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President's Message

Dear Fellow Nurse Anesthetists,

It is an honor and a privilege for me to assume the presidency of NBCR NA. As I begin my service as president I would like to offer my sincerest thanks to several individuals who have made critical contributions to the mission of the NBCR NA. First of all I would like to offer my thanks to Dr. Charles Vacchiano, the immediate past president of the NBCR NA. Chuck has contributed an enormous amount of time and effort to the betterment of our profession and has set a very high standard for those of us who follow him in this office. Fortunately, NBCR NA will continue to benefit from his leadership since he will continue as a member of the Board of Directors. I must also acknowledge the outstanding contributions made by Dr. Michael Rieker, who has completed his term and is leaving the board. Dr. Rieker's dedication and passion for the mission of the NBCR NA and the profession of nurse anesthesia is unparalleled. A second director retiring from the board is Dr. Michael O'Connor. Dr. O'Connor's perspective on the issues confronting the NBCR NA contributed greatly to the deliberations of the board and Mike has played a particularly important role in the development of the Non-Surgical Pain Management Program. On behalf of the board I would like to thank our two retiring directors for their years of volunteer service and offer my heartfelt appreciation.

As the 2014 AANA Annual Congress draws near I'd like to bring you up to date on the latest developments regarding the Continued Professional Certification (CPC) Program. I'm sure many of you received an email sent by AANA President Dennis Bless about the status of negotiations between AANA and NBCR NA. It may be helpful for you to know that the two organizations actually have been working together and making progress on several fronts. As President Bless indicated, AANA has advocated for changes in the CPC Program effectively on behalf of its members, and we have responded by making many of these changes.

[Click here to read the rest of the President's Message.](#)

Sincerely,

Ed Waters, DNP, CRNA
President, NBCR NA

New Resources

- [CPC Home](#)
- [CPC Toolkit](#)

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NBCR NA Board Changes

The NBCR NA is excited to announce changes to its Board of Directors for 2014 - 2015. The new president is Ed Waters, DNP, CRNA. Dr. Waters practices clinical anesthesia at the Kaiser Permanente Woodland Hills Medical Center and is a faculty member of the Kaiser Permanente School of Anesthesia in Pasadena. Steve Wooden, DNP, CRNA, will now serve as Vice President. Dr. Wooden is managing partner of Boone County Anesthesia

Services, LLC, a private practice anesthesia group in East Central Nebraska. The new Secretary/Treasurer is Mary Golinski, PhD, CRNA. Dr. Golinski is an Assistant Professor, tenure track, in the School of Nursing at Oakland University and the Assistant Program Director for the Oakland University-Beaumont Graduate Program of Nurse Anesthesia, in Rochester, Michigan. She also actively practices anesthesia at two level 1 trauma hospitals in the Detroit Metropolitan area: Detroit Receiving Hospital and Beaumont Hospital Royal Oak.

Leaving the Board are Dr. Michael Rieker and Dr. Michael O'Connor. Dr. Rieker is replaced by **Mary Wojnakowski**, PhD, CRNA. Dr. Wojnakowski is an actively practicing anesthesia provider as well as an educator and researcher. She provides anesthesia services at two facilities in Phoenix, Arizona: Maricopa Medical Center, a level 1 trauma hospital and regional burn center and Mayo Clinic Hospital. Mary is also on the faculty at Midwestern University Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine in Glendale, Arizona.

Mike Anderson, DNP, CRNA, ARNP, is joining the Board as the 2014-2015 Emerging Leader Fellow. Mike Anderson is a staff CRNA as well as a clinical and didactic instructor in the anesthesia nursing program at the University of Iowa, College of Nursing. Dr. O'Connor is being replaced by **Mark Zahniser**, MD, staff anesthesiologist and intensivist at the Cleveland Clinic. Dr. Zahniser is also Chairman for 2 practice groups in different cities and Assistant Professor at Case Western Reserve University.

CPC Update

The NBCRNA has further refined the CPC Program this year, with input from the AANA, CE vendors, relevant experts and practicing nurse anesthetists. Among the most significant changes are that the continuing education requirements formerly known as "Assessed CEs" and "Professional Activity Units" will now simply be referred to as "Class A Credits" and "Class B Credits," respectively. Class A Credits will refer to pre-approved continuing education activities with an assessment that demonstrates learning, and Class B Credits will include a broad range of activities that result in the enhancement of a nurse anesthetist's foundational knowledge of nurse anesthesia practice, support patient safety, or foster the nurse anesthetist's understanding of the broader healthcare environment. No assessment is required for the Class B Credits.

A second change we've made is to drop the term "diagnostic examination" when referring to the initial administration of the examination required under the CPC Program. We had settled on using diagnostic examination because we wanted nurse anesthetists to understand that the initial administration of the CPC examination will not be pass/fail, and will be helpful in identifying areas in which a given nurse anesthetist might benefit from improving his or her knowledge. While both of these statements remain true, going forward we will simply use the term "CPC Examination" to identify the test required as part of the second 4 year cycle, which starts in 2020 or 2021, depending on when you are scheduled to certify.

While the CPC Program does not go into effect until January 1, 2016, we understand that the busy lives of nurse anesthetists can make keeping up challenging, so we've placed helpful information about the elements of the program, along with answers to commonly asked questions, on our website. We've posted a simple "CPC Calculator" on the site to help individual nurse anesthetists see exactly how the program will work depending on when they are due to certify, and a new video that provides a simple overview of the program.

You can find the latest information about the CPC Program on the CPC section of our website: www.NBCRNA.com/CPC

NBCRNA On The Road

This fall NBCRNA representatives will present across the country to continue the process of sharing information about the CPC Program debuting in 2016. Among the states scheduled for visits are Michigan, California, Colorado, Tennessee, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, South Carolina, Virginia, South Dakota, and Delaware.

The complete schedule is available on the NBCRNA website ([link](#)). If you are interested in having a speaker at an upcoming event, please complete and submit this speaker request form:

- [NBCRNA State Speaker Request Form \(PDF\)](#)

Moving Ahead on NSPM

In 2012, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) abruptly stopped reimbursement for CRNAs who submitted request for payment using CPT codes related to non-surgical pain management. The three organizations (COA, NBCRNA, and AANA) that are directly related to distinct facets of the professional certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA) collaborated to successfully appeal this decision. As a result, the CMS reinstated reimbursement to CRNAs who provide pain management services. Linked to the decision made by CMS, these three organizations made a commitment to developing a certification process associated with pain management.

Over the past 18 months, the NBCRNA has involved expert CRNAs who specialize in nonsurgical pain management (NSPM), as well as current and past members of the NBCRNA Board of Directors, and staff, in deliberative and comprehensive processes toward developing a NSPM subspecialty certification for CRNAs. The NSPM certification and continued certification criteria have been finalized and work is progressing in a timely fashion for the creation of the NSPM subspecialty certification. The NSPM certification program is expected to accept its applications in 2015.

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