About AAHFN

The AAHFN is a specialty organization dedicated to advancing nursing education, clinical practice and research to improve heart failure patient outcomes. Our exclusive interest and passion is heart failure. Our goal is to set the standards for heart failure nursing care.

We unite the full spectrum of nurses and other health professionals interested in heart failure. We serve as the interface for sharing ideas, translating research findings into practice and setting priorities for the future. We welcome and value all professionals involved in heart failure care. We focus on patients across all environments of care from the hospital, to the clinic, to home.

**Mission Statement:**
Leading nurses in heart failure care.

**Vision Statement:**
To be the foremost nursing association across the heart failure continuum.
From the President

Dear Colleagues,

As the only association for heart failure nurses, the AAHFN Board of Directors strive every year to identify and meet the unique set of challenges and needs members face. In 2013, there were specific goals planned focused in the areas of membership, education and advocacy, and we have seen great advances in each. The association also enjoyed historic growth in 2013 with our membership reaching a new high of 2,200 members, our first foray into an international conference and two new educational meetings. I am pleased to present you with AAHFN's first ever annual report, which contains an overview of these achievements as well as an update on continuing programs, and new initiatives launched in 2013.

Please take a moment to review our progress this past year toward leading nurses in heart failure care. We encourage you to look for opportunities you might consider to engage more actively in AAHFN’s activities and to provide AAHFN with feedback on how we are doing to meet your ideas.

Thank you to all of the volunteers, industry supporters, staff and anyone else who made a difference in 2013 to make all of these accomplishments come to life. On behalf of the Board of Directors, we look forward to serving you again during our 10th anniversary in 2014 and beyond.

Peggy Kirkwood, RN, MSN, ACNPC, AACC, CHFN
President 2013 – 2014
Education

9th Annual Meeting: Montreal – A Heart Beat Away
AAHFN expanded the heart failure nursing community by holding our first international conference. Over 550 attendees gathered from around the world to learn the latest advances in heart failure care. Highlights from the meeting included keynote speakers Dr. Anique Ducharme, Dr. Alan Maisel and Dr. George Ruiz; moderated poster presentations; and great debates focused on core measures and VAD therapy recommendations.

Advanced Heart Failure Symposium
Recognizing a need for more education related to the management of advanced heart failure patients, AAHFN held the first Advanced Heart Failure Symposium in Tampa, Fla. This unique two-day program led by Dr. Leslie Miller and Cindy Bither was attended by 200 attendees and concentrated on the management of advanced heart failure patients from screening and selection to post-op care.

Heart Failure Readmission Symposium
Hospital readmissions continued to be an important topic across all of healthcare in 2013. AAHFN elected to be at the forefront of helping professionals with practical and applicable strategies to reduce hospital readmissions by holding a one-day symposium in Philadelphia, Penn. Over 170 healthcare professionals attended to hear keynote speaker, Dr. Clyde Yancy, and Chair, Angie Schadler, discuss the impact of healthcare reform of heart failure care and novel strategies to reduce avoidable readmissions.

Basic Heart Failure Pocket Guide – First Edition
AAHFN published the first edition of the Basic Heart Failure Pocket Guide in 2013. Printed in an easy-to-use format, the pocket guide was developed to make basic heart failure education readily available to direct care nurses in various practice settings who care for patients with heart failure. Over 1,300 copies were sold in the first year.

Educational Activities
AAHFN is continuously looking to provide members with various ways to access learning opportunities and continuing education hours through live webinars, video cast and recorded sessions. In 2013, the Education Committee worked diligently to produce eight live webinars, which averaged over 50 participants per call, and 25 new online activities on the AAHFN website. There are now over 30 CEU activities posted for members to access for free through the Education Center. Recorded sessions from the Annual Meeting and Heart Failure Readmission Symposium were also posted to allow members who weren’t able to attend the opportunity to access the information.

The Connection – The AAHFN Newsletter
The quarterly newsletter continued to provide members with timely information covering all the key clinical areas of heart failure and challenges specific to nurses. Important topics covered in The Connection in 2013 included treatment of co-morbid conditions, the basics of right ventricular dysfunction, recapping the annual conference and patient education. This year marked the first time readers of The Connection patient education issue were able to earn continuing education hours after reading and completing the necessary steps on the AAHFN website.
Membership Highlights

Membership
AAHFN reached the 2,000-member milestone in 2013 and finished the year with more than 2,200 members total. To celebrate this achievement, AAHFN awarded a lifetime membership to the two-thousandth member, Tracey Hollan from Baptist Health in Lexington, KY. Her colleague and referring member, Megan Switzer, also received three years of free membership. See the graphs on page [X] for more information about the breakdown of the membership. AAHFN has also expanded our presence in social media. We have more than 630 likes on Facebook, 1,000 LinkedIn group members and 958 followers on Twitter... and counting! We’re constantly looking for new ways to communicate to members. Please connect with us in one of these outlets if you haven’t already.

Heart Failure Awareness Week Campaign – Care for the Caregiver
In 2013, AAHFN addressed and raised awareness of the important yet under-emphasized role of the caregiver. The year-long campaign, launched during Heart Failure Awareness Week, offered numerous resources to caregivers including self-care tips, videos and a downloadable thank you card. We believe we made a difference in acknowledging the important role caregivers play in patient care.

Advocacy
Another accomplishment this past year was establishing a new Advocacy Committee. The committee was first established to respond to several requests for endorsement and quickly immersed themselves in addressing updates to the AACF/AHA guidelines, women with heart failure and were integral to developing the AAHFN Position Statement on the Certified Heart Failure Nurse (CHFN) Certification.

Patient Education
AAHFN has always recognized patients as the heart of what we do and this past year developed a new Patient Education Committee to further advance these efforts. The committee was responsible for putting together a patient Holiday Guide which provides healthier options for traditional holiday meals, and maintaining the content on AAHFN’s Patient Education website.
Awards & Honors

Congratulations to all of the award recipients from 2013:

Distinguished Member Award
Robin J. Trupp, PhD, ACNP-BC, CHFN, FAHA

Certification Travel Award
Michele Rybicki

Robin J. Trupp Scholarship
Jennifer Beckman

30-Day Readmission Award
Small Size Medical Facility
The Chester County Hospital
West Chester, Penn.

30-Day Readmission Award
Medium Size Medical Facility
Northwestern Community Hospital
Elgin, Ill.

30-Day Readmission Award
Large Size Medical Facility
CMC-Main (Charlotte) and CMC-NE (Concord) of the Carolinas Healthcare System
Charlotte, N.C.
Certification Highlights

Certified Heart Failure Nurses (CHFN)
2013 was a banner year for the CHFN distinction. For the first time since its inception, the certification exam was accessible outside of the annual meeting, resulting in the highest numbers of examinees in the certification’s brief history. Over 200 national testing sites were made available last year and more than 280 professionals took the exam this way. An additional 67 people elected to take the exam during the annual meeting in Montreal. There are currently 694 Certified Heart Failure Nurses (CHFN)—a number that continues to grow. 2014 will be the first year CHFNs are eligible to renew their certification, and the exam will be updated to reflect recent changes in the heart failure guidelines.

Certification Board
Nancy Albert, PhD, RN, CCNS, CHFN, CCRN, NE-BC, Chair
Dana T. Harris, RN, CHFN
Clarissa Jones, RN, MS, CHFN, ACNP-BC
Linda Martensen, BA, MA
Jason Slyer, DNP, RN, FNP-BC, CHFN
Robin Trupp, PhD, RN, ACNP, CHFN
Membership & Financial Information

Total Members

New Members

Total Income/Expenses

CHFN Exam Participants

INCOME EXPENSES
Volunteers

Thank you to the countless, passionate volunteers who have made all of 2013’s accomplishments possible.

Advanced Heart Failure Symposium Planning Committee
Cynthia J. Bither, RN, MSN, ANP-C, ACNP-C, CHFN, Chair
Leslie Miller, MD
Ashley Moore-Gibbs, MSN, ANP/GNP-BC, CHFN

Advocacy Committee
Sita Price, DNP, ARNP, FNP-BC, CHFN, Chair
Lynn Broesch, RN, ASN, CHFN
Eva P. Johnson, RN, MSN, ANP-BC
Karen Marzlin, DNP, RN, CCNS, CCRN-CMC
Christine Townsen, MSN, RN, CEN ENT-P
Cynthia Webner, DNP, RN, CCNS, CCRN-CMC, CHFN

Annual Conference Committee
Ashley Moore-Gibbs, MSN, ANP/GNP-BC, CHFN, Chair
Susan E. Ammon, RN, MS, FNP, CHFN
Carole Ballew, MSN, ACNP, CCTC, CHFN
Cathy Eastwood, RN, MN
Sharon C. Fabbri, BSN, NP, CHFN
Maureen Hummel, MSN, CRNP
Lisa Jesaitis, RN, CCNS, ACNP, CHFN
Shawn Merhaut, RN, MSN, CNP
Carolyn Moffa, MSN, FNP-C, CHFN
Teree Rice, RN, BA, CHFN
Linda L. Wick, MS, CNP, CHFN

Area Representative Committee
Jody L. Bock, RN, MSN, CNS-BC
Mary Chalton
Shelee Padhiar, MSN, RN, CCRN, CCDS
Angie Schadler, DNP, ARNP
Janice Starling, RN, BSN, CHFN
Marilyn Wade, RN, MBA, CCRN, CHFN

Certification Review Course Task Force
Michele Gilbert, MSN, NP-C, CCRN
Tonya Elliott, MSN, RN, CCTC, CHFN
Mae M. Centeno, DNP, RN, CCRN, CCNS, CAN
Susan Halter, MSN, ARNP, RN

Education Committee
Billie Papasifakis, BSN, MSN-BC, Chair
Audrey Berry, RN, MSN, MHA
JoAnne Chichetti, DNP, RN, APN, C, CCTC
Sherri Delgado, MSN, CRNP, CCRN
Susan M. Halter, MSN, CRNP, RN
Peggy Kalowes, RN, PhD, CNS, FAHA
Anita Sherer, MSN, RN, PCCN
M. Jane Swartz, APRN, MSN
Cindy Wetzel, RN, MSN, ACNS-BC, CCNS, CCRN
Connie White-Williams, PhD, FNP, FAAN

Heart Failure Week Task Force
Robin Trupp, PhD, RN, ACNP, CHFN
Shawn Merhaut, RN, MSN, CNP
Ann Laramie, APRN

Membership Committee
Kelly Stamp PhD, ANP-C, Chair
Justin M. Baines
Dorothy Bell, RN, MSN, PHN
Maghee Disch
Donna M. Fiorini, MSN, CRNP, CHFN
Jamie Rourick
Kathleen Ueland, RN, BSN, CCRN, CHFN
Tara Whitmire

Publications Committee
Lisa Smith, MS, CCNS, ARNP, Chair
Julie Gee, MSN, CNP, CHFN
Pamela Haron
Mickey J. Midei, RN
Mary Lou Osevala, MSN, CCNS, ANP-BC
Debbie Pound, MS, RN, CNS-BC
Carolyn Reilly, RN, PhD, CHFN
Linda Rohyans, RN, CNS, MSN
Marjorie Webb
Rhonda Weller Moore, PhD, ANP-BC, CHFN

Research Committee
Jesus “Jessie” Casida, PhD, RN, CCRN-CSC, APN-C, Chair
Beth Fahlberg, RN, MN, PhD, BS
Pamela J. Hodges, RN, PhD
Jill Howie-Esquivel, PhD, NP
Peggy Kalowes, RN, PhD, CNS, FAHA
Juliet S. Mock, RN, MS, ACNS-BC
Bunny Pozehl, PhD, APRN-NP
Kristen Sethares, RN, PhD
Brian Widmar, RN, PhD, ACNP-BC
Karen Yehle, RN, MS, PhD

Heart Failure Readmission Symposium Task Force
Angela Schadler, DNP, ARNP, Chair
Lisa Rathman, MSN, CRNP, CHFN
Juanita P. Reigle, RN, MSN, ACNP, CHFN
Connie White-Williams, PhD, FNP, FAAN
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Fresenius Medical
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Gilead Sciences
HeartWare, Inc.
Janssen Pharmaceuticals
Medtronic
Milner-Fenwick
Nephroceuticals
Novartis
OnTrack to Health
Otsuka
ResMed
Roche Diagnostics
St. Jude Medical
Thoratec
United Therapeutics
Walgreens