



IFNA Anesthesia Program Approval Process (APAP) Newsletter, July 2018

To: School and Program Directors of IFNA's Approved Anesthesia Programs
CNRs

From: Marianne Riesen, APAP Manger



World Congress 2018 Budapest Hungary

The World Congress for Nurse Anesthetists 2018 is over. It was successful and many of us had the opportunity to meet and network. Besides the Education Session, which was all about student assessment methods, the Education Committee, chaired by Dr. Karin Björkman Björkelund from Lund Sweden, hosted a luncheon event sponsored by the NBCRNA for all program directors who have received APAP Registration, Recognition and Accreditation. A number of you took part and it was great to meet you.



The program directors from Shanghai and Nanjing (China)

APAP program directors of newly approved programs and programs that renewed their approval were also recognized on stage at the Closing Ceremony. I hope we will meet again in 2022. The decision about where the next congress is taking place will be made in spring 2019.

The Importance of APAP

A high number of countries reported a total anaesthesia provider number (physician and non – physician) of less than 5 per 100,000 population. This is highlighting that over 5 billion people worldwide do not have access to safe, affordable surgical care when they need it most (www.surgeons.org/foundation). A massive global anesthesia workforce shortage contributes to inequitable access to surgical services (Lipnick, Balumba, Ttendo & Gelb 2017). In a survey of the World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists (WFSA) (2017) fifty of seventy seven countries reported the use of Nurse Anesthetists (NAs) and other Non-Physician Anesthesia Practitioners (NPAPs). The numbers of NAs and NPAPs are likely to have been underreported in a number of countries but NAs and NPAPs account for a large proportion of the anesthesia workforce, especially in countries with limited resources. The required scaling up of the global anesthesia workforce, especially in many low and middle income countries, will not be possible to achieve by training only Physician Anesthesiologists.



Training of both Physicians and NPAPs will be required because SAFE ANESTHESIA IS ESSENTIAL FOR SAFE SURGERY (Kempthorne, Morriss, Mellin-Olsen & Gore-Boothe 2017). With so much responsibility, NAs and NPAPs must recognize that it is in the interest of patient safety and nurse anaesthesia to provide transparency about the scope of practice and competencies (Meussen, Hoekman, Van Zundert, Rawal & Knape 2010). The International Federation of Nurse Anesthetists believes that it is possible to improve the health and welfare of humanity by promoting international educational standards through an approval process that takes cultural, national or regional differences into consideration. IFNA operates with one set of standards, but provides an approval system with various thresholds, that take into account that not all providers may be able to meet every standard. (see: [http://ifna.site/ifna-accreditation-program/approval-process-for-nurse-anesthesia-programs/.](http://ifna.site/ifna-accreditation-program/approval-process-for-nurse-anesthesia-programs/))

IFNA would like to see at least one program approved in each member country independent of the level.

The primary purpose of the program is to educate graduates to meet the needs of the country or region in which it resides. If you know of somebody who is interested in any level of approval, please contact: APAP@ifna-site

IFNA Standards 2016

The IFNA Standards of Practice, Monitoring, and Education have been published after the approval by IFNA Country Representatives in May 2016. The upcoming programs for renewal and new programs will be evaluated based on the 2016 standards (see: <http://ifna.site/ifna-accreditation-program/approval-process-for-nurse-anesthesia-programs/>). All application forms have been revised and adapted to the 2016 standards. The revised application forms for all three categories of approval can be found on IFNA's website under the above address.

IFNA is offering one Accreditation Grant

Are you interested in seeking regular Level #3 Accreditation or do you know someone who might like to seek IFNA Level 3 Accreditation for his or her nurse anesthesia program? Eligible nurse anesthesia programs include those who have never applied to APAP and those who currently hold Level #2 IFNA Recognition. One grants is currently available that covers the costs of the accreditation process. An

application can be found on IFNA's website at <http://ifna.site/ifna-accreditation-program/application-for-grant/>. The completed application should be e-mailed to Pascal Rod, at the IFNA Executive Office at ifna.rod@wanadoo.fr.

Details about the IFNA Accreditation Grant:

Applying nurse anesthesia programs will be selected to complete the accreditation process which requires completion of all steps in the written procedure for accreditation as outlined in the IFNA *Anesthesia Program Approval Process (APAP) Operational Policies and Procedures* (<http://ifna.site/ifna-accreditation-program/approval-process-for-nurse-anesthesia-programs/>).

A nurse anesthesia program must meet the following requirements to be selected to complete the application process for Level #3 IFNA Accreditation.

- The country where the program/school is located needs to be an IFNA member or become an IFNA member prior to hosting an IFNA onsite visit.
- Admission requirements include an education in nursing that prepares a student to succeed in the program.
- There is official evidence from a governmental entity that the program is currently authorized, recognized, chartered, audited, accredited or has some equivalent official status in the country, if available.
- There is evidence that the program has not been denied approval, recognition or accreditation by a governmental or nongovernmental accreditation or quality assurance entity. (This requires the signature of a program official for confirmation.)
- The program has graduated at least 5 classes of students from essentially the same curriculum.
- A completed application, "IFNA Accreditation Grant Application for Nurse Anaesthesia Program Accreditation", must be submitted
- A statement that addresses how accreditation will benefit the program is required.
- A pledge by the program that it will cooperate with the IFNA Education Committee in meeting timelines is required.

All nurse anesthesia programs are welcome to apply. We are especially interested in applications from programs located in IFNA member countries that do not currently have a program/school with IFNA accreditation; however, applicants from all IFNA member countries will be considered.

Newly Approved Programs and Renewals

Three new programs (one Level 3 Accreditation and two Level 2 Recognition) have successfully been evaluated by the Education Committee. Four programs have undergone the renewal process. Decisions on the initial approvals and renewals included the Education Committee's review of the completed applications and analysis of student and faculty evaluations for each program. The programs were approved by the IFNA Education Committee and IFNA Executive Committee at the annual meeting in Budapest in June 2018.

Newly approved programs

Level 3 Accreditation

Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Virginia, Nurse Anesthesia Program

Program director: Michael Fallacaro, CRNA, DNS, FAAN
Chairman of the Department of Nurse Anesthesia
West Hospital 2nd floor
1200 East Broad Street 980226
Code: 23298-0581
Richmond, Virginia, USA

Level 2 Recognition:

Puerto Rico School of Nurse Anesthetists

Program director: Carlos Borrero, CRNA, MSA
728 Ponce de Leon Ave. – Suite 201
City: San Juan
State: Puerto Rico (PR)
Country: United States of America

BenQ Hospital Anesthesia Nursing Education Certificate of Completion

Program Director: Yu-Lan Fang, Chi-Yueh Ho
Department of Anesthesia, the Affiliated BenQ Hospital of Nanjing Medical University,
The Fourth School of Clinical Medicine.
No.71, Hexi Avenue, Jianye District,
Nanjing, Jiangsu China

Renewals

Level 3 Accreditation:

Wake Forest School of Medicine Nurse Anesthesia Program

Program director: Michael Rieker, DNP, CRN
525 Vine St., Suite 230
Winston-Salem, NC 27101 USA

Postgraduate Diploma Course in Nurse Anesthesia, Department of Anesthesiology

Program director: Christoph Schori
University Hospital Basel
Klingelbergstrasse 23
CH-4031
Basel, Switzerland

Level 2 Recognition:

ACES' Nurse Anesthesia Program

Program director: Mark Anthony S. Cada
Km 18 Diversion Road
Ilayang Dupay
Lucena City, Quezon, Philippines 4301

Licence appliquée en Anesthésie Réanimation, Ecole Supérieure des Sciences et Techniques de la Santé de Tunis

Program director: TAHAR MESTIRI

B.P. 176

Bab Souika

1007 Tunis, Tunisia

Renewal of awards for APAP programs 2019

Two programs with Level 2 Recognition and three with Level 3 Accreditation will be asked to renew their applications that expire in May 2019. The reviews should be completed in time for decisions at the May 2019 meetings of the IFNA Education Committee and IFNA Executive Committee. The program directors will be notified by the APAP manager in late September.

In spring 2018 IFNA gave a grant to pay for the first Level 3 Accreditation of an African program. The process has been started. The on – site visit will take place from 13. – 15. November 2018. Mr. Jaap Hoekman (former IFNA president) and Mrs. Susanna Anang (former member of the IFNA Education committee) will carry out the on – site visit. The program is located in Liberia, West Africa is called:

Phebe Nurse Anesthesia Program

Program director: Wilmot Molo Fassah

Street Address (or P.O. Box):

Phebe Training Program

Phebe Hospital and School of Nursing

P O Box 10- 104

City: Suakoko Bong County / Liberia



Aaron Sonah (Liberia program) and Mary O'Sullivan (mentor), CRNA, USA

IFNA would also like to see more programs applying for Deemed Accreditation

If nurse anesthesia programs of a country have to meet national education – and graduate standards and if those standards are equivalent to the *IFNA Educational Standards for preparing Nurse Anesthetists*, the national standards can be compared to the IFNA standards. An onsite visit by a national approval agency must be included as well. If the national standards are found equivalent, the programs operating under those standards can be awarded “Deemed Accreditation”. The compared standards have to be approved by the IFNA Executive Committee. Criteria can be found under:

<http://ifna.site/ifna-accreditation-program/approval-process-for-nurse-anesthesia-programs/>.

Completed applications are to be forwarded by e-mail to the IFNA Executive Office:

ifna.rod@wanadoo.fr

I wish you all lots of success with your programs

Marianne Riesen, APAP Manager and

IFNA’s Education Committee

- Hsiu-Yun Chang Sunny, Taiwan
- Rebecca Madsen, USA
- Karin Björkman Björkelund, (Chair) Sweden
- Christian Herion, Switzerland
- Thorunn Eliasdottir, Iceland



Literature:

Lipnick MS, Bulamba F, Ttendo S, Gelb AW. The Need for a Global Perspective on Task-Sharing in Anesthesia. *Anesth Analg*. 2017 Apr 21. doi: 10.1213/ANE.0000000000001988. [Epub ahead of print]

Peter Kempthorne, MBChB, FANZCA, Wayne W. Morriss, MBChB, FANZCA, Jannicke Mellin-Olsen, MD, DPH, and Julian Gore-Booth, MA. The WFSA Global Anesthesia Workforce Survey. September 2017, Volume 125, Number 3 www.anesthesia-analgesia.org

Meussen, V., Van Zundert, A., Hoekman J, Rawal R, Knape H. (2010) Composition of the anaesthesia team: a European survey *European Journal of Anaesthesiology* 27: 773-77