice president and is on the Board of the North Dakota Nurses Association. She is completing her second term as secretary of NPUAP.

Treasurer

Stephen Sprigle, PhD, PT, is director at the Center for Rehabilitation Technology at Helen Hayes Hospital in West Haverstraw, NY. He is currently the principal investigator for the Development of Methods to Determine Wheelchair Cushion Characteristics *along* with Optimizing Posture, Trunk Control, and Reach of Wheelchair Users. Stephen is a member of numerous organizations and is in his second term as treasurer of NPUAP.

DEVELOPMENT OF WHEELCHAIR CUSHION STANDARDS

By Stephen Sprigle, Research Committee Chair

Cushion selection is not a trivial matter for the average wheelchair user. A cushion is a very important piece of equipment that affects a user's health and function. Hundreds of cushions are currently on the market, and while having a wide selection is nice, having many options complicates the ability to make the right choice.

Currently, objective comparison of cushions across manufacturers is difficult because everyone uses nonstandard descriptions of products and performance. Two organizations, the International Standards Organization (ISO) and ANSI/RESNA, have begun the process to develop standards to

describe and test wheelchair cushions. The project has a long-range goal of developing standards similar to the wheelchair standards currently in place.

Three workgroups have been established to address different areas: body measurements and terminology, postural support devices, and tissue integrity devices.

For example, the tissue integrity workgroup is devising means to measure a cushion's capacity to distribute pressure, dissipate heat, and retard the growth of bacteria, all of which directly affect its ability to prevent pressure ulcers and other medical complications. Information on the cushion's life expectancy and maintenance re-

quirements will also be measured.

Establishing standardized means to measure cushion characteristics and performance should have two benefits: 1) improved quality of wheelchair cushions, and 2) enhanced ability to match a wheelchair user's needs to the appropriate cushion.

The NPUAP Board is represented on the project by Stephen Sprigle, PhD, PT. In addition, a few CAC members and collaborating organizations are represented. Standards development is a voluntary process so workgroups are always looking for members. Additional information, including the working drafts of the standards, can be found at wheelchairnet.org.



7th National NPUAP Conference— Pressure Ulcer Prevention: From Research to Practice

February 23–24, 2001

Omni Shoreham Hotel • Washington, D.C.

Topics to address:

- Risk Assessment—Best Method to Drive Prevention Protocols
- Risk-based Prevention Protocols
- Research-based Prevention Protocols
- Public Policy and Quality Indicators
- Risk Stratification
- Implementation of Quality Indicators
- PU Prevention Across Disease States
- Reduce Risk of Litigation
- Cost Containment Practicalities

This conference is an essential resource for nurses, clinicians, third-party payors, physicians, administrators, attorneys, directors of nursing, policymakers, and others involved in providing quality prevention and management of pressure ulcers across all health care settings.

Exhibitors will present state-of-the-art pressure ulcer products for prevention and healing.

For more information, contact NPUAP at

11250 Roger Bacon Drive, Suite 8
Reston, VA 20190-5202

703-464-4849, ext. 4070 or 4071
Fax: 703-435-4390



COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education Committee

By Diane Langemo, cochair

The members of the Education Committee continue to work on their wide range of scheduled activities as well as the goals of NPUAP for the year 2000.

Slide sets I, II, and III continue to sell very well, and reprints have already been done. Slide set IV is scheduled for completion early in 2001. Orders can be placed online on the NPUAP home page or through the NPUAP office.

Many thanks to Dr. Barbara Bates-Jensen, her committee, and all the speakers for their hard work on the August 18 University of Southern California-NPUAP "Avoidable vs. Unavoidable" conference, which was another great success. Nearly 100 individuals attended the conference, which was held in conjunction with the NPUAP Board of Directors meeting. This conference is planned for more sites during 2001. Look for more detailed information to come.

The 2001 Consensus Conference is set for February 23–24, 2001, at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C. The conference will highlight the Challenge 2000 report as well as the state-of-the-art prevention and treatment programs to reduce the prevalence and incidence of pressure ulcers in a wide array of patient care settings. Brochures were mailed out in mid-September. Please contact the NPUAP office for more brochures.

Elizabeth Ayello and Rita Frantz have been working on a draft of a curriculum for pressure ulcer prevention and treatment for registered nurses. Look for this new product in the future.

NPUAP had a booth at the 15th Annual Skin and Wound Care Symposium in Nashville, October 5–8, 2000. NPUAP Board members and CAC members worked the booth during the conference.

Elizabeth Ayello, as webmaster for the NPUAP Web site, continues to work on updating the site on a continuing basis. It has continued to have a very large number of "hits" each month. Please forward

any suggestions for information to include on the Web site to Elizabeth at elizabeth.ayello@nyu.edu.

Research Committee

By Stephen Sprigle, chair

The Research Committee has undertaken a few projects and established a few goals for the coming years. Our Web site (npuap.org) is continuing to expand with the addition of continuing education information and "Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)," with the goal to provide direction on pressure ulcer research methodology by January. We are currently reviewing applications for the NPUAP Research Grant Award given at our biannual conference and poster abstracts submitted for the same. Our longer-range goals include initiatives to promote outside research through grant awards, methodology appraisal, and becoming a resource about pressure ulcer research.

Public Policy Committee

By Courtney Lyder, chair

The Public Policy Committee continues to focus much of its attention on Challenge 2000. On October 17, 2000, NPUAP provided both written and oral testimony, thanks to Diane Krasner, PhD, FAAN (NPUAP alumnus), to the Medical and Surgical Panel of the Medicare Coverage Advisory Committee to analyze the efficacy of electrical stimulation in the treatment of chronic wounds.

NOTES FROM NPUAP

By Rick Guggolz, Executive Director

NPUAP had a busy summer with many projects and activities underway. We hope you will take the time to review the many updates that are provided in this issue of the newsletter.

August 18 : Avoidable/Unavoidable Meeting a Success at USC

The August meeting in Los Angeles was successful, both in attendance and financially. Thanks to Barbara Bates-Jensen and her on-site assistants for their hard work on this meeting and thanks to the speakers as well. Plans and sites for the 2001 Avoidable/Unavoidable meetings are close to being finalized, and the Web site (and future newsletters) will update you on the specific details.

February 23–24, 2001: 7th National NPUAP Conference—Pressure Ulcer Prevention: From Research to Practice

By now you should have received your brochure for next year's conference at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C. An exhibitor prospectus was also sent to CAC members and other potential exhibitors. We would like to thank the Eastern Paralyzed Veterans Association for its financial contribution to this meeting. The meeting will be targeted to nurses, clinicians, third-party payors, physi-

cians, administrators, attorneys, and policymakers.

Web Site Expansion Continues

Thanks to Elizabeth Ayello for her ongoing efforts to update the NPUAP Web site (*npuap.org*). If you have not visited the site recently, I would encourage you to do so. We have added a "Frequently Asked Questions" section to allow basic questions and statistics to be available to both wound care professionals and the general public. Thank you to Rita Frantz and her graduate assistant for their extensive efforts in coordinating this project. What would you like to see on the site? Let us know!

NPUAP Provides Input to HCFA on Electrical Stimulation

Thank you to NPUAP alumnus Diane Krasner for testifying on behalf of NPUAP in Baltimore on October 17. The Medical and Surgical Panel of the Medicare Coverage Advisory Committee met to analyze the efficacy of electrical stimulation in the treatment of chronic wounds. NPUAP's position is that there is a positive difference in the use of electrical stimulation in healing recalcitrant Stage II–Stage IV pressure ulcers. Thanks to Public Policy Committee Chair Courtney Lyder for organizing NPUAP's response and to

those who provided their input on short notice.

Corporate Advisory Council Members Sought

When you travel to industry meetings and when you deal with wound care vendors throughout the year, always keep in mind that NPUAP is continually seeking to grow our current number of CAC members. Simply forward the information to my attention at the national office for follow-up. Additional CAC members will increase our breadth of knowledge and resources and also provide NPUAP with additional revenues to pursue its goals, objectives, and activities. Thank you in advance for your efforts in this area.

National Office Staff Update

My assistant, Jennifer Shay, has returned to work since having her first baby (Harrison), and we are glad to have her back in the office. While Jenn was away on maternity leave, Lethia Kelly did a wonderful job of "filling in," and we thank her for those efforts.

I look forward to seeing you January 19–20, 2001, in Orlando, for the next panel meeting, to be held at the Embassy Suites near Disney World.

AVOIDABLE/UNAVOIDABLE CONFERENCE AT USC

By Joyce Black

More than 100 participants attended the August 2000 NPUAP conference on pressure ulcers: Avoidable or Unavoidable? Barbara Bates-Jensen, USC Nursing faculty and NPUAP Board member, was the conference chair. The entire NPUAP panel attended the conference as part of a concurrent panel meeting.

Comments by the attendees included:

“This was the best conference I have attended in over 20 years!”

“Great conference. Great faculty!”

“This conference really made me appreciate the pressure ulcer problem from all angles.”

Due to the demand, NPUAP will be repeating this conference in other cities. Cities that have expressed interest in hosting the program include Sacramento, Omaha, and Atlanta. If you are interested in hosting a conference, contact the NPUAP national office at (704) 464-4849.

A COLLABORATING ORGANIZATION PROFILE

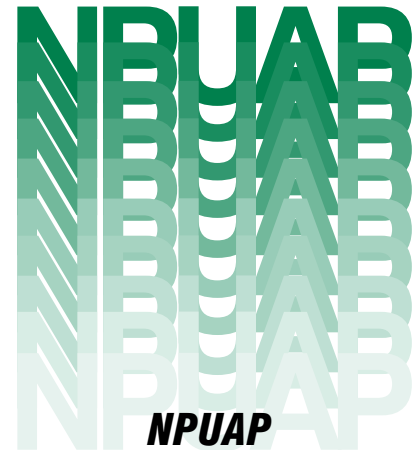
By Julie Wick

The Eastern Paralyzed Veterans Association (EPVA) has been committed to serving veterans with spinal cord impairment since 1946. EPVA works to enhance the lives of veterans by advocacy, research, and education. It works with veterans and their dependents to ensure that they are receiving the Department of Veterans Affairs benefits to which they are entitled.

EPVA also helps its members obtain, maintain, and improve their wheelchairs, seat cushions, and other assistive devices. To enhance the quality of life for persons with disabilities, EPVA supports sports and recreations pro-

grams as well as residential architectural modification programs. Awareness of the EPVA, and, in general, people with disabilities, is established through a variety of publications and public affairs efforts.

Vivian Beyda, associate executive director of research and education at EPVA, has been involved with NPUAP since 1992. In these past eight years, Vivian has donated her time and expertise and has provided financial support from EPVA to NPUAP. Most recently, EPVA provided a grant for the 7th National NPUAP Conference in February 2001.



Educational Slide Sets

The National Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel has three new slide sets available:

- #1—Pressure Ulcer Basics
- #2—Incidence, Prevalence, and Risk Assessments
- #3—Strategies for Pressure Ulcer Prevention

For an order form:

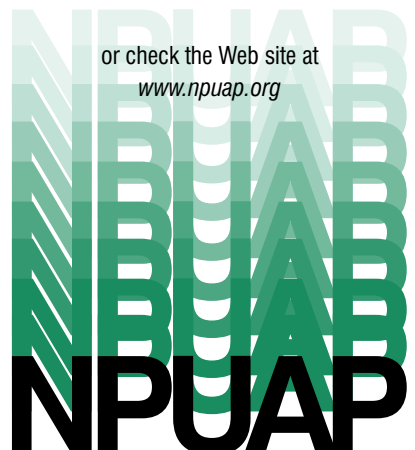
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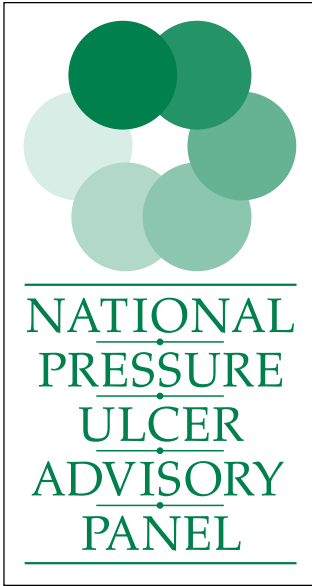
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From Research to Practice**

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