



INA 2008 Spring Nursing Convention Wrap-Up Report

The INA hosted its 2008 Spring Nursing Convention on April 10 and 11 at Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center's McCleary Auditorium in Boise, Idaho. The two-day convention included a day focused on the topic of "What's Bugging You? The New World of Infectious Disease," followed by a CNE Boot Camp on day two.

The event was well attended by nursing professionals and students from around the state. Attendees came away with valuable knowledge, as well the opportunity to network with their colleagues. Attendees also were able to learn about various healthcare-related products and services available from 16 companies and organizations that exhibited at the event.



Boise State University leadership students Stefani Westerberg, Cheri Thomas, Mary Branscombe, and Annalee Peck volunteered with the conference committee and their assistance was invaluable!

Day one began with an Opening Welcome by Sharon Strand, INA president, followed by a full day of presentations on the topic of infectious disease. An INA membership meeting was held during lunch and included the election of new INA officers and the introduction of Lynne Weil, our new executive director.

To develop a great agenda for the first day's infectious disease workshop, the Conference Committee brainstormed with Chris Dent, St. Al's Infection Prevention Nurse, and Pamela Lewis, recently retired Infection Prevention Nurse at Boise's VAMC and Infection Prevention Consultant. Infectious diseases speakers included:

- **Dr. Dennis Stevens**, Chief of Infectious Disease at the VAMC in Boise, spoke on Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA). It was a great update on this serious disease.
- **Dr. Stuart Johnson**, Chief of Infectious Disease at Hines VAMC near Chicago, spoke on Clostridium difficile (C diff.). Dr. Johnson has been studying C diff. for 20 years and he gave a very comprehensive presentation on this difficult disease.
- **Dr. Tom Coffman**, Infectious Disease Private Practice in Boise, presented "HIV: Then and Now." It was a great look at the history, current experience and treatment of HIV.
- **Patricia Heath**, Infection Prevention Nurse at Magic Valley Regional Medical Center in Twin Falls, presented "The Fine Line Between Informing and Frightening the Patient/Public" regarding infectious disease. She was a very dynamic speaker with great information.
- **Rebecca Anderson**, the Pandemic Flu Coordinator for the Public Health Department, spoke about Pandemic Influenza and Pandemic Preparedness. She was a wealth of information on a very challenging topic.
- **Pamela Lewis**, a recently retired Infection Prevention Nurse at the Boise VAMC and now an Infection Prevention Consultant, presented "Infection Prevention and Control, Historical Aspects: Then and Now." It was fascinating hearing the history of infection control and how it is shifting to a focus on infection prevention. We've come a long way.

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For day two of the convention, **Erica Helmick** and **Cristy Bledsoe** with the INA CNE Approval Committee worked together to develop and present a comprehensive full-day Boot Camp for CNE providers to teach them knowledge and skills related to the ANA Standards of Practice for Nursing Professional Development and ANCC-COA criteria. Attendees learned all the ropes, including:

- Standards and Criteria for CNE Approval
- Avoiding Commercial Support Pitfalls
- Validating Educational Content
- Writing Objectives
- Evaluating Effectiveness

I would like to thank all the volunteers involved that assisted in helping to plan and coordinate this great educational event, as well as our sponsors and exhibitors for their support:

Conference Committee Volunteers

Cristy Bledsoe
Mary Branscombe
Ingrid Brudenell
Erica Helmick

Annalee Peck
Catie Prinzing
Cheri Thomas
Stefani Westerberg

Sponsors/Exhibitors

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Idaho State University
Med Now
Norco
Novo Nordisk
Robert Michaels Communication Company,
LLC
St. Alphonsus Regional Medical Center
University of Phoenix Nursing Programs

A special thank you goes to St. Al's - a great facility with a great support staff (and really good food for a conference)!

I look forward to seeing everyone at the next INA event.

Pat Kubicki
2008 Spring Conference Committee Chair

SPECIAL NOTE: The INA Board of Directors would also like to thank Pat Kubicki and her outstanding team of volunteers for a great event!