

THE ADVANCING PRACTICE PAGES



Advancing
through
adversity

OVERVIEW

Happy New Year! Even though the world does not change from December 31st to January 1st, that phrase just hits differently after such a turbulent and emotional year. With the large surge of COVID-19 cases hitting in early November, the drama of the presidential election, unconventional holidays and the unexpected availability of the COVID-19 vaccine, turbulent and emotional might be an understatement in describing the second quarter of the Fellowship.

Additionally, the Fellows have had to navigate all of these struggles as well as experience the typical feeling of exhaustion that comes with beginning a career as an APRN. Dr. Margaret Flinter, the leader of developing post-graduate training programs for new nurse practitioners who also established the National Nurse Practitioner Residency Training Consortium, studied over 1000 journal entries of APRN Fellows. She found that the trainees feel generally exhausted at this point in their post-graduate programs. Though we have observed this behavior with our own cohort, we have also observed them rise above the occasion and still provide excellent patient care.

LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL



FELLOW CHECKLIST

- RAMPED UP TO 20 MIN VISITS
- LEADING ROOT CAUSE ANALYSIS
- LEADING QI PROJECTS SUCH AS PRENATAL CARE QUALITY AUDIT AND ANTIMICROBIAL STEWARDSHIP
- TRAINED ON ERIES NEW TELEHEALTH PLATFORM
- RECIEVED COVID-19 VACCINE

In quarter two, the Fellows got to see more variety in their day to day schedules. We were able to rotate them through more Specialty Clinics such as Erie's Lending Hands for Life program, which focuses on HIV and AIDS care. They also received some intensive didactic content in their field of focus. Our Fellows have four hours of didactics every Wednesday afternoon. Our University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) Partners play a large role in the creation of the Didactics. Kelly Vaez, FNP-BC and Mary McNamara, FNP-BC, Clinical Assistant Professors at UIC, in partnership with Allison Clark Young, Sarah Quirk and Natalie Raghu, have developed and presented a ton of topics so far such as Pain Management and Trauma. The didactic sub-committee is constantly working to cater to the Fellows' interests along with relating the material to what they are seeing in clinic.

We also coordinated a networking event with local APRN Post-Graduate programs at Esperanza Community Health Centers and Heartland Health Centers. Our Fellows were able to connect with other new APRNs in the Chicago area and were able to speak about their respective programs and careers. We plan on having this be an annual event!

All the while, the AdvancingPractice team has focused on recruitment for the 2021 cohort. Our application period was open from October 5th until December 11th. In that time, we hosted multiple virtual open houses and recruited at graduate programs all across the US. We closed our application period with 74 applications. Some of our current fellows are on the selection committee to help us narrow down candidates and further strengthen their own leadership skills. More to come on the 2021 cohort in the following months!

The greatest thing that happened this quarter without a doubt was receiving the COVID-19 vaccine. All of the Fellows and faculty members received the the first dose of the vaccine thanks to Erie's Infection Control team. Erie was actually able to vaccinate a large number of employees. Definitely a happy ending to the year. See happy pictures above!

"It is so great to witness the Fellows grow in their first year of practice. I'm excited for them and even more for their patients who will be the recipients of great care in the future."

- Kelly Vaez, FNP-BC, Clinical Assistant Professor at UIC

THE LAST PAGE

Just as Margaret Flinter found exhaustion as the primary feeling midway through the Fellowship cycle, she cited the next few months are often marked by feelings of getting into the groove and learning to trust one's own judgement. And so, not only are we able to see the light at the end of a dark year with the COVID-19 vaccine, but also a difficult quarter.



Yes, 2020 was difficult for many reasons. However, for us, it is somewhat bittersweet to say goodbye. 2020 marked our inaugural cohort and it has been a remarkable and humbling journey so far. We feel fortunate to have such an amazing team who helped build this program from the ground up, despite all of the hurdles put in our way by the pandemic. We wouldn't be so successful if it wasn't for our eight Fellows. We are so proud of the way they have represented the Fellowship and the organization. They have set the bar very high for future cohorts. We look forward to fostering their growth in the next quarter!

Enjoying our Newsletters? What else do you want to know about the Fellowship? Let us know what you think by emailing us at AdvancingPractice@eriefamilyhealth.org

THANKS FOR READING!

AdvancingPractice

Cultivating Quality Care and Nursing Leadership
to Improve the Health of Communities



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MEET THE FACULTY



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