



March 2017

Message from the President

Exciting progress is happening behind the scenes here at ACNA! Just last month ACNA solidified a relationship with [Kellen Company](#), the largest association management company in the US. (An association management company is a professional service company that specializes in providing management services for associations... providing staff, administrative support, office space, technology and the equipment needed to operate efficiently.) With our continued growth, the need for support became something we could no longer ignore. I am pleased to announce that we have addressed this and now have an Executive Director, a phone number, and operational & strategic support--all the right ingredients needed to assist ACNA in creating a robust professional association.

With medical cannabis use and acceptance outpacing healthcare professional/nursing knowledge on the subject, the dynamics of the nursing professional practice must evolve. As the leading professional nursing organization representing cannabis nursing, ACNA is charged with the responsibility to our members and to the public to develop the scope and standards of our profession's practice. This will provide safe working parameters, as well as protect patients from unprofessional and unsafe nursing practice.

ACNA has begun work on a Scope of Nursing Practice for Cannabis Nurses which will outline the expectations of the professional role of the practicing nurse, describing the "who," "what," "where," "when," "why," and "how" of nursing practice. Our education and research committee members have been meeting over the last few months discussing the framework needed for developing the standards of professional cannabis nursing practice.

Another exciting project is introducing ACNA to our peers. Thanks to a generous grant from [Mary's Medicinals](#) of Denver, ACNA will exhibit at five national nursing events and two advocacy events in 2017, kicking off the year in Phoenix, AZ at the Annual Assembly American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine/Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association. Advocacy & outreach is just one more step to further acceptance and understanding of cannabis as medicine.

We are making headway!
Eileen Koniczny, RN
ACNA President



ACNA Education and Research Committee

As chair of the ACNA Education and Research Committee, I am happy to share with the membership some of the accomplishments the committee has achieved over the last several months.

The full committee developed a resolution around [cannabis education and nurses](#); the resolution was then edited and approved by the Executive Committee and Board. This is a tool that can be used in a variety of ways to ensure that all nurses are educated around the medicinal use of cannabis and the endocannabinoid system.

The Education and Research Committee has created subcommittees that are working on a variety of topics that will move us forward as an organization committed to both supporting nurses' knowledge and further defining cannabis nursing here in the United States. We are developing:

- educational materials for our members to use at state/ regional meet ups.
- considerations for cannabis nurses working in dispensaries.

- scope and practice of advanced practice cannabis nurses.
- updates for our TCMI cannabis nursing course materials.
- materials for more advanced cannabis nursing content.
- membership update processes regarding emerging research within the cannabis medicine field.

Many thanks to all of the 16 volunteer nurses involved in these important ACNA activities!

Carey Clark, PhD, RN, AHN-BC
ACNA President-Elect

Cannabis Nurse's Scope and Standards of Practice

The American Cannabis Nurses Association Executive Committee has recognized the need for nurses to have guidelines for cannabis nurse practice. Following and aligning with the American Nurses Association (ANA) *Standards and Scope of Practice* is the first step in the process of eventually being recognized as a specialty in nursing. Our President-Elect Dr. Carey S. Clark has developed the 17 standards and competencies that align with ANA's guidelines. The Executive Committee provided careful examination, editing support, and meaningful feedback with the first drafts of the document, and now the *Cannabis Nurse's Scope and Standards of Practice* is currently up for a vote of approval by our Board of Directors. We look forward to sharing this landmark document with you in the near future. Next steps will include adding in the APRN role standards and scope and approaching ANA with our document as we continue the journey toward specialty recognition.

Carey Clark, PhD, RN, AHN-BC
ACNA President-Elect

Upcoming Events

March 15 - [What Nurses Need to Know about Medical Cannabis](#)

April 6 - [27th Annual Medical-Surgical Nursing Conference](#)

May 4-7 - [Oncology Nursing Society Congress](#)

May 18-19 - [Patients Out of Time Conference](#)

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