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Care Coordination Draws Record-Breaking Attendance for Ambulatory Care Nursing Conference

American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing 40th Annual Conference highlights new Care Coordination and Transition Management initiatives

Pitman, NJ – The [American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing \(AAACN\)](http://www.aaacn.org) drew 800 ambulatory and telehealth nurses for its milestone 40th Annual Conference, which took place April 15-18 in Lake Buena Vista, FL.

Nurses from the United States, Canada, China, and Saudi Arabia were on hand for sessions covering critical topics in ambulatory care nursing today, including leadership, professional practice models, quality outcomes, and staff engagement. A special focus was given this year to the role of nurses in care coordination through sessions held by the editors of the new [Care Coordination and Transition Management Core Curriculum](#) and during an open-forum Town Hall.

In advance of the conference, 66 nurses served as pilot testers for the upcoming [certification exam in Care Coordination and Transition Management](#), which is being developed by the [Medical-Surgical Nurses Certification Board \(MSNCB\)](#) in collaboration with AAACN. The exam will be available early this fall. Additionally, 72 nurses attended a pre-conference workshop titled *Take the Terror Out of Testifying and Survive the Deposition* held by Joan M. Paté, MS, BSN, RN-BC, where presenters held a mock trial to help nurses better understand legal depositions and the evaluation of nurse witnesses.

The conference closed with 96 nurses participating in the Ambulatory Care Nursing Certification Review Course, which is offered to prepare nurses for certification. [See the program.](#)

“The conference was exceptional in bringing nurses in various settings across ambulatory care together to discuss the latest trends in ambulatory care nursing and hear about the future work of AAACN,” said newly elected AAACN President Nancy May, MSN, RN-BC, NEA-BC.

Conference Highlights

AAACN inducted Nancy May, MSN, RN-BC, NEA-BC, as the 2015-2016 President for a one-year term. May is Chief Nursing Officer of Ambulatory Care with Baylor, Scott & White Central Division in Temple, TX.

Donna Cardillo, MA, RN, CSP stressed the importance of self-management and career management in her Keynote address, *Passionate Leadership: Soaring to New Heights*.

Attendees networked with colleagues and met with vendors in the packed exhibit hall, learning about new technologies, Nurse Licensure Compact details, as well as Care Coordination and Transition Management resources. Additional education was offered for viewing 88 poster

presentations displayed in two rounds. The Silent Auction raised over \$4,700 for the AAACN scholarship and research grant program.

A special Forum and Networking event hosted by the [AAACN Tri-Service Military Special Interest Group](#) on Thursday evening was attended by 40 nurses from all branches of the military.

Awards and Scholarships

The following awards were presented at the conference:

- **President's Above and Beyond Award** (highest award, given to an individual who exceeds the expectations of a volunteer role): Cynthia Murray, RN-BC, Veterans Health Administration, Delaware and Southern New Jersey.
- **Lead by Example Award:** Kitty Shulman, MSN, RN-BC, *ViewPoint* Editor, Past President of AAACN, received a special award for her leadership and mentoring of authors contributing to the *ViewPoint* newsletter.
- **Excellence Awards** (sponsored by the Anthony J. Jannetti, Inc. *Nursing Economic* Foundation, given to AAACN members who personify administrative and clinical excellence in ambulatory care):
 - **Administrative Excellence Award:** Julie Alban, MSN, MPH, RN-BC, VA in the Villages, The Villages, FL.
 - **Clinical Excellence Award:** Mary Ellen Gregory, RN, Kelsey Seybold, Houston, TX
- **2014 ViewPoint Writer's Award** (given for an outstanding article published in the association's official newsletter, *ViewPoint*): Kathie Chichester, BSN, RN, and Darlene Datkuliak, BSN, RN-C, of Denver Health Ambulatory Care Services, Denver, CO received their award at the *ViewPoint* Editorial Board Meeting for their article *Keeping the Cold Chain Strong Through a Multidisciplinary Approach*.
- **Education Scholarships:**
 - \$1,000 - Candance Michelle Lovelady, MBA, BSN, RN, Kelsey Seybold, Houston, TX.
 - \$500 - Janette Meier, RN, University Internal Medicine at Lowry, Castle Rock, CO.
 - \$500 - Gail Seeger, RN, BC, Carolinas Health Care System, Huntersville, NC.
- **Research Grant:** Kathryn Koehne, BSN, RNC-TNP, Gundersen Lutheran, LaCrosse, WI was awarded \$500 for her research titled *A New Threat to the Nursing Workforce: Don't Just Sit There!* which will report and provide the solution to the hazards of repetitious work and prolonged sitting.
- **Poster Winners** (posters will be available at a later date and can be viewed through the [AAACN Online Library](#)):
 - **1st Place.** *A Bird's Eye View into the Development of an After-Hour Nurse On-Call Program.* Susan Clelland, MSN, RN, Henry Ford Health System, Dearborn, MI.
 - **2nd Place.** *Promoting Professional Nurses' Role in Care Model Redesign.* Kristin Koos Olson, RN; Tricia Stevens, RN; and Bernard A. Theobald, MAN, RN, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN.
 - **3rd Place.** *EBOLA...Just in Time Training.* Annette Hamlin, BSN, RN, and Jane Holloway, BSN, RN, Akron Children's Hospital, Akron, OH.

Online Library

Full conference attendees have indefinite online access to conference recordings and handouts in the [AAACN Online Library](#). In addition, conference registration for each attendee includes Online Library access for two colleagues. Nurses who were unable to attend the conference can purchase access to the full conference in the Online Library or they can purchase individual sessions at the end of June. For more information about accessing conference content, visit www.aaacn.org/library.

2016 Conference

[The AAACN 41st Annual Conference](#) will be held May 18-21, 2016 at the Palm Springs Convention Center and Renaissance Palm Springs Hotel in Palm Springs, CA. Poster abstracts are being accepted.

For more information about AAACN, visit the Web site, aaacn.org; call: 1-800-AMB-NURS (1-800-262-6877); fax: 856-589-7463; e-mail: aaacn@ajj.com.

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The American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing (AAACN) is a welcoming, unifying community for registered nurses in all ambulatory care settings.