



2022 Year in Review



TO OUR COMMUNITY



2022 was almost certainly one of the most important and urgent years in recent history to be working in women's and gender-related healthcare. As with any year, there were highs and lows.

Some highs:

- We were able to gather safely together again for our first in-person conference since 2019. Over 700 clinicians, researchers, faculty, and industry representatives joined us at our 25th Annual Women's Healthcare Conference. We updated our practices, shared our research, honed our skills, and worked to become better advocates for our patients and our field.
- We celebrated the accomplishments of our colleagues with our Inspiration in Women's Health awards and Fran Way Legacy award – honors that recognize excellence in practice, education, policy, research, and lifetime commitment to women's and gender-related healthcare.
- We signed on to over 80 letters, policy briefs, amicus briefs, and other public statements supporting issues aligned with our mission, including access to the full range of reproductive services, federal bills such as the Momnibus to support maternal health, support for LGBTQ+ healthcare, and the removal of barriers to APRN practice.
- Our journal, *Women's Healthcare: A Clinical Journal for NPs*, published six issues full of timely, relevant, evidence-based information and continuing education on gynecologic, reproductive and sexual health, obstetrics, menopause, professional issues, policy and practice issues, and more.
- We collaborated with the women's and gender-related healthcare industry to host important conversations around reproductive healthcare, hereditary cancer risk, and health disparities.
- And we were guided by the leadership of a very qualified and diverse board of directors to meet our mission, vision, and IDE commitments.

There were also lows.

- While the policy and legal landscapes have been evolving for years in ways that concern clinicians and patients, the overturning of *Roe v. Wade* felt like both a culmination and the start of a dangerous new era where women's healthcare is under constant attack. We know all too well that patients are not getting the care they need and providers are facing uncertainty in their practice and threats of criminalization.
- Our country is still grappling with a Maternal Mortality crisis – one that disproportionately impacts people of color. In 2020, the maternal mortality rate for non-Hispanic Black women increased 55.3 deaths per 100,000 live births, 2.9 times the rate for non-Hispanic white women, [according to the CDC](#).

TO OUR COMMUNITY



- The scientific evidence linking the effects of climate change and public health continues to grow – with more evidence illustrating the impact on maternal and child health in dangerous ways.
- Harmful legislation restricting evidence-based healthcare for transgender individuals was introduced in states across the country.

While these issues are complex and might feel overwhelming at times, we are so inspired by all of the incredible women's health providers working towards a more just, healthy, and equitable world every day. When we face these challenges together, we can make a difference.

We hope you can look back at 2022 and be proud of the work you did, led, and contributed to. This Year in Review is full of some incredible stories of that important work. Thank you for being part of it.



Dr. Shawana Moore, DNP, MSN, CRNP, WHNP-BC
NPWH Board Chair



Heather L. Maurer, MA, CAE
NPWH CEO

CONTINUING EDUCATION



CE Activities

2022 was an incredibly exciting year for our **continuing education programs!**

We made huge investments in our offerings, including adopting a new Learning Management System to improve the experience of our members and users.

In addition to approving our own **CE activities**, we approved:

- **2 jointly-provided activities**
- **6 activities for other organizations**, including ASCCP, ASRM, NFPRHA, Prevent Cancer Foundation, and SMFM

CE Activities

3,879

NPWH CE participants

24

CE activities approved

Annual Women's Healthcare Conference

For the first time since 2019, we were able to gather together in person for our **Annual Women's Healthcare Conference!**



ANNUAL WOMEN'S
HEALTHCARE CONFERENCE

Annual Conference

725

attendees, faculty, and
community members

38

CE Sessions

The Annual Conference hosted
2 pre-conference workshops,
6 plenary sessions,
25 breakout sessions,
and 5 workshops

to help women's and gender-related
healthcare providers refresh and
expand their knowledge and skills.

The 2022 conference also offered a special screening of the documentary "Five Awake." Heather Quaile, DNP, WHNP-BC, SANE, and Komkwuan P. Paruchabutr, DNP, FNP-BC, WHNP-BC, CNM, FACNM, Chairs of the NPWH Public Policy Committee, introduced the film, which is about grassroots efforts to protect victims of domestic abuse and save lives.

98% of attendees said the content learned at the Annual Conference will **positively impact their practice.**

99% agreed at the conclusion of the conference that they could build an environment that empowers advanced practice providers to **deliver equitable and inclusive care.**



"The NPWH Conference has always given me the most CEs for the price with top quality education,"
~ NPWH 25th Annual Conference attendee.

CONTINUING EDUCATION



Essentials of Sexual Health Course

We also co-hosted our annual **Essentials of Sexual Health Course** with our colleagues at ISSWSH.

In 2021, we hosted the first-ever virtual sexual health course and had a record 477 attendees. The 2022 course, again offered virtually, set a new record of **681 participants!**

• VIRTUAL



NPWH/ISSWSH Course
Essentials of Sexual Health

June 3, 2022



Save the date for our 2023 course, **Management of Sexual Health – June 2nd!**



"I would say that this conference is perhaps the best that I have attended. The topic-specific content was most beneficial. The presenters and content were superb. I will be returning to review the lectures several times."
~ Sexual Health Course Attendee

Genetics Courses



NPWH *Virtual*
Genetics Courses

For Advanced Practice Providers

In 2022 we again offered two Genetics courses: **Clinical Cancer Bootcamp** and **Current Trends in Preconception and Perinatal Workshop**.

112 providers invested in themselves and their practices with these informative courses!



"This was an amazing conference! I have already recommended it to colleagues! I am recognizing patients who I may have previously missed that could benefit from genetic counseling and expanded screening. Thank you!"
~ Genetics Courses Attendee

WHNP Certification Exam Review Course

As the professional association for WHNPs, NPWH defines the core competencies of the WHNP profession and practice.

In 2022, we updated our **Certification Exam Review Course!** The **23-module continuing education package** provides a comprehensive review course to help new WHNP graduates prepare for the National Certification Corporation WHNP certification examination. The modules can also be purchased individually as women's health updates and for WHNPs to meet continuing education requirements for certification maintenance.

We also launched **a 100-question practice exam** created by top WHNP educators and program directors.



Environmental Health

Nurses Improving the Environmental Health of Women & Children



With our allies at the Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments (ANHE), we continued to lead national nursing organizations in addressing the link between **climate change and the damage to the health of women, pregnant and postpartum people, infants and children.**

In 2022, NIEHWC met six times, discussing topics ranging from the **impact of toxins in cosmetics, environmental exposures during pregnancy** effect on the placenta and subsequent pregnancy outcomes, and the **effect of wildfires on maternal, women's, and children's health.**

As leaders in NIEHWC:

- We provided an update on environmental factors affecting maternal, women's, and children's health to the Philippine Nurses Association.
- The NPWH Board Chair provided presentations to nursing and multidisciplinary conferences in Virginia and Missouri and was an invited speaker for the International Council of Nurses and Sigma Theta Tau parallel event during the 66th UN Commission on the Status of Women.
- The NPWH Chair-Elect represented NPWH at the EPA Roundtable on the lead and copper rule, advocating for safe water.

Reproductive Justice: Environmental Impacts on Maternal and Infant Health

With the March of Dimes Environmental Justice Workgroup and Human Rights Watch, we co-sponsored a webinar, *Reproductive Justice: Environmental Impacts on Maternal and Infant Health*. We supported policies that will address the maternal health crisis, and help improve access and care.

Protecting Moms and Babies Against Climate Change Act

We provided evidence-based information to Rep. Lauren Underwood's (IL - 14) office in support of the "Protecting Moms and Babies Against Climate Change" Act inclusion in the Build Back Better Act. Our work helped make the case for including funding for healthcare provider education around these issues.

Reproductive Rights

Reproductive Rights Policy Summary

This year brought new and dangerous challenges to reproductive rights. As the trusted champion and essential professional resource for WHNP-BCs and all APRNs who provide women's and gender-related healthcare, we made our position known.

NPWH respects the right of individuals to make reproductive health decisions free from coercion within the healthcare setting, their home, or their community, and supports policies that preserve the individual's right to autonomy and self-determination. You can read the Policy Summary [here](#).

Annual Women's Healthcare Conference Reproductive Rights Listening Session

At our Annual Conference, we hosted a community listening session on reproductive rights to hear what our members were experiencing and what support they need as providers of reproductive healthcare. The room was at capacity as members from around the country shared their experiences and helpful resources. We plan to continue supporting members as the policy landscape around reproductive rights continues to shift.

Fran Way Legacy Award

Fran Way, RNC-E, WHNP, MS has devoted her nursing career to the advancement of the women's health nurse practitioner role. She is a founding member of NPWH, served on the Board of Directors, helped establish NPWH's continuing education accreditation program, and has been a strong voice in advocacy for the WHNP profession and the people our clinicians serve. Each year, NPWH bestows this award to a WHNP who shares her extraordinary vision, passionate advocacy, and outstanding commitment to the specialty.



This year's Fran Way Legacy Award was given to **Jacki Witt, JD, MSN, WHNP-BC, FAANP**. Her career as a WHNP-BC has spanned over 30 years. She has been a member of NPWH since 2005 and served on the NPWH Board of Directors from 2012 to 2019. She has over one hundred peer-reviewed publications, presentations, and research posters, and has served as the principal investigator on 26 women's health-related grants totaling over \$20 million. Her work reflects the dedication, perseverance, and excellence in advocacy, education, service, and leadership that not only benefits her community but leaves a lasting impact on the WHNP-BC profession.

Inspiration in Women's Health Awards

The NPWH Inspiration in Women's Health Awards recognize excellence in women's health advanced practice nursing in **education, research or quality improvement projects, clinical practice, and policy.**

Recipients of these prestigious national awards demonstrate a record of dedication, achievements, and contributions to women's healthcare and advanced practice nursing.



Education

Dr. Rewa Thompson, DNP, RN, WHNP-BC

Dr. Thompson is recognized for her ability to adapt to her students' needs in the classroom, leading to improved educational outcomes, and her ability to help students translate knowledge and skills from the classroom to the exam room.



Practice

Dr. Elaine Brown, DNP, MS, WHNP-BC, PNP, CCF

Dr. Brown was nominated for her work increasing compliance among postpartum diabetic patients following up on their glucose tolerance tests. Coordinating with her colleagues, she created a bundled postpartum visit that increased compliance from 20 percent to 90 percent.



Research

Dr. Heidi Collins Fantasia, PhD, RN, WHNP-BC, FNAP

Dr. Fantasia has been published over eighty-five times and is a leading expert on human trafficking, violence against women, and sexual and reproductive health and well-being. Her research, which is informed by her practice of serving marginalized communities in Massachusetts, seeks to help those who need it the most.



Policy

Dr. Aimee Holland, DNP, WHNP-BC, FNP-C, FAANP, FAAN

After observing limited access to specialty gynecology procedures for rural, minority, and underserved populations, Dr. Holland developed seven innovative teaching simulation programs to build clinician skills and expand access. Her contributions to practice guidelines, physician statements, and white papers have been utilized by thousands of clinicians and educational programs, improving care for women all over the world.

Letters of Support & Amicus Briefs

NPWH advocates for women's health, women's healthcare, advanced practice nursing with specific attention to WHNPs, and issues aligned with our mission through collaborative efforts. These efforts include signing on to letters, policy briefs, amicus briefs, and other documents.

During 2022, NPWH signed on to:

7

Amicus
Briefs

15

Letters of
Support

37

Letters of
Request

4

Endorsements

24

Other public
statements

Amicus Briefs: We challenged limitations on access to the full range of reproductive services, including abortion, support for LGBTQ+ healthcare, and other issues important to women's health across the lifespan.

Helen Weems and Jane Doe v. The State of Montana.

NPWH led and filed an amicus brief, *Helen Weems and Jane Doe v. The State of Montana*, in support of the clinicians' argument that the APRN Restriction deprives Montanans of their fundamental right to seek abortion services from a qualified healthcare provider of their choice. It prevents APRNs, who can safely and effectively provide abortions, from doing so. September 23, 2022, the amicus brief was filed with the Montana Supreme Court. This brief was co-signed by the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM). NPWH Board of Directors, Dr. Kwuan Paruchabutr, Dr. Heather Quaille, and NPWH Director of Advocacy and Government Affairs Sue Kendig led the editing and research to illustrate the scope and safety of WHNPs and APRNs as safe abortion providers.

Letters of Support: We joined numerous organizations in providing letters of support for policies related to improving environmental health, access to the full range of reproductive services, removal of barriers to APRN practice and reimbursement, and other issues pertinent to women's health.

Letters of Request: We joined multiple organizations in providing letters of request to include APRNs and WHNPs on relevant committees and workgroups; inclusion of maternal child health as a key priority in climate change policy with representation on EPA and Federal committees, and other issues aligned with NPWH mission and values.

Endorsements: We joined with other nursing organizations to nominate candidates for federal commissions, task forces, and workgroups.

Other Public Statements: We joined with other women's health and reproductive health-related organizations in issuing public statements regarding the importance of COVID vaccines to maternal health, and information related to state actions regarding reproductive health services. We also welcomed appointed federal officials, thanked officials for working on women's health policy, and made recommendations on topics important to our members.

NPWH represents WHNPs in conversations with Federal agencies, including HRSA, the OIG, CMS, and HHS throughout the year. We met with Congressional leaders and provided language to be included in policies and legislation regarding maternal child health, maternal mortality, environmental policies, the importance of WHNP practice in addressing the women's health provider shortage, and other women's health issues.

Women's Healthcare: A Clinical Journal for NPs

Women's Healthcare, the official journal of NPWH, delivers timely, relevant, evidence-based information to nurse practitioners and other advanced practice registered nurses who provide women's and gender-related healthcare.

This year, the journal covered topics including a wide variety of **gynecologic, reproductive and sexual health, obstetrics, menopause, common non-gynecologic conditions, professional issues, and policy and practice issues.**

In 2022, we invested in a **redesign of the Journal website**, increasing the focus on journal content, highlighting CE articles, and providing an easy-to-use clinical topics tab to find recent articles on areas of interest.



86

authors

25

full feature articles published

17

department format articles published

26

videos filmed on clinical topic bundles

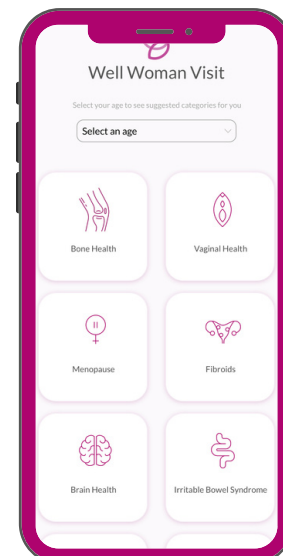
764

individuals completed CE from 2022 articles

The Well Woman Visit App

Clinicians all over the country love our Well Woman Visit App! We compile the most commonly used clinical guidelines from multiple sources (ACOG, USPSTF, CDC, NOF, ACIP, ASCCP) into a single tool and places them at the clinician's fingertips.

This year, we were able to add a section on Bone Health! Thanks to a collaboration with our colleagues at the **Bone Health & Osteoporosis Foundation**, and with support from an educational grant from **Amgen**, providers can now access age-based recommendations and screenings for bone health!



Position Statements

Clinical position statements represent NPWH's official stance on the issues affecting women's and gender-related health care, and the WHNPs and APRNs who provide this care.

We published **three new position statements** and **reaffirmed three position statements** in 2022.

New position statements:

[WHNPs as Partners in Addressing the Maternal Health Crisis](#) (June 2022)

[Access to Safe Abortion Care](#) (August 2022)

[Trauma Informed Care](#) (November 2022)

Updated/reaffirmed position statements:

[Hereditary Breast and Ovarian Cancer Risk Assessment](#) (April 2022)

[Healthcare for Transgender and Gender Diverse Individuals](#) (May 2022)

[Male Sexual and Reproductive Health: The Role of WHNPs](#) (August 2022)

Women's Health Nurses and Midwives Collaboration for Alcohol-Free Pregnancy (WHNMCAP)

In 2022, we continued our work with WHNMCAP to provide nurses, women's health nurse practitioners, and midwives with the tools and resources to counsel clients about their options for reducing or eliminating alcohol use and promoting a safer and healthier pregnancy. This collaboration is funded by the CDC and includes NPWH, ACNM, AWHONN, and the University of Alaska.

This year, we conducted surveys of the members of NPWH, ACNM, and AWHONN to provide an updated assessment of their knowledge, attitudes, practice behaviors, and training needs related to risky alcohol use that will be used to guide activities for 2023-2024.

The Collaborative's website, [*NPs, Midwives, and Nurses: Partnering to Prevent FASDs*](#), houses an online modular curriculum, a series of videos featuring FASD Champions, and other faculty, professional, and client education resources.

27

members participated in writing groups

6

Position statements written or updated/reaffirmed

Fireside Chats

Our Fireside Chat series hosts conversations about cutting-edge topics in women's and gender-related healthcare. We invite industry experts and practitioners to talk about trends, news, and policy.

In 2022, we hosted four Fireside Chats:

Meaningful Connections with Your Patients Throughout Their Reproductive Health Journey



Lynch Syndrome & Women's Health: How to Identify and Manage Hereditary Cancer Risk



Exploring the Awareness and Treatment Paradigm of Iron Deficiency and Iron Deficiency Anemia in Women's Health



Health Equity and Reproductive Justice Implications of Uterine Fibroids



MEMBERSHIP



As our field continues to grow, so does NPWH!

3,364

total NPWH members at the end of 2022

824

new members in 2022

35%

of new members in 2022 were students

1-3 years

of practice is our largest category of members

Student Ambassadors

This year, we launched our NPWH Student Ambassador program! Our Student Ambassadors each worked with a mentor over the course of the year and attended the Annual Conference.



Ashley-Rose Alberts
Frontier Nursing University



Maiki Darnell
University of Colorado



Illiyah P. Edwards
Duke University



Danaya Hall
Frontier Nursing University



Arazu Kian
University of Minnesota



Matleena Leslie
Texas Woman's University



Samantha Noblejas
University of Pennsylvania



Lucy Rickman
UAB School of Nursing



Rebecca Sacks
Arizona State University



“The student ambassador program was an amazing opportunity for networking with my future colleagues and learning about new advancements in women's health. By the end of the conference, I had a renewed sense of passion and pride for our line of work, and I had never felt more sure of my decision to return to school to study to become a women's health nurse practitioner.”
~ 2022 Student Ambassador

DEVELOPMENT & FUNDRAISING



This year, we expanded our base of corporate memberships and sponsors – **companies committed to the betterment of the field of women's and gender-related healthcare.**

These partnerships enable us to provide discounted continuing education opportunities and keep our members on the leading edge of care with resources and updates.

17

Corporate Members

60+

organizations supported and attended our Annual Conference

Corporate Members

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Silver

astellas

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mayne pharma

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THERAPEUTICS

PRMA
RESEARCH + PROGRESS + HOPE

Bronze

Individual Donors

NPWH would like to thank the following individuals for the donations to support the Fran Way Student Scholarship Fund and other endeavors at NPWH.

Linda Anzalone
Kate Boelky
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Laura Burr
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Victoria Curtin
Kahlil Demonbreun
Katie Deshotel
Susan Federico
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Jennifer Lenchik
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Aissata Mariko

Susana Marr
Heather Maurer
Delia Montopoli
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Ginny Moore
Shawana Moore
Komkwuan Paruchabutr
Yvonne Pierce
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Atlanta, GA

Our Mission

NPWH is the professional community for Women's Health Nurse Practitioners and other advanced practice registered nurses who provide women's and gender-related healthcare. We set a standard of excellence by generating, translating, and promoting the latest research and evidence-based clinical guidance, providing high-quality continuing education, and advocating for patients, providers, and the WHNP profession.

Our mission includes protecting and promoting a woman and all individuals' rights to make their own choices regarding their health and well-being within the context of their lived experience and their personal, religious, cultural, and family beliefs.

Our Vision

NPWH is the trusted champion and essential professional resource for Women's Health Nurse Practitioners and all advanced practice registered nurses who provide women's and gender-related healthcare. We value collaboration and build strong alliances with like-minded organizations and providers. The providers we serve are known experts in the primary, complex, and specialty care of their patients, and are leaders and advocates in the advancement of healthcare toward a more just, healthy, and equitable world.

Our Commitment to Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity

NPWH is committed to increasing inclusivity, diversity, and equity in our organization, the WHNP profession, the women's and gender-related healthcare field, and beyond.

Our Membership is composed of professionals representing diversity by, but not limited to, specialty area, educational background, race and ethnicity, age, geographic location, socioeconomic status, ability, gender and identity, sexual orientation, and personal beliefs. We actively seek to engage and amplify the voices that have historically been silenced, and ensure they are represented in our staff, leadership, and programming.

Our profession recognizes the need to grow in diversity and dismantle racism, discrimination, and other barriers to education and career paths for professionals from underrepresented and marginalized groups. We work together with others to expand opportunities and promote diversity within the WHNP professional community.

Our field understands the health disparities and injustice created by implicit bias, social determinants, and systemic racism. Through self and organizational assessment, education, professional development, and advocacy, we work to counter these forces and work for equity in all aspects of women's and gender-related healthcare.

