



2017 Class of AAOHN Fellows

Candace M. Burns, PhD, ARNP, FAAOHN – Tampa, Florida

Dr. Burns is a Professor and Director, Occupational Health Nursing Program and Deputy Director, Sunshine Education and Research Center (SERC), University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida. She currently guides and directs the OHN Nurse Practitioner Program and manages the functions and strategic planning of the SERC as Deputy Director. Dr. Burns earned her Bachelors of Science in Nursing from Michigan State University, Master of Arts in Strategic Planning from the U.S. Army War College, Master of Science in Adult Nurse Practitioner program from the University of Michigan and her PhD in Higher Education and Research from the University of Michigan.

Annette Byrd, MPH, RN, IC®, FAAOHN – Raleigh, North Carolina

Ms. Byrd earned her Nursing degree from the University of Tennessee. She currently operates her own consulting business with the primary client being AAOHN, for whom she does the education consulting. Previously, she has worked for two different pharmaceutical companies and the state government.

Virginia (Ginny) Carlson, MPH, BSN, RN, COHN-S, FAAOHN – Woodbury, Minnesota

Ms. Carlson is currently working as an Employee Occupational Health System Manager at Fairview Health Services in St. Paul, MN. She completed her Master of Public Health/University of MN School of Public Health in Minneapolis, MN, Bachelor of Science in Nursing/University of WI in Green Bay, WI and received her RN Diploma in Nursing-St. Luke's Hospital School of Nursing in Duluth, MN. In her current role, Ms. Carlson is responsible for legal and regulatory compliance for all occupational health programs. The role offers varied responsibilities including maximizing and promoting quality medical care, developing and coaching staff, and researching federal, state and local requirements.

Janie Adams De Jesus, MS, RN, COHN-S/CM, FAAOHN – Angleton, Texas

Ms. De Jesus holds a Master of Science Degree in Community Health/Administration and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Texas Woman's University in Denton, Texas. She has worked at The Dow Chemical Company since 1984 as a Clinic Nurse, Health Promotion Health Education Coordinator and Health Surveillance and Medical Records Supervisor. She is currently the Freeport Texas site Case Manager and co-Global Delivery Leader for Case Management and is also a Clinic Nurse providing health assessment exams, injury/illness care, health counseling, assisting in the implementation of corporate wellness programs, global case management training and program/process development and on a site level working with Employees, Leaders, Human Resources, outside Health Care Providers and additional personnel to implement the case management program.

Karin N. Drake, BA, RN, COHN-S, FAAOHN – Happy Valley, Oregon

Ms. Drake is the nurse manager for the ambulatory occupational health clinic at Kaiser Permanente in the northwest. In this role, she works with many employers and insurers and oversees clinical operations, case management, utilization review and call center. She completed her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Management and Organizational Leadership from George Fox University in Newberg, Oregon and her Nursing Associate Degree in Applied Science at the City Colleges of Chicago, Harry S. Truman in Chicago, Illinois.

Rick García, PhD, RN, CCM, FAAOHN – Washington D.C.

Dr. Rick García is director of nursing education at the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) where he facilitates the national dialogue on innovation in the education policy space. Dr. García holds a doctor of philosophy degree from Barry University with a focus in nursing research and a minor in nursing education; a master's degree in integrated health systems management from Georgetown University; a bachelor's of science in nursing degree from the University of Miami, and an associate of science in nursing degree from Miami-Dade College. AACN serves as the voice for America's baccalaureate-and higher-degree nursing education. Dr. García's practice within the education policy arena focuses on facilitating the national dialogue on innovations in nursing education, curricula, and moving the discussion into action reflective of the national consensus as it relates to nursing education policy.

Karen Heaton, PhD, FNP-BC, FAAN, FFAOHN – Warrior, Alabama

Dr. Heaton is the Associate Professor at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. She earned her PhD in 2007 from the University of Kentucky, Post-master's family nurse practitioner certificate from George Washington University in 2000, Master's degree from University of Louisville in 1990, and Bachelor's degree from the University of Alabama at Birmingham in 1981. Dr. Heaton is currently the coordinator of the PhD program and NIOSH-funded occupational health-nursing director at the Deep South Center for Occupational Health and Safety, both at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. She has oversight for all occupational health nursing curriculum offerings, clinical placements, and serves as the primary research mentor for PhD students focusing on occupational health nursing research.

Lisa Hegel, MS, APRN, COHN-S, FFAOHN – West Lebanon, New Hampshire

Ms. Hegel is the Nurse Practitioner/Nurse Manager at Occupational and Environmental Medicine department, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, NH. She completed her Masters of Science at the University of New Hampshire, Bachelors of Science at Georgia State University and her Diploma at the Ona Wilcox School of Nursing in Connecticut. As a Nurse Practitioner and Nurse Manager in an academic medical center, her duties are many and varied. She oversees the day-to-day operations of two Occupational Health clinics and is the point person for occupational issues related to approximately 10K employees. She provides oversight and guidance to the nursing staff for: new hires, occupational exposures, Fitness for duty concerns, drug diversion, episodic diseases, work safety, infection prevention and medical surveillance.

Helen Kirk RN RM MA Queen's Nurse, FFAOHN – Mottram St. Andrew, Cheshire, United Kingdom

Ms. Kirk is Lead for Nursing Workforce Development at Public Health England, the agency that leads on health protection and promotion in England. Her work is focused on systems for recertification, career paths, and the development of the first WHO Collaborating Centre for Public Health Nursing. She trained in nursing at Nottingham, England, completed specialist training in occupational health in Scotland, and later attended Manchester Business School. She has been the occupational health representative of the Royal College of Nursing for many years and has represented the specialty on numerous national bodies including the National Institute of Health and Care Excellence and the Council for Work and Health. In 2014 Ms. Kirk was identified as one of England's Top 50 nurse leaders by the Nursing Times.

Denise Knoblauch BSN, RN, COHN-S/CM, FFAOHN – Lowpoint, Illinois

Ms. Knoblauch graduated from Bradley University with a bachelor's in nursing. She is employed as Executive Director of the American Board for Occupational Health Nursing (ABOHN). In that role, she manages the credentialing process with continuous quality improvement for nurses in the specialty of occupational health nursing, which includes the Certified Occupational Health Nurse (COHN) credential, the Certified Occupational Health Nurse Specialist (COHN-S) credential, and the Case Manager (CM) credential. She is responsible to plan, organize, direct, and coordinate the programs and activities of ABOHN to assure that objectives are attained and plans fulfilled per the directives of the Board of Directors. She is responsible to recommend and formulate new policies and follows current policies and processes. Ms. Knoblauch is responsible for futuristic planning and programming and budgetary operations for the corporation.

Denise L. Souza, MSN, ANP-BC, COHN-S/CM, FFAOHN – Lincoln, California

Ms. Souza is the Global Health Manager/Campus Lead North America West Coast at Johnson and Johnson. She is responsible for the management and leadership of J & J North America West Coast onsite, Integrated Global Health Teams, is responsible for US onsite J & J NP Program, coordination and management of US onsite Physical Therapy program and the coordination and management of US clinical laboratory vendor and services. She completed her Masters of Science in Nursing from the University of California, San Francisco, her Bachelors of Science from San Jose State University, CA and her Associates Degree in Nursing from Ohlone Community College in Fremont, CA.

Stephanie Weinsier, DNP, ANP-BC, COHN-S, FFAOHN – Hollywood, Florida

Dr. Weinsier completed her Doctor of Nursing Practice from the University of Florida with Graduate Certificate Online Teaching & Learning, her Masters of Science in Nursing in Adult Health, Nurse Practitioner program from Florida International University and Bachelors of Science in Nursing from the University of Florida. Ms. Weinsier currently manages the onsite Healthy Living Wellness Center at American Express in the new Regional Headquarters in Sunrise, Florida. She works in clinical practice as a Nurse Practitioner providing episodic care and wellness/prevention. This includes initial worker's comp care medical management and emergency response as well as complete physical exams, well woman exams, business travel health and vaccinations, oversight of the allergy shot program, flu shot program, and various chronic health management programs onsite for employees.