President’s Report  
March 2023  
Small but mighty!

I am pleased to join you in San Diego for our Annual Conference. We decided to focus on an old problem, that is the elevated risk of pressure injury in darkly pigment skin and equally the delays in healing in these same patients. There are many aspects of this problem that reach beyond those who attend our conference. First, Jill Cox and Ginger Capasso are writing a paper to address the state of the science in pressure injury in persons with dark skin tones. We have some data on how to assess early signs of injury and I believe that our inability to see erythema is a major gap and unfortunately the first step of the process of prevention. To augment the paper, the team is also developing an infographic on pressure injury in persons with dark skin tones. I am hopeful to get more data from hospitals on the comparative rates and I know some of this work is going on now. Further, the education committee and I have collected more photographs of all stages of pressure injury in persons with dark skin tones to add to the ones for purchase. My hope is that we have enough information to address Congress either at a public witness hearing or at the Doctors’ Caucus. First step is to raise their awareness.

There have been a number of individuals asking if they can attend our conference virtually. Portions of the program are being recorded and placed on our new Learning Management System. Registrations for the enduring conference content will increase our income and reach from this conference.

I am also pleased to tell you that the revised and tested Standardized Pressure Injury Prevention Protocol (SPIPP) has been submitted for publication to the Journal of Advanced Nursing. Joy Pittman did a tremendous job of moving this project forward. The data on the content validity was presented during a webinar in November and in person at the November meeting. Small adjustments were made to the nutrition and family engagement process and the paper was drafted. I have attached a copy of the SPIPP. An infographic is in the works. It outlines two important changes in routine prevention. First, the time frame for turning has been extended to 2-3 hours, based on data from Europe and from the US with the work of Tracey Yap. In addition, we are asking for a change in how a patient is positioned in bed. The original recommendation for positioning was at a 30-degree lateral position. This position works well if the sacrum is free from the bed.... and that is not happening. So, we ask that when
the patient is side lying, the upper leg is positioned forward of the lower leg. This “tripod” position will reduce the tendency for the patient to fall back and at the same time offload the sacrum. Both changes are in the SPIPP and on the infographic. Feel free to use them and send to others. They were designed to address risk in the ICU. During the November meeting, small groups revised the document to address risk in other groups. I have their suggestions, if you or your committee wants to move these other versions of SPIPP forward. The Patient Advisory council has taken the one on spinal cord injury. We have been asked about our interest in speaking to the Senate Committee on Appropriations at the Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies as an outside witness at a yet unpublished date, but hopefully later this spring. This testimony would address the significance of PI and how the SPIPP is a shorthand list of the 2019 Guideline.

We will be holding an in-person strategic planning meeting in May. I guess one of the perks of being President is that I get to choose locations for meetings....I chose Omaha! We are meeting the afternoon of Friday, May 12th and morning of Saturday, May 13th. This meeting is important for NPIAP as it sets the plan going forward for at least two years and should align with the focus of the mission committees now and guide them for future initiatives.

We have been working in conjunction with our legal counsel to finalize a contract with a data collection and storage vendor for our new Center of Excellence program. Hopefully, I can give you a final report soon. We have also been approached to partner with another organization on their Fall meeting and provide a track on pressure injury (7.5 hours of content). We are in early conversation about this partnership, if it goes forward, it may begin as early as Fall of 2024.

I have been able to attend some of the mission committee and council meetings. They are simply wonderful. Once my calendar is clear, I will attend the others. As I listened to the conversation, the energy and the commitment I was reminded of was a phrase I use to describe hormones in the body...small but mighty. That is what all of you and what we are! I thank you for your work on behalf of patients and NPIAP!

All the best,

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