Happy Holidays!

We close another year with reflections of the success of the 43rd Annual Child Neurology Society Conference and hopes and goals for the coming year. As we reflect on the past year and set our sights on 2015, let us work together to make ACNN stronger and more vibrant.

Members of ACNN posses experience, do exciting things in patient care delivery, teaching, and research. We are not very good at sharing our work among our membership. ACNN is an international organization that yields opportunities for unique collaborations and above all, a unique community of child neurology nurses to come together.

Whether you can attend the annual conference, submit a piece to ACNN Currents, join a committee or run for the Board of Directors, I hope your goals for 2015 include making ACNN a better, stronger, more active and vital organization.

We just celebrated the 30th anniversary of ACNN! That is quite an accomplishment. Let us work together to keep ACNN strong for the next 30 years.

With best wishes for a very Merry Christmas and a New Year filled with good health, happiness, and success with the goals you will embark upon.

Happy Holidays!

Kathy O’Hara, President, ACNN
From October 21-25 the brains gathered in Columbus, Ohio for the ACNN and CNS conferences. We had three days with conference times for gaining new knowledge, networking with fellow nurses and time for enjoying the sunshine during the run/walk. We also celebrated ACNN’s 30th anniversary with a cake.

The ACNN conference kicked off with the Janet Brucker Keynote Address by J. Erin Riehle who spoke about Project SEARCH – a work program for intellectually delayed individuals. Many of us did not know that this program existed, let alone that this program was available in some of our communities. If you would like more information go to their website. Projectsearch.us.

We heard from Maria Laderman who spoke on Chronic Migraines and Scott Turner who took us through the process of determining if neuroimaging is necessary in pediatric headaches.

Ruth Rosenblum shared a case of Ethosuximide induce lupus like syndrome. Others shared their experiences with similar symptoms with other AED’s. Deanna Duggan and Amanda Jones described their experiences with novel treatments of pediatric headaches including occipital nerve injections. We ended the first day hearing from Jennifer Boyd who spoke on her experiences with Challenging families – something we could all relate to.

We met again during lunch on Thursday and Friday. Hearing about a variety of subjects. Ruth Shinnar explained their research study on safety in the epilepsy monitoring Unit. Amy Vierhile
discussed the management of Tourette Syndrome. Audrey Scully shared her nursing pilot study on individualizing the plan of care for children with autism preparing for outpatient EEG. This type of pilot study is ideal for the research funds available through ACNN. Jennifer Murphy discussed genetics and denovo deletions in early onset epileptic encephalopathy.

Attendees were able to network during lunch and breaks and informal meetings of special interest groups occurred Friday afternoon.

In summary we had speakers from California, Colorado, Ohio, New York, Washington DC, Texas, and Toronto.

A total of 163 attended the meetings over the 3 days with the most on Wednesday (70).

A call for abstracts will be coming out soon for the 2015 conference in the Washington DC area. Research studies, updates on clinical practice and case studies are welcome. If you have a questions about how to present, or are wondering if your topic of interest is pertinent contact Sue Yudovin (syudovin@mednet.ucla.edu) or any board members.

ACNN celebrated its 30th anniversary with this delicious cake.
ACNN Website Update

Have you checked out the website improvements we’ve been making? While still a work in progress, the ACNN board is working away at making our website the go to place for all things Child Neurology Nursing.

The biggest change has been the move of lots of material from the Members Only section to our public site. We want to show the world what is available from ACNN to the general public and highlight what is available to members only. We have listed the talks given at the 2014 ACNN meeting. Joining allows members to see the actual presentations. We’ve published the dates for submissions for presentations and award nominations for the 2015 meeting in Baltimore so all will have plenty of time to participate and join before October 2015. We want to see you there!

Most importantly we want this website to reflect you: our members, readers, and nurses thinking about becoming members. Please email me any and all suggestions for the website. How can we serve you?

msheehan@stanfordchildrens.org

Maureen Sheehan, CPNP, Stanford Child Neurology
Another Successful Fun Run/Walk for ACNN and the Child Neurology Foundation

Fourteen ACNN members and supporters raised $580 for the Child Neurology Foundation while we circled the lake at Goodale Park in beautiful weather. Goodale is the oldest park in Columbus and surrounded by Victorian homes that were decked out for Halloween with the largest spiders any of us had ever seen. Looking forward to next year in Baltimore!

Runners and walkers who participated in the annual event: Sara Adducchio, Nancy Auer, Jennifer Boyd, Marsha Glover, Kathi Kinnet, Dianne Kulasa-Luke, Jo Ellen Lee (not pictured I was taking the picture) Betsy Medaugh, Patti Ogden, Kathy Pawlik, Maureen Sheehan Leslie Sondeen-Upila.
Thank You to the Fun Run/Walk
Participants and Supporters

Participants
Sara Adducchio  Dayton OH
Nancy Auer  Galena OH
Jennifer Boyd  Toronto
Kathi Kinnett  Cincinnati OH
Dianne Kulasa-Lee  Ravenna OH
Davonna Ledet  Hernando, Nova Scotia
JoEllen Lee  Columbus OH
Mirabeth Medaugh  Dayton OH
Lynda Nossaman  Brunswick OH
Patti Ogden  Homewood IL
Kathleen Pawlik  Sterling Heights MI
Maureen Sheehan  Stanford CA
Leslie Sondeen Opila  Downers Grove IL
Marsha Stover  Portland OR

Supporters
Mary Karn  Orient OH
JoEllen and Steven Lee  Nationwide Children’s, Columbus OH
Warren Lo  Nationwide Children’s, Columbus OH
Kathy O’Hara  University of VA
Ruth and Shlomo Shinnnar  New York City
Sally Steward  Columbus OH
Amy Vierhile  Rochester NY
Pedro Weisleder  Nationwide Children’s, Columbus OH
Sue Yudovin  UCLA
Greetings ACNN Members and Friends! It was great seeing everyone at the conference in Columbus last month. Our Columbus colleagues did a great job of making us feel at home and helping with logistics, etc. The ACNN speakers were truly fabulous and reached a new level of scholarly sharing of evidence-based information. It was a pleasure meeting several new members and catching up with 'seasoned' members at the yearly conference. Julie and Ruth were so pleased with the warm reception of the 2014 edition (second edition) of the Child Neurology Encounter Guides by ACNN members as well as call conference participants. Our booth location was superb and attracted maximal traffic. In all, 66 encounter Guides were sold, and 36 Pocket Guides were sold. We even sold the Sample Copy right off the shelf! Several factors made the books even more marketable and sellable -- now it is available in an Apple iBook which appeals to many providers, we used a Square point of sale credit card system which made sales nearly effortless, and last - 'word on the street' has gotten out, and many of our physician colleagues were very excited about bringing the books back for their NP, PA and RN colleagues, and medical students. We hope to take the books and curriculum to the road again to other states to update school nurses and other providers on the latest evidence-based information. Big thanks to the ACNN Board, CNS Board and Management, Dr. Leslie Morrison, and all others who have been so supportive throughout this project!

To order go to:

http://www.childneurologysociety.org/acnn/books

on the paperback copies don't forget the 20% discount code 20WhoL20 (case sensitive)

Pocket guide comes in Apple I-book and can be ordered from the above link

Submitted by Ruth Rosenblum
Ruth Rosenblum and Julie promoting the Child Neurology Encounter Guides at the 43rd Annual Child Neurology Conference in Columbus, Ohio
Keeping Connected Upcoming Conferences

4th Annual Neurocritical Care Symposium: A Practical Approach  
January 30, 2015  
Philadelphia, PA, USA

48th Annual Recent Advances in Neurology  
February 11-13, 2015  
San Francisco, CA, USA

Keystone Symposia: Neuroinflammation in Diseases of the Central Nervous System  
January 25 - 30, 2015  
Taos, NM, USA

19th Annual Children’s Neuroscience Symposium  
March 1-4, 2014  
Phoenix, AZ, USA

Keystone Symposia: Pathways of Neurodevelopment Disorders  
Mar 16-20, 2015  
Taos, NM, USA

International Ataxia Research Conference  
March 25 - 28, 2015  
Old Windsor, Berkshire, UK

The Lancet Neurology Autoimmune Disorders Conference  
Mar 26-27, 2015  
Barcelona, Spain

IHI 2015 - 17th Congress of the International Headache Society  
May 14-17, 2015  
Valencia, Spain

The Fourth Annual UAE Epilepsy Congress 2015  
May 22-23, 2015  
Dubai, United Arab Emirates

EPNS 2015 - 11th European Paediatric Neurology Society Congress  
May 26-30, 2015  
Vienna, Austria
Newsletter? It’s Up to You

Staying connected with our community of paediatric neurology nursing colleagues is one of the primary reasons we joined ACNN. The annual conference is one way to us to gather and network. The website provides some updates and information on awards, research grants and a listing of members. The newsletter is a quarterly mode of communication that offers us the opportunity to share our experiences, accomplishments, and to teach others.

Newsletter submissions have been very sparse over the last year. Not all ACNN members can attend the conference annually. We do not have an online forum to exchange questions. Who are we? What do we do? Why are we members of ACNN? These are provocative questions for further contemplation. I know we have an accomplished group of nurses who work in amazing settings and do amazing things. We need to showcase our talents, share our research, initiatives, collaborate on projects, discuss clinical or ethical challenges.

The deadline for the Spring edition of ACNN Currents is March 6, 2014. It is my hope as the Chairperson of the Communications Committee and editor of this newsletter, that you submit something to ACNN Currents to share and showcase. It up to you to make ACNN a stronger, better organization. Play your part, submit. All submissions can be sent to maria.zak@sickkids.ca.
Message from New Board Member
Gretchen Heckel

I am humbled and proud to become part of the ACNN Board of Directors. I have been a pediatric neurology nurse for 7 years. Prior to that I was an adult neurology nurse. Neurology in general was something that I have found interesting, exciting, and challenging. The constant challenge is what has kept me in this field. It’s exciting to learning more and more everyday in this constantly evolving field.

When the adult neurologist decided to move I knew I wanted to stay in neurology. The only outpatient position in the city that was in the neurology field was at Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin. To be honest I was scared to apply. The idea of working in pediatrics made me very nervous. Neurology meant enough to me to plunge in and apply. After 7 years in pediatric neurology I cannot imagine doing anything else. I am hooked. I work in general neurology taking care of a wide range of patients and different diagnosis. My heart is in my muscular dystrophy clinic. I have been the nurse for the Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin and MDA collaborated muscular dystrophy clinic for all 7 years that I have been a pediatric neurology nurse. I feel completely honored to take care of my patients and to work with their parents. I completely believe that I learn more from them then I could ever teach them.

I wanted to expand my contribution to the field that I am so passionate about. So with the encouragement of a co-worker I applied to be on the ACNN Board. I am excited to see what this role will bring. I will do my best to add as much as I can to this wonderful organization.