

Session on Doctor of Nursing Practice Attracts Large Audience

A special session at the ONS 31st Annual Congress in Boston, MA, designed to present information about the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree attracted a large and engaged audience. Ann O'Sullivan, PhD, CRNP, CPNP, FAAN, and Tukea Talbert, RN, DNP, presented arguments in favor of the new degree, and Janet Fulton, PhD, RN, and Marilyn Haas, PhD, RN, CNS, ANP-C, represented the opposing point of view.

The DNP is a practice-focused doctorate that the American Association of Colleges of Nursing has advocated become the qualifying degree for advanced practice nursing by 2015. Although the presentations were balanced and well articulated, it was clear from what the presenters had to say and from the concerns raised by audience members that many issues regarding the merit of this decision,

its implementation, and its overall impact on the profession of nursing are still to be discussed.

Debate and discussion will continue in the months and years ahead even as educational programs to prepare DNPs begin to appear across the country. There are a dozen or

so at last count, with many others in the planning stages. All nurses will need to keep current on developments, particularly changes in individual state legislation regarding who will be able to practice

as an advanced practice nurse. A comprehensive set of papers on the DNP can be accessed at <http://nursingworld.ojin/topic28/tpc28toc.htm>, and the ONS Board of Directors will be issuing a fact sheet containing additional sources of information.

Fulton suggested other ways to keep up with developments and offer your feedback. They include

monitoring discussions on the topic within your state board of nursing, contacting your alma mater to determine its plans, and initiating dialogue with nursing educators in your area.

Segments of the DNP session will be available as a podcast this month. For more information, visit the CE Central area of the ONS Web site and select "Education Resources." ♦

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Take the ONS News Instant Poll

To respond to this month's instant poll question, "Are you in favor of the new Doctor of Nursing Practice degree?" visit the Publications area of www.ons.org and select "ONS News." Results will be shared in the July issue.

In response to the May poll question, "Do you have a palliative care program in your institution?" 76% (N = 85) indicated "Yes." ♦

Viewpoint (continued from page 2)

All ONS members have a right to information *and* an obligation to make your voice heard. If you are not voting, you are not making your voice heard. If you are not reading the ONS publications, you are not getting the information you need.

That being said, I would like to tell you that the ONS News is undergoing a redesign. Details of the reason for the change and the process used for decision making will be shared in a future issue. For now, I want to alert you that a number of

staff and members are working very hard to retain and update the parts of the newsletter that members like and add some pieces that are missing. We solicited member input through a reader's survey and via direct personal contact at Congress, where we offered a sneak peak at initial designs. I also welcome your input over the next few months as we finalize plans and prepare for the debut of the redesigned publication in January 2007. One of the questions I have for you, the mem-

bers, is "How can we best communicate the work of the organization to you?" Do you want to know about the discussions that lead to the decisions, or do you just want to be notified of the end result?

Like my daughter and son-in-law and their budget, I believe that members, staff, and leadership all agree in concept regarding matters of our organization. Yet the meaning of our communication may be different. We must work together to overcome the communication disconnect. ♦

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