You Care FOR PATIENTS...
.... We Care FOR YOU

AAHFN
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF HEART FAILURE NURSES
AAHFN.org

2015 Annual Report
About AAHFN

The AAHFN is a specialty organization dedicated to advancing nursing education, clinical practice and research to improve heart failure patient outcomes. Heart failure is our exclusive interest and passion. 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.

Definition of Heart Failure Nursing

Heart failure nursing is the provision of holistic care to the specific individual with Stage A through D heart failure due to any etiology. Heart failure nursing care can take place in any inpatient or outpatient setting and address the acute or chronic needs of patients and their support systems. Prevention can be viewed in relation to individuals, high risk families, the community and populations.

Mission Statement

The American Association of Heart Failure Nurses unites professionals, patients and caregivers in the support and advancement of heart failure practice, education and research, thus promoting optimal patient outcomes.

Vision Statement

To be the foremost nursing association across the heart failure continuum.
From the President

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the AAHFN Board of Directors, we take great pleasure in presenting to you the 2015 AAHFN Annual Report. The purpose of this report is to communicate an overview of the accomplishments and initiatives over the last year.

2015 has been an exciting year in developing relationships and collaborating with other organizations on a variety of levels to raise awareness of Heart Failure. One such example is the “Rise above Heart Failure,” campaign by AHA to increase public awareness. The AAHFN serves as a founding Alliance member in this campaign and is actively engaged. Another example of collaboration was the work of the Patient Education Committee, where they utilized an interdisciplinary team approach to develop the Don’t Pass the Salt Cook Book (http://bit.ly/1X0Culs). The committee worked collaboratively with patients, caregivers, dietician, nursing students and staff. The final product was launched during Heart Failure Awareness week and has been well received by both patients and care providers.

This past year also brought many advances in educational offerings for both nurses and patients such as, the certification review course was presented and is now available to organizations and educational tip sheets were translated and made available in Spanish to reach our growing diverse population. Additional areas of AAHFN growth include, but are not limited to, implementation of the CHFN-K, the editorial committee, growing membership and area representative involvement, identifying research opportunities and advocating for many key nursing issues. AAHFN is the key resource for Heart Failure Nurses across the continuum of care. Our focus is to meet the growing needs of our members, and to continue leading nurses in heart failure care.

Please take a moment to review the activities and accomplishments of this past year. We encourage you to consider opportunities to engage and volunteer in AAHFN activities. We further welcome feedback on how we are doing and new ideas on how to better meet your needs.

AAHFN’s continued success is a result of the tremendous support of many individuals. To our members, volunteers, industry supporters and staff, we would like to thank you for your continued support and in making 2015, an outstanding year. We now look to the future as together we continue to build on our success, in becoming the foremost nursing association across the heart failure continuum.

Marilyn A. Prasun, PhD, CCNS, CNL, CHFN, FAHA
President 2015-2016
Education

11th Annual Meeting: New Orleans – Be Instrumental in Heart Failure
The 11th Annual meeting was a tremendous success and was one of the largest attended meetings in the AAHFN’s history with over 800 participants. The informative program provided a wide array of sessions to meet the varying needs of the membership. The meeting was 3 full days of excellent information regarding evidence-based treatment, pharmacology, device therapy, advanced monitoring techniques and management strategies of heart failure patients across the continuum. In addition, there were selected sessions on professional development, as well as a variety of oral and poster presentations regarding clinical innovations and research studies. Industry sponsored dinner symposia and product theaters were available.

Advanced Heart Failure Symposium
AAHFN held the Third Annual Advanced Heart Failure Symposium in Tampa, Florida. This unique 2-day program was held in collaboration with ICACC, the International Consortium of Circulatory Assist Clinicians. The meeting featured two educational tracks for the first time, one geared toward the MCS clinicians and one specific to Advanced Heart Failure. The meeting was attended by 200 people and concentrated on future perspectives in the management of advanced heart failure.

Heart Failure Readmission Symposium
Hospital readmissions continued to be an important topic across all of healthcare in 2015. Two 1-day symposiums were held. In the spring, AAHFN traveled to Chicago, IL to present the first symposium. The second 1-day symposia was held in San Diego, CA in the fall. These symposia help professionals with practical and applicable strategies. Over 150 healthcare professionals attended to hear Keynote, Dr. Tom Heywood discuss the impact of healthcare reform on heart failure care and novel strategies to reduce avoidable readmissions.

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 2015, the Education Committee worked diligently to produce 7 live webinars, which averaged over 50 participants per call, 4 promotional webinars, 8 live meetings, 1 CE for independent study, and 3 CE newsletters. There are over 25 CEU activities posted for members to access for free through the Education Center.
Core Curriculum 2nd Edition

When the American Association of Heart Failure Nurses was a new organization, our members made it clear that they wanted a certification exam that would allow them to quantify their knowledge of the care they provide to patients diagnosed with heart failure. It took some time to create that test, but now over 1000 nurses have earned the title of Certified Heart Failure Nurse. Published in 2012, the original Core Curriculum book began as a project of the AAHFN Publications Committee to help nurses prepare for the CHFN exam. The first edition was a major success. Many of the nurses who have become CHFNs studied for the test using the first edition. In 2013, the newest American College of Cardiology Foundation/American Heart Association heart failure guidelines were published, and it was clear that AAHFN needed to update the Core Curriculum to meet the new standards. The 2nd edition not only includes added information using the new guidelines, but also updated the technology (such as implantable hemodynamic monitoring) and added new medications. New review questions have been added and the resource bibliographies have been updated at the end of each chapter. The reader can test their knowledge with the review questions and seek more in-depth information using the resource lists. AAHFN believes that nurses will find this book helpful to study for the CHFN exam, but also to serve as a reference to enhance the daily care that we give to our patients with heart failure.

The Connection – The AAHFN Newsletter

The quarterly newsletter continued to provide members with timely information covering crucial clinical areas of heart failure (HF) and challenges specific to nurses in multiple HF practice areas. Important topics covered through The Connection in 2015 included palliative care for HF nurses, cardiac rehabilitation for HF, and pharmacology and the older adult with HF, and a recap of the 11th annual meeting. Three of the four issues in 2015 provided opportunities to earn continuing education (CE) credits after reading and completing the necessary steps on the AAHFN website. In addition to providing CE, The Connection includes four standing columns written by the Editorial Board.
Membership Highlights

Membership
As our organization continues to grow, now over 2,544 members, AAHFN continues to provide a wealth of benefits to our members. See the graph on page 8 for more information on the breakdown of membership. AAHFN continues to expand our presence in social media. We’re constantly looking for new ways to communicate to members. Please connect with us if you haven’t yet already.

Heart Failure Awareness Week Campaign – Destination Healthy Heart: A Road Map to Managing Heart Failure
AAHFN is working to increase awareness and encourage more communication between patients, caregivers, and their healthcare providers. The AAHFN patient education website provides patients and their families with information and easy to follow tip sheets to help live a more heart healthy lifestyle. Heart failure is a complex syndrome, AAHFN has developed tip sheets for both patients and nurses to help communicate to patients how to live heart healthy and care for themselves. The year-long campaign, Destination Healthy Heart: A Road Map to Managing Heart Failure consisted of a roll out of a series of topics focusing on different conditions related to heart failure such as: Cardiorenal Syndrome, Atrial Fibrillation, Viral Illness, Cardiotoxins, Takotsubo (Broken Heart Syndrome), and more.

Advocacy
The Advocacy Committee has been busy researching and bringing pertinent topics to the forefront for AAHFN members to review. The committee encourages members to contact their senators on active bills before the US House of Representatives and the US Senate that directly impact nurses and their patients. Our members can see the position statements and bills endorsed by AAHFN on the website .

Awards & Honors

Congratulations to all of the deserved award recipients from 2015:

Distinguished Member Award
Ashley Moore-Gibbs, RN, MSN, CHFN, MGPCNP-B

Robin J. Trupp Scholarship
Laurie Bicknese, CHFN, RN
Certification Highlights

Certified Heart Failure Nurses (CHFN)
There are currently a total of 1085 certified heart failure nurses (CHFNs) and 2 CHFN-Knowledge/non-clinical based certified nurses. In total, 1633 have taken the exam since the first one was administered June 2011, with an average of a 74% pass rate. The computer based test (CBT) continues to be the choice for many seeking the CHFN certification. Over time, application to take the test has been steady, with over 200 each year and as high as 382 in 2014. Most nurses who are tested are first-time (over 75%) or repeaters; very few nurses chose to take the exam as a form of re-credentialing; they recertified through Option 1 – professional development. In 2014 and 2015, 789 people were tested using the revised exam. Overall, revised exam passing rates were lower than original exam passing rates (from 79% and higher prior to 2014, to 68% or lower in 2014 and 2015). Of note, repeater exam takers had similar passing rates throughout time; rates were not affected by the exam offered (original or revised). In 2015, AAHFN-Certification Board discussions included developing an examination for clinically active advanced practice nurses (NP or CNS) although due diligence has not been completed. In addition, AAHFN leadership supported development of a research study that could enhance the value of heart failure certification.

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

Total Members

New Members Per Year

Total Income/Expenses

CHFN Exam Participants

INCOME  EXPENSES
Volunteers

Thank you to the countless, passionate volunteers who have made all of 2015’s accomplishments possible.

**Advanced Heart Failure Symposium Planning Committee**
Cynthia J. Bither, RN, MSN, ANP-C, ACNP-C, CHFN, Chair
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Chris M. Bell, ACNP
Robin Miller, CHFN

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Karen Marzlin, DNP, RN, CCNS, CCRN-CMC
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Lisa Everett, BS
Elizabeth K. Bolton-Harris, MSN, APRN, BC, CHFN
Candace Becker, APRN-CNS, BC

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Danielle Foti-DiGennaro, CHFN
Lisa Robinson, MSN, RN, ACNP-BC, CC
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Shawna Boland, CHFN
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Deborah Stabell Tran, , MS, BSN, RN, SCRN
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Lisa Rathman, MSN, CRNP, CHFN
Shawn Merhaut, RN, MSN, CNP, CHFN
Cheri Basso, RN, BSN, CHFN

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Denise D. Buxbaum, RN
Tess Artig-Brown
Natasha Welch, FNP-BC, CHFN
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Sarah Elizabeth McGinty Sanders, CHFN
Abbey Driendl
Megan Sutton

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Alisa Ichelle Dieterich, CHFN
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Kelley Pattison, PhD, RN
Pat Draper, MSN, CCRN, CHFN, ACNP, BC
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The American Association of Heart Failure Nurses (AAHFN) greatly acknowledges the following companies who have helped make all of these achievements possible by providing support.

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