



CGFNS receives

THE COMMISSION ON Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (CGFNS) was recently honored as one of seven national recipients of the Professional Examination Service's (PES) 1999 Grant Awards.

The PES grant will help support a forum hosted by CGFNS that will bring together specialty nursing organizations to discuss the impact of foreign-educated nurses with specialty credentials on U.S. workforce planning, trade and immigration policy.

The policy environment affecting the entry of foreign-educated registered nurses is complex and ever changing. It is affected by domestic regulatory and legislative actions of the U.S. government and by international agreements, such as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

In general, foreign-educated nurses

have U.S. to C been

"terms of specialty practice. The availability of a sound database is paramount to understanding the role of foreign-educated nurses with specialty credentials in the U.S. registered nurse workforce.


CGFNS anticipates that a healthy dialogue would occur at this forum regarding foreign-educated nurse specialty practice, credentialing and regulation, which would provide an opportunity to identify centralized information regarding specialty credentials of foreign-educated nurses.

CGFNS plans on initiating a comparative database on nursing education and regulatory standards for foreign-educated nurses with specialties. The Commission also plans to publish a monograph that

Grant Award

reports the findings and policy implications resulting from the forum's discussions. A date for the forum has not been set.

PES is a non-profit testing organization whose mission is to promote the understanding and use of sound credentialing practices. PES achieves its mission by providing comprehensive services and making contributions to credentialing stakeholders in the areas of assessment practice, educational activities, scientific research and policy development.

The PES Grant Awards Program was established in 1994. The program makes available grant awards to support credentialing stakeholders in educational or scientific activities that contribute significantly to the development, use, evaluation and enhancement of professional credentials. 

National Nurses Week celebrated in May


THE WORK OF America's 2.6 million registered nurses to save lives and to maintain the health of millions of individuals is the focus of this year's National Nurses Week, celebrated annually May 6-12 throughout the United States.

Using the theme "Nurses: Keeping the Care in Healthcare," the American Nurses Association (ANA) and its 53 constituent associations will highlight the diverse ways in which registered nurses, the largest healthcare profession, are working to improve healthcare. From bedside nursing in hospitals and long term care facilities to the halls of research institutions, state legislatures and Congress, the depth and breadth of the nursing profession is meeting the expanding healthcare needs of American society.

Annually, National Nurses Week begins on May 6, marked as RN Recognition Day, and ends on May 12,

the birthday of Florence Nightingale, founder of nursing as a modern profession. In 1993 the ANA designated May 6-12 as National Nurses Week to be observed in 1994 and every year thereafter.

Also, in 1998 the ANA and the National Student Nurses Association established May 8 as National Student Nurses Day. Nursing students are honored for their work in the classroom and in the community, as well as for their spirit and dedication to serving the public.

During National Nurses Week, registered nurses across the U.S. will be honored by participating or hosting a variety of events such as rallies, community health screenings, childhood immunization publicity efforts, dinners, receptions, hospital events, etc. These public events will be held to celebrate the contributions that nurses make to the community. 

[Contributing Source:
American Nurses Association]

In this Issue

- CGFNS receives PES 1999 Grant Award ①
- National Nurses Week ①
- New *VisaScreen*TM discount ②
- CGFNS conducts focus groups ②
- Complete your NSSRN questionnaire today ③
- Ask the Experts ③
- We're only a click away at cgfns.org ④
- Mark your Calendar ④

HCFA will remove physician supervision requirement for nurse anesthetists

AFTER DELIBERATING FOR more than two years, the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) announced it will remove the federal requirement that nurse anesthetists must be supervised by physicians when administering anesthesia to Medicare patients.

The final rule is expected to be published in the Federal Register in June. Until now, in anesthesia cases involving Medicare patients, the federal rule required physician supervision of nurse anesthetists in order for hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers to be reimbursed for the nonanesthesia portion of a patient's care. However, for nurse anesthetists themselves to be reimbursed, Medicare did not require supervision.

The rule change is good news for the American public because it ensures access to safe, high-quality anesthesia care, especially in rural areas and inner city hospitals where Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) are often the sole anesthesia providers. 🌐

[Contributing Source: American Organization of Nurse Executives]

CEO receives special award



BARBARA L. NICHOLS, DHL, MS, RN, FAAN, Chief Executive Officer of the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (CGFNS), will be

honored as this year's recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award at Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing, Casewestern Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio.

Nichols has led a very distinguished career in nursing. She has been the CEO of CGFNS since January 1999. Prior to becoming CEO of CGFNS, Nichols served as professor of nursing at the School of Nursing, University of

Wisconsin, Madison and Director of Nursing for the Wisconsin Area Health Education Center System. She has held a cabinet position in Wisconsin State Government and is a former International Council of Nurses Board Member and a President of the American Nurses Association. She is the author of over 70 publications on nursing and health care delivery and has received numerous awards for contributions to the nursing profession. Nichols is also the recipient of four honorary doctoral degrees for her scholarly work. She is married and has one daughter and identical twin sons.

Nichols will be presented with the award at the school's annual Alumni Weekend, Saturday, June 3, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in Mayfield Heights, Ohio. 🌐

CGFNS conducts focus groups

THE COMMISSION ON Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (CGFNS) is organizing eight focus groups to be conducted in three major U.S. cities and in one Canadian city to obtain information about potential new CGFNS products and services. Applicants' participation, perceptions and opinions based on their experience in the CGFNS Certification Program are of great interest and value to CGFNS. Each group will have about 10-12 applicants in two focus groups in the following cities: Toronto, New York City, Los Angeles and Chicago.

This subjective information will be used to help guide future decisions and directions about CGFNS' products and services, which will enhance CGFNS' ability to supply future applicants with the proper materials for all CGFNS programs. 🌐

New VisaScreen™ discount

THE COMMISSION ON Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (CGFNS), through its division the International Commission on Healthcare Professions (ICHP), will no longer be able to offer the full discount currently given to nurses who are applying for *VisaScreen*. **The modified discount, which was formerly \$125.00 U.S. dollars, will be reduced to \$50.00 U.S. dollars effective November 1, 2000.**

The discounted fees are available to nurses applying for *VisaScreen* who have within the last seven years preceding the *VisaScreen* application date received one of the following:

- an approved status to take the CGFNS Qualifying Exam, or
- a Nursing and Science Course-by-

Course or Full Nursing Education Report that indicated that the applicant is a first-level, general nurse.

CGFNS is committed to providing the lowest cost possible to foreign-educated nurses for its services and products. For the past two and a half years, CGFNS has managed to avoid increasing any of the fees associated with either its *VisaScreen* program, the CGFNS Certification Program or the Credentials Evaluation Service. However costs for the *VisaScreen* program have compelled CGFNS to lower its discount in order to be able to continue providing the same high standard in its screening, evaluating and testing services that foreign-educated nurses worldwide have come to expect and depend upon. 🌐

International HealthScope

Volume 1, Number 3

International HealthScope is published quarterly by the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (CGFNS). © Copyright 2000 by the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools. Comments or questions should be directed to: CGFNS, Attn: International HealthScope, 3600 Market Street, Suite 400, Philadelphia, PA 19104-2651, USA

DeAnna Halewski

Editor, Communications Specialist

Tina Trapp

Communications/Marketing Assistant

Silvia Pomponi

Marketing Specialist

Adriana Falco

Director, Marketing and Communications

Barbara Nichols, DHL, MS, RN, FAAN

Chief Executive Officer

Ellen Sanders, MS, RN

President, Board of Trustees

Complete your NSSRN questionnaire today


NURSES AROUND THE country opened their mailboxes this spring to find another survey alongside their United States Census form, the National Sample Survey of Registered Nurses (NSSRN). The NSSRN serves as one of the pivotal tools used to assess the characteristics, supply and adequacy of the nursing workforce. The NSSRN is the nation's most extensive and comprehensive source of statistics on all registered nurses currently licensed to practice in the United States, whether or not they are actively employed in nursing.

The NSSRN 2000, which was mailed in March, is based on a scientific sample of about 54,000 registered nurses (RNs) that represent RNs licensed in each of the states and the entire nation. Registered nurses selected to participate in the sample are asked to complete a questionnaire. Their returned responses are entered into a database and analyzed to describe the characteristics of this very important group of health care professionals.

The Division of Nursing has conducted six sample surveys: September 1977, November 1980 and 1984, and March

1988, 1992 and 1996. Reports for the six studies have been published and made readily available to the public, nursing profession and all those in health care planning and evaluation.

Everyone relies on the results of the National Sample Survey of Registered Nurses. The Division of Nursing used the data as input to economic models forecasting the supply and requirements of the nursing workforce till the year 2020 as it plans for appropriate educational resources. Other federal, state and local government departments and agencies, as well as congressional offices use the National Sample Survey of Registered Nurses as the key source of background data on RNs. Professional organizations, regulatory bodies and individual nurses rely on the sample survey results for average compensation rates, estimates of the number of nurses in their region and educational distribution of the workforce. The NSSRN is used by nurses and for nurses.

If you received your National Sample Survey of Registered Nurses questionnaire and have not completed and returned it, please do so. 

Executives named to organizations

THE HEALTH RESOURCES and Services Administration (under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services) recently announced the selection of Denise H. Geolot, PhD, RN, FAAN, as the new director of HRSA's Bureau of Health Profession's Division of Nursing.


Dr. Geolot served on the faculty of the University of Virginia School of Nursing before joining the Division of Nursing in 1977 as a nurse consultant in the nurse practitioner and nurse midwifery program. She later became the program's chief and then deputy director of the Division of Nursing.

THE COLLEGE OF NURSES OF Ontario (CNO) also announced the selection of its new executive director Anne L. Coghlan, RN, MScN.

Coghlan will assume her new position May 1, 2000, bringing her 15 years of experience as a nursing leader in varied professional practice, management, regulatory and educational roles. Her nursing

background includes working as a staff nurse and Pediatric Clinical Nurse Specialist at The Hospital for Sick Children; as the Director, Professional Practice and Chief of Nursing Practice at Markham Stouffville Hospital; and as a Senior Manager in the Health Care Practice with Ernst and Young Consulting Services, Inc.

THE AMERICAN ORGANIZATION of Nurse Executives also recently appointed a new executive director of AONE, Pamela A. Thompson, MS, RN.

Thompson, who officially began her new duties April 24, 2000, previously served 14 years as vice president of Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital, part of Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, New Hampshire. While at Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital, she managed inpatient and regional clinical services, including Children's Hospital obstetrics, women's and psychiatry. Thompson was also responsible for strategic planning for the center's clinical operations. 

Ask the Experts

Q What is the H-1C visa?

A The H-1C visa is a non-immigrant visa for nurses to temporarily work in "health-care shortage areas" in the United States. A nurse may practice in the U.S. for three years under the H-1C visa.

Q What are the requirements of the H-1C visa?

A The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) will determine who receives an H-1C visa based on the following requirements:

- 1) A nurse must have a full and unrestricted license to practice professional nursing in the country where they obtained their nursing education or have received nursing education in the U.S.
- 2) A nurse must have passed an appropriate examination (determined by the Department of Health and Human Services), or have a full and unrestricted license to practice as a registered nurse in the state of intended employment.
- 3) A nurse must be fully qualified and eligible under the state laws and regulations of the state of intended employment to practice as a registered nurse immediately upon admission to the United States.

We're only a click away at cgfns.org

Check your mailbox for the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools' (CGFNS) vibrant postcard announcing its newest edition, www.cgfns.org. CGFNS has just launched an exciting and extensive new website. All of its services and products are featured, as well as additional information that allow web surfers to easily navigate and search through the site to fulfill a multitude of tasks and inquiries.

Surfers can fill out an application for one of CGFNS' three main services on-line; check the status of an application; purchase new study aides to help prepare for the CGFNS Qualifying Exam and the NCLEX-RN® examination as well as novelties; visit the on-line career center offering tips on how to relocate to the U.S. and the job searching process; and even try to win a free CGFNS tee-shirt.


The new website also contains a wealth of information. Surfers can easily read about CGFNS' history, mission, cur-



rent news, conference schedule, *HealthScope*, and who's who at CGFNS. Surfers can also learn the answers to some of the most frequently asked questions by applicants and healthcare and immigration agencies.

Feel free to give CGFNS feedback. E-mail any questions or concerns that may evolve about its services or products

and share success stories with other foreign-educated nurses about to take the same plunge. Send referrals of new study aides, resources and links which may aid other surfers looking for information.

CGFNS hopes that web surfers will find all the convenience and ease offered by on-line access to all of the information and services that CGFNS provides. 

mark your Calendar

May 28-June 2
NAFSA: ASSOCIATION OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATORS
San Diego, CA

June 14-16
AMERICAN PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION
Indianapolis, IN

June 15-18
AMERICAN IMMIGRATION LAWYERS ASSOCIATION
Chicago, IL

June 18-21
CANADIAN NURSES ASSOCIATION
Vancouver, BC

July 19-21
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF HISPANIC NURSES
Arlington, VA

international
HealthScope
Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools
International Commission on Healthcare Professions
3600 Market Street, Suite 400
Philadelphia, PA 19104-2651 USA
www.cgfns.org / www.ichp.org