

As past-president of the International Transplant Nurses Society (ITNS), I want to share some of ITNS's major accomplishments this year, which were driven by the strategic planning process that we initiated in 2011. Strategic planning is one of the primary responsibilities of the board of directors. This is a critical time in our society's development as a professional association, and the board feels very positive about the way we approached the strategic planning process and the outcomes it achieved.

Chapter Support

- Chapter liaison **Jason Hopper-Cruz** conducts monthly conference calls to identify opportunities for chapter support and collaboration.
- ITNS provided free exhibit space to chapters at the 2014 ITNS Symposium and several chapters took advantage of this opportunity to network and share accomplishments.
- ITNS staff now files taxes for the US chapters to remove the burden on chapter leaders and simplify the tax filing process.

Celebrating Our Members

- Congratulations to **Cassandre Oscar** of Jackson Health System in Miami, FL, USA, the 2014 Transplant Nurses Day Award recipient.
- Congratulations to **Rita Pool** of SickKids Hospital in Toronto, ON, the 2014 ITNS Transplant Nursing Excellence Award winner. Rita was nominated by Moira Korus.
- The 2014 recipient of the Friend of Transplant Nursing award is **Dr. Mary Amanda Dew**. Dr. Dew was nominated by **Shelley Zomak** and **Annette DeVito Dabbs**. Dr. Dew is a psychologist and professor in psychiatry, biostatistics, epidemiology, and psychology, at the University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA, USA.

23rd Annual ITNS Symposium in Houston, TX, USA

- The Symposium was a great success! Thank you to the planning committee chair, **Chris Shay-Downer**, and Vice-Chair, **Renee Bennett**, committee members **Christiane Kugler**, **Penny Keaney**, **Sandy Cupples**, and **Michelle James**, and the local planning committee **Brittany Williams**, **Dana Hong**, and **Katherine Johnson**.
- The board began holding its meetings via conference calls to save money. Instead of meeting face-to-face three times per year, the board now only meets in person at the Annual ITNS Symposium.

ITNS Research Grants

- During our board meeting in January, the board of directors called members asking for your support for the ITNS Foundation. Thanks to your generosity we raised over \$1,000 USD to support the 2014 ITNS Research Grant! You can expect a call from the board again in January, so stay tuned for an e-mail with the call date and information.
- The \$2,500 USD ITNS Research Grant winner was **Sonja Beckmann**. Her proposal is titled "Systematic Literature Review on Weight Gain, Overweight, and

Obesity in Solid Organ Transplantation."

Marketing ITNS

- ITNS was the recipient of a Google grant this summer which gave the association access to \$120,000 USD in free advertising. ITNS staff has been using this grant money to promote the association and the Annual ITNS Symposium in online ads. Access to grants is one of the many benefits of ITNS being a 501(c)3 organization.
- **Dr. Cindy Russell** published an editorial in *USA Today* promoting the importance of transplant nurses and ITNS.
- ITNS partnered with Amazon on their AmazonSmile program. This means that whenever you shop on AmazonSmile, 0.5% of your purchase is donated to ITNS. To date we've raised over \$60 USD. Remember ITNS the next time you shop on Amazon.

Patient Education Materials

- The kidney and liver patient education handbooks for newly transplant patients are being updated.

Networking with Other Transplant Organizations

- ITNS offers its members discounted membership in The Transplantation Society (TTS).
- ITNS presented a very well attended preconference session at TTS's World Transplant Congress meeting in San Francisco, CA, USA, this past July. **Dr. Benice Coleman, Dr. Sabina De Geest, Dr. Christiane Kugler, and Dr. Cindy Russell** provided educational sessions. We received overwhelmingly positive feedback on this event!
- ITNS members have been appointed to TTS committees. **Renee Bennett** is serving on the ethics committee and **Christine Kugler** participates with the education committee.
- ITNS is represented on United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) committees by **Renee Bennett, Sandy Cupples, and Jason Hopper-Cruz**.

Continuing Education and Research

- ITNS has partnered with MultiView, who also publishes the *ITNS Insider*, to bring you on demand education. The on-demand video platform will host portions of the IQ Series DVDs and key sessions recorded at the Annual ITNS Symposium. These can be purchased in the ITNS online store and you can earn CE and CEPTC credits for viewing the session and completing an evaluation.
- ITNS collaborated with nursingcenter.com, allowing ITNS members to take advantage of Nursing Success TV with free nursing career webinars.
- ITNS Cohosted a webinar with the Organ Donation and Transplantation Alliance titled "Brain Death Declaration".

Professional Nursing Standards

- Updates were made to *Transplant Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice* by a task force led by **Dr. Donna Hathaway**.
- Updates are underway to the *Core Curriculum for Transplant Nurses* led by **Linda Ohler and Dr. Sandy Cupples** and *The Introduction to Transplant Nursing Core Competencies* by **Dr. Sandy Cupples**.
- **Dr. Sandy Cupples** is leading a task force to develop the transplant coordinator clinical advancement criteria, also known as the clinical ladder.

Celebrating ITNS Leaders

- We are proud to welcome the newly elected members of the ITNS Board of Directors: president-elect, **Nancy Stitt**; international director, **Sabine Gryp**; director at large, **Lisa Althea Coscia**; education director, **Ann Busch**; and secretary/treasurer **Penny Keaney** (second term). Congratulations to the new board members and thank you to the nominating committee. **Nancy Stitt**, along with **Kandi Newell**, founded ITNS, so it is very fitting that she will lead ITNS into our 25th anniversary
- Thank you to the out-going ITNS Board of Directors members for your service and leadership to ITNS: president-emeritus, **Christiane Kugler**; international director, **Anne Flodén**; director at large, **Denise Morin**; and education director **Michelle James**.