

Dear Colleagues,

I am truly honored to be asked and then voted into the position of NPIAP President. This organization is so important to me! Some of you know that I have been on NPIAP for many, many years, sometimes elected and sometimes appointed to fill in for board members who resigned. It did not matter how I got back to the group, it was and is where I want to be.

This year our focus will be on diversity, equity and inclusion. NPIAP has a lot to offer in education and research about the difficulty in detection of stage 1 and deep tissue pressure injury in patients with dark skin pigmentation. We have known for quite a while that we are not seeing PI in early stages and then the pressure injury evolves rapidly because we were not aware of it. We also know that healing is not as fast and recovery is not as complete for these same patients. Improved comprehension of the problem is a goal for all sections of the Panel.

NPIAP also began work on creating a Center of Excellence for hospitals that have designed systems to sustain reduced pressure injury rates. This Center of Excellence is not to replace Magnet designation but rather offer recognition to those teams who are dedicated to establishing a culture of excellence and are committed to continuous improvement to quality and patient safety. Your hospital may already be a center of excellence in joint replacement, stroke, cardiac care and so on. This recognition will mirror those accomplishments.

NPIAP continues to examine the best design for preventive dressings. The Prophylactic Dressings Standards Initiative is joint venture with the European Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel. Their work is focusing on measuring the attributes of all of the dressings used for prevention, such as how much pressure and shear are reduced, how much fluid does it absorb and how well does it adhere to the skin. Current membership is both engineers and clinicians and the progress is exceptional.

I am fully aware that the reason I can guide this group is that I am standing on the shoulders of all those professionals who had this role before me. I can't thank you enough for your passion and commitment to the work of ending the human suffering from pressure injury.

Looking forward to a great year!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joyce Black RN". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joyce Black