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Contact: Julia Knox, jknox@npwh.org tel: 202-543-9693 ext. 85

**NPWH Recognizes Excellence in Women’s Health & Advanced Practice Nursing**

**As Part of National NP Week, Celebrating Women’s Health Nurse Practitioners**

**Washington, DC** – Nov 13, 2022 — Last month, the National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women’s Health (NPWH) honored five Women’s Health Nurse Practitioners (WHNPs) for their leadership and demonstrated excellence in women’s and gender-related healthcare. This year’s awardees were recognized for their powerful contributions to the education of future clinicians, policies that impact patient care around the country, research of complex issues that harm marginalized communities, and patient visit procedures that set a new standard of patient compliance and care. This year’s recipients are, **Jacki Witt, JD, MSN, WHNP-BC, FAANP (Fran Way Legacy Award); Dr. Rewa Thompson, DNP, RN, WHNP-BC; Dr. Aimee Holland, DNP, WHNP-BC, FNP-C, FAANP, FAAN; Dr. Heidi Collins Fantasia, PhD, RN, WHNP-BC, FNAP; and Dr. Elaine Brown, DNP, MS, WHNP-BC, PNP, CCF.**

“The recipients of these inspiration awards are honored because of their demonstrated excellence, leadership, and their significant contributions to innovation and the transformation of women’s and gender-related healthcare,” said Dr. Shawana Moore, DNP, MSN, CRNP, WHNP-BC, Chair of the NPWH Board of Directors. “It is an honor to recognize and celebrate their high level of commitment and dedication to improving the health outcomes of women.”

“The NPWH Inspiration Award is the most important honor bestowed to women’s health nurse practitioners by our association,” said Heather L. Maurer, CEO of NPWH. “WHNPs are exemplary in offering high quality, evidence-based women’s and gender-related healthcare. We are very proud of the 2022 recipients.”

These annual awards include four **Inspiration in Women’s Health Awards**, recognizing innovation in education, research/quality improvement, clinical practice, and policy, and the **Fran Way Legacy Award**, recognizing a career-long commitment to women’s health through practice, education, and advocacy. The winners were announced at the NPWH 25th Annual Women’s Premier Healthcare Conference on September 30th. This national gathering – NPWH’s first in-person event since the COVID-19 pandemic began – brought together hundreds of practitioners who care for women across their lifespan, in a variety of settings around the country.
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 providers 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 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 totalling 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 profession.

NPWH Inspiration in Women’s Health Awards

The NPWH Inspiration in Women’s Health Awards recognize excellence in women’s health advanced practice nursing. They are awarded each year in four categories: education, clinical practice, policy, and research or quality improvement projects.

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

Dr. Thompson is a clinical associate professor of undergraduate nursing at Stony Brook University. She is recognized for her ability to adapt to her students’ needs in the classroom, leading to improved educational outcomes. In her nominations for this award, her colleagues highlight her success with team-based learning, case-based learning, and her ability to help students translate knowledge and skills from the classroom to the exam room.

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

Dr. Holland is a women’s health expert and nurse practitioner educator based in Alabama, but her work extends far beyond the state. After observing limited access to specialty gynecology procedures for rural, minority, and underserved populations, she developed seven innovative teaching simulation programs to build clinician skill 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.
Practice: Dr. Elaine Brown, DNP, MS, WHNP-BC, PNP, CCF

Elaine Brown’s deep knowledge of the practice makes her an invaluable asset to the team at the Jamaica Hospital Health System, especially when it comes to process and practice improvement. Dr. Brown was nominated for the Inspiration in Women’s Health Practice award for her work increasing compliance among postpartum diabetic patients following up on their glucose tolerance tests. Coordinating with her colleague, Dr. Brown created a bundled postpartum visit that increased compliance from 20 percent to 90 percent.

Research/Quality Improvement: Dr. Heidi Collins Fantasia, PhD, RN, WHNP-BC, FNAP

Dr. Fantasia’s body of work almost speaks for itself. She 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.

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The National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women’s Health is the nation's leading voice for courageous conversations about women's health. In our clinics and in our culture, women's health nurse practitioners champion state-of-the-science health care that holistically addresses the unique needs of women across their lifetimes. We elevate the health issues others overlook and compel attention on women's health from providers, policymakers, and researchers. Other advanced practice registered nurses rely on us for authoritative resources and education that improve women's health and wellness through evidence-based practice. NPWH pioneers policies to address gender disparities and forges strategic partnerships that advance health equity and holistic models of care.

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.

http://www.npwh.org