

# Supporting Clinicians to Write: APN Publication Committee Efforts Successful

Diane Dudas Sheehan, ND, APN, FNP-BC, & Sarah A. Martin, MS, RN, CPNP-AC/PC

## KEY WORDS

Publication, publication committee, clinician

Intensified expectations exist for nurses to incorporate evidence-based practice, participate in discipline-specific research, and disseminate knowledge gained from these experiences through presentation and publication. Our advanced practice nurse (APN) governing council leaders recognized that publishing in peer-reviewed journals contributes to the body of nursing science, increases personal prestige, and contributes to organization visibility, ranking, marketing, and branding. Thus an APN publication committee (PC) was created to provide an environment for increased

publishing to occur within our nursing division at The Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago.

The PC was formed in 2013 with a few novice writers and two APNs who had editorial experience. After recruitment, the inaugural committee had eight members. PC members recognized that increasing the number of articles published by busy clinicians is an extremely challenging task. To work toward this commission, the PC met regularly to solidify goals and create plans, and the group continues to meet on a monthly basis to maintain momentum. Logistically, meetings are in person and through phone conferencing to facilitate off-site member participation.

Committee members concurred that writing for publication by clinicians is an extracurricular activity outside of day-to-day work responsibilities, because clinicians have little protected nonclinical time. We acknowledged that APNs and seasoned nurses respond to exhaustive patient care needs and are already involved in numerous additional professional activities. Writing takes structured time and self-regulation, and thus any published nurse clinician has accomplished a personal feat. At quarterly APN council meetings, APNs who have recently published and have provided the details to the PC are recognized. The published citations from the previous quarter are formatted according to the American Psychological Association, and authors are acknowledged. The activity of compiling published accomplishments is ongoing.

Initial committee initiatives focused on supporting clinicians' publishing activities by identifying resources and providing educational seminars and support group meetings. Current PC goals are summarized in [Box 1](#). The primary purpose of the committee is to foster the

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Diane Dudas Sheehan, Advanced Practice Nurse, Division of Orthopaedic Surgery, Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago, Chicago, IL.

Sarah A. Martin, Advanced Practice Nurse, Division of Pediatric Surgery, Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago, Chicago, IL.

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Correspondence: Diane Dudas Sheehan, ND, APN, FNP-BC, Division of Orthopaedic Surgery, Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago, 225 E Chicago Ave, Box 69, Chicago, IL 60611; e-mail: [dsheehan@luriechildrens.org](mailto:dsheehan@luriechildrens.org).

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## BOX 1. 2016 Advanced practice nurse publication committee goals

- Foster the professional development of advanced practice nurses, physician assistants, and nurse clinicians interested in publication. Our committee continually works to achieve that goal through quarterly educational seminars (with continuing education credit), bimonthly meetings of the “Write Stuff Society,” provision of resources (published manuscripts, Web site links, references, and publishing mentors), and committee member support for writing activities.
- Advocate for a dedicated writer/coach/editor role for the nursing division to support the needs of more than 200 advanced practice nurses and clinical nursing staff in their publication endeavors.
- Investigate how pediatric nurses are supported with publishing efforts at pediatric tertiary care centers through a research study.

professional development of APNs, physician assistants, and nurse clinicians interested in publication, with a goal of maintaining a compiled list of publishing resources on the APN team Web site. We divided the investigative work, conducted our own literature searches, and found useful tools for each of the categories listed in [Box 2](#). This comprehensive listing is regularly updated.

To provide education for nurse colleagues and physician assistants regarding the publication process, bimonthly seminars were offered. The original seminar series topics were compiled from the identified resource themes. Committee members and invited speakers presented regular educational offerings, which commenced in 2014. The seminars were held over the lunch hour on a set day and week within the month. The PC seminars were promoted via Outlook meeting invitations, daily global e-mail reminders, announcements in department meetings, APN council meetings, and word of mouth. Responses to the Outlook invitations were tracked (e.g., those who planned on attending [responded yes] and showed some interest [responded maybe]) and compared with those who actually attended. Participation tallies ranged from a handful to a dozen nurse practitioners for each session. Although strong interest was expressed, few attendees (fewer than half of those who expressed interest) actually participated. We postulated that getting away from the patient care floors and outpatient settings at noon to attend the educational offerings proved difficult. Unfortunately, there was not an ideal time to conduct the seminars given participants’ varied clinical roles and responsibilities.

At each seminar, we requested course evaluations. In addition to asking participants to evaluate the speaker’s ability to convey the information and rate the topic at hand, we queried clinicians about obstacles that prevent them from participating in publishing activities. We specifically asked, “What are the barriers faced in creating or submitting a professional manuscript?” A list was provided (see [Box 3](#)), which allowed the participant to check all that applied and provide any additional comments. Clinicians with a desire to publish reported that the following factors interfered with

professional writing and publishing endeavors: lack of time, lack of administrative support, a knowledge deficit regarding the process, and a lack of confidence.

After reviewing compiled evaluations, noteworthy topics were repeated with the goal of offering continuing education unit (CEU) credit in 2015. To accomplish this objective, required information (i.e., seminar title, objectives, outline, references, and speaker conflict of interest forms) for CEU credit for the series was applied for and awarded. The added benefit of receiving one CEU per class was intended to increase participation and attendance. Accommodating rooms were secured to videoconference these seminars to reach APNs who work in the suburban affiliated hospital site and outpatient satellite locations. In addition, videotaped seminars were posted on the APN team Web site and on the hospital’s WeLearn site (featuring slides with voice recordings) for increased accessibility. (Seminar titles are listed in the [Table](#)).

The PC also created a writing support group dubbed the “Write Stuff Society” (WSS). The goal was to motivate reluctant clinicians to write for publication with encouragement and desired emotional support. Founding members, seminar participants, and clinicians currently authoring publications were invited to join the WSS. Goals for the WSS are summarized in [Box 4](#). Several strategies were launched for WSS

## BOX 2. Categories of compiled resources maintained on the advanced practice nurse team site

- General Publication Process
- Formulating an Idea
- Creating Bibliographies
- Writing Abstracts
- Research and Statistical Support
- Case Study Presentation
- Creating a Poster
- Writing Resources (including organizations, Web sites, and textbooks)
- Mentors
- Library Resources
- Publishing and Editorial References

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