

## Mission Accomplished: CV Nursing Scope and Standards Finalized

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This month we will see the long awaited publication of the American Nurses Association (ANA) official document, "The Scope and Standards of Practice for Cardiovascular Nursing." This document is the result of a collaborative effort by a task force with representatives from 17 nursing organizations. The members of these organizations represent the full spectrum of cardiovascular nursing care, from pediatrics to geriatrics.

The Scope and Standards Task Force worked diligently for the last two years to compose and modify this document. Under the guidance of the ANA, it has undergone peer review, public comment and organizational review by each of the representative organizations, and it will now be published in March 2008.

The last revision of a scope and standards document for cardiovascular (CV) nursing was done in 1981. Considering the massive changes that have happened in CV medicine since then, a revision was long overdue. The goal with this collaborative effort was to update the scope of cardiovascular nursing practice in order to reflect the wide breadth of expertise in cardiovascular nursing and to provide the minimal standards for the foundation of practice.

The end result is a document that defines cardiovascular nursing and describes its knowledge base, providing a framework for the development of its curriculum. It also establishes standards of practice and professionalism for cardiovascular nurses.

### ACC Energy Provoked and Supported Effort

In many ways, this new document is the result of the ACC's efforts to address the workforce shortage issues facing cardiology. When the ACC opened its membership to nurses, nurse practitioners, physician assistants and clinical nurse specialists and created the Cardiac Care Associate membership category in 2004, a Nursing Education Committee was quickly formed. Its goals were to achieve American Nurse Credentialing Center (ANCC) accreditation status for the College and to update the scope and standards of cardiovascular nursing to serve as a foundation for CV nursing education within the College. Both goals have now been accomplished with the second goal resulting in this new document.

The ACC was instrumental in facilitating this collaborative effort among the 17 professional societies and has also provided administrative and logistical support during the last two years. We hope this collaboration will be the first of many educational and professional efforts in which cardiovascular nurses from all interested organizations collaborate to meet common goals and improve quality patient care.

The full document will be made available on Cardiosource for ACC members. Printed copies may be purchased from the ANA.

**Handberg served as chair of the task force and Gura was a member. Both have been active members of the CCA Committee.**



Handberg



Gura

### At ACC.08: CCA Networking Opportunities

**Going to ACC.08 in Chicago?** Don't forget that networking and sharing experiences is almost as important as sitting in sessions. Be sure to take advantage of these two important networking options.

**Cardiac Care Associate Reception** takes place Saturday, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Hilton Chicago, Marquette Room. Network with your registered nurse, nurse practitioner, physician assistant, clinical nurse

specialist, and CV pharmacist peers, converse with leaders in cardiology and enjoy the open bar and tasty hors d'oeuvres.

**CCA Community Room/Lounge** is open Sunday through Tuesday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., E251, Level 2-Hall E, at McCormick Place. Use the CCA Lounge as a base of operations, a place to relax, check e-mail and meet colleagues.

