

# FOCUS

The Official Publication of the  
Dermatology Nurses' Association

FIRST QUARTER 2024

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***...And more!***



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## **Mission Statement**

The Dermatology Nurses' Association is a professional nursing organization comprised of a diverse group of individuals who are committed to quality dermatologic care to provide better patient outcomes through sharing knowledge and expertise.

The core purpose of the DNA is to promote excellence in dermatologic care.

## **FOCUS, First Quarter, 2024**

Dermatology Nurses' Association

## **DNA Board of Directors**

### **President:**

Nancy Smail, RN

### **President-Elect:**

Dede Sullivan, PhD, APRN-BC, NP-C

### **Immediate Past President:**

Robin Inabinet, BSN, RN, AMB-BC

### **Treasurer:**

Jessica Simmons, MSN, APRN, FNP-C, CWON, DNC

### **Secretary:**

Heather Onoday, RN, MN, FNP-C, DCNP

### **Directors:**

Blake Bryant, DNP, FNP-C, DNC

Keisha Cash, DNP, DCNP, FNP-BC

Joan Pohutsky, DNP, APRN, NP-BC

### **Executive Director:**

Linda Markham, BSN, RN, DNC

<https://www.dnanurse.org>

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

NANCY SMAIL, RN

After completing our wonderful convention in sunny San Diego, we now turn our focus to the year ahead as we continue to attempt to deliver to the very specific needs of our members. This has been an unusual year for the DNA leadership as we have struggled with some new considerations on organizational structure and recruitment.

What an exciting time to be in dermatology, though! As our keynote speaker, Dr. Robert Kalb, noted, a cascade of new treatments has been approved in the last two years and more are on the horizon. Among the array of cutting edge treatments to offer our patients are: JAK-1 oral agents available for alopecia areata and others developed for teens with atopic dermatitis, expansion of adalimumab biosimilars, steroid free topicals for seborrheic dermatitis, new multifaceted topicals for acne, an innovative topical for dystrophic epidermolysis bullosa as well as the arrival of a treatment for molluscum contagiosum, the ongoing success of oral TYK2 inhibitor and a new injectable inhibitor of IL-17A and IL-17F both assisting our patients with psoriasis with different mechanisms of action. We are fortunate to be able to tailor our treatment strategies to the needs of our patients with so much research and innovation.



The DNA is committed to the continuing education of all NP's, nurses, and team members not only to inform our nursing practice but to foster shared decision making with our patients. We too at the DNA are on the cusp of innovation. It is with great pride that our editors of the JDNA, our flagship research-based nursing journal, announced that they had achieved an "IMPACT FACTOR". Impact factors are critical to the success of an academic journal as they reflect how often the articles are cited by others. In turn, this correlates with the quality of the publication. It usually takes a long time for a journal to become established and then even longer for an audience to discover its quality. Kudos to Angela Borger and Kyleen Davis for this remarkable achievement. Another new development this past year was the online availability of the DNA Joan Shelk Fundamentals of Phototherapy Workshop giving access to a whole new generation of nurses regarding this important treatment modality. Although phototherapy is not as widely used as in decades past, it still has its place among our armamentarium of treatments either as an adjunct therapy or as a primary therapy for those who are not candidates, or decline, other systemic measures.

We owe a debt of gratitude to Trudy Adamson and the members of our EAC for their continuous efforts in developing our educational content and access. The DNA will start its 43rd year in 2024 with a continued emphasis on offering state of the art education but also stressing the importance of connection and belonging. We intend to make changes to increase participation and opportunities for volunteerism throughout the organization and within the board. We hope you will consider becoming more involved with your DNA family and we welcome your suggestions, ideas, talents, and ingenuity as we strive to promote nursing excellence.

# Save the Date!

Dermatology Nurses' Association

## 43rd Annual Convention

# *One for All*

Orlando, FL

March 5 - 8, 2025

# dnda

Dermatology Nurses' Association®



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS SUMMARY

HEATHER ONODAY, RN, MN, FNP-C, DCNP, BOD SECRETARY

On October 10, 2023, the DNA BOD held a virtual meeting.

Those present included:

Board Members:

Nancy Smail, President  
Dede Sullivan, President-Elect  
Robin Inabinet, Immediate Past President  
Keischa Cash, Director  
Jessica Simmons, Treasurer  
Heather Onoday, Secretary  
Blake Bryant, Director  
Joan Pohutsky, Director

DNA Staff:

Linda Markham, DNA Executive Director  
Karen Brown, DNA Administrative Coordinator  
Stephanie McCall, DNA Administrative Coordinator

The board discussed speaker requests for accommodations at upcoming Convention.

Copyright and chapter specific information was shared and discussed with goals for ensuring appropriate use of media tools and chapter regulatory rules.

On November 4, 2023, the DNA BOD held a virtual meeting.

Those present included:

Board Members:

Nancy Smail, President  
Dede Sullivan, President-Elect  
Robin Inabinet, Immediate Past President  
Keischa Cash, Director  
Jessica Simmons, Treasurer  
Heather Onoday, Secretary  
Blake Bryant, Director  
Joan Pohutsky, Director

DNA Staff:

Linda Markham, DNA Executive Director  
Kara Briggs, DNA Administrative Coordinator  
Stephanie McCall, DNA Administrative Coordinator

The all-day board meeting included:

Discussion of functions of an executive committee (EC), goals of EC recap from meetings, and plans for future guidelines for ECs.

Discussion of current state of local chapters, goals for increasing engagement, methods for obtaining CEs, and tactics to reduce loss of local chapters.

Review of Education Advisory Council (EAC) accomplishments and need for additional volunteers for the committee. Prioritization of copyright law for produced content is reviewed.

Review of committee accomplishments and pending work including Program Planning, Professional Development, Nominating, Membership Advisory Council, Health Policy Advocacy Scanning, NP Society.

Strategic planning was a focus for this meeting.

On November 5th, 2023, the DNA BOD held a virtual meeting.

Those present included:

Board Members:

Nancy Smail, President  
Dede Sullivan, President-Elect  
Robin Inabinet, Immediate Past President  
Keischa Cash, Director  
Jessica Simmons, Treasurer  
Heather Onoday, Secretary  
Blake Bryant, Director  
Joan Pohutsky, Director

DNA Staff:

Linda Markham, DNA Executive Director  
Kara Briggs, DNA Administrative Coordinator  
Stephanie McCall, DNA Administrative Coordinator

This all-day board meeting included:

Discussion regarding communications/IT support for the organization and opportunities

Confirmation of addition of pronouns added to registration platform for attendees.

Review of status of Convention documents and accuracy.

Continued strategic planning for the DNA.

December 12, 2023

On December 12, 2023, the DNA BOD held a virtual meeting.

Those present included:

Board Members:

Nancy Smail, President  
Dede Sullivan, President-Elect  
Robin Inabinet, Immediate Past President  
Keischa Cash, Director  
Jessica Simmons, Treasurer  
Heather Onoday, Secretary  
Blake Bryant, Director  
Joan Pohutsky, Director

DNA Staff:

Linda Markham, DNA Executive Director  
Stephanie McCall, DNA Administrative Coordinator

Unable to Attend:

Jessica Simmons, Treasurer

The board discussed the current potential slate of candidates for upcoming board elections and anticipated coordination with the nomination committee for completion of final slate after qualification determinations are complete.



## DNA WELCOMES OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Abdali, Mustafa, MA, Saint Louis, MO  
Andrulat, Haley, Registered Nurse, Nashua, NH  
Arudsothy, Nila, Toronto, ON  
Basten, Jamie, Family Nurse Practitioner, Cary, IL  
Benyahia, Sally, MSN, FNP-BC, DCNP, Metairie, LA  
Bertone, Taylor, Chagrin Falls, OH  
Bowling, Summer, Registered Nurse, Rapid City, SD  
Brauer, Jana, Twin Falls, ID  
Brickley, Shannon, Phoenix, AZ  
Cain, Lorin, Phoenix, AZ  
Camper, Melanie, Detroit, MI  
Cesar, Christy, LPN, Randolph, MA  
Chavez, Monica, Commerce City, CO  
Cloud, Cynthia, ANP-C, Mountain Home, TN  
Cope, Becky, MA, Cridersville, OH  
Crespo, Elizabeth, Registered Nurse, Dunstable, MA  
Dawson, Katherine, Registered Nurse, Portland, OR  
de Guzman, Nathalie, Granada Hills, CA  
Dolitka, Margaret, LPN, Franklin, MA  
Dunbar, Amber, Dermatology RN, North Baldwin, NY  
Dunn, Pamela, Denville, NJ  
Ewing, Robyn, FNP, Klamath Falls, OR  
Fakhouri, Sophia, Registered Nurse, Santee, CA  
Fearneyhough, Shea, Nurse Practitioner, Washington, D.C.  
Greenspan, Athena, Bethlehem, PA  
Griffin, Amy, Walpole, MA  
Hall, Karanne, Kimberly, AL  
Harrington, Kathleen, Burlington, MA  
Henderson, Susan, ARNP, Port Orchard, WA  
Hoff, Brenda, Pierce, NE

Hoffmann, Tricia, Cincinnati, OH  
Huja, Ioana, RN, Mississauga, ON  
Jacobs, Jacqueline, Sun City, CA  
Jacobs, Kristel, MA, Wapakoneta, OH  
Jaimes-Vivar, Katherine, Dacula, GA  
Kipnis, Diana, Staten Island, NY  
Leary, Natalie, Castro Valley, CA  
Leong, Jennifer, Daly City, CA  
Long, Amber, APRN, Jonesboro, AR  
Lor, Shoua, Eureka, CA  
Maliberan, Grace, Key West, FL  
Martinez, Alexa, RN, Wayne, NJ  
McCauley, Shawna, FNP-C, Helena, MT  
McCleary, Nicole, Diamond Springs, CA  
McCusker, Molly, Portland, ME  
Miller, Raven, FNP, Petal, MS  
Nickless, Taylar, LPN, Lincoln, NE  
Orhn, Heather, Andover, MN  
OShea, Karen, Wexford, PA  
Oven, Leah, Proctor, MN  
Perkowska, Monika, Mokena, IL  
Power, Jennie, BSN, RN, Jamaica Plain, MA  
Roberts, Rachel, Concord, NH  
Rusnak, Gigi, Issaquah, WA  
Sevennec, Marine, Regional Nurse Educator, L'île-Bizard, QC  
Simmerman, Erin, Bloomfield Hills, MI  
Steele, Katelyn, Milton, DE  
Struebing, Carolynne, Chicago, IL  
Vang, Yota, Charlotte, NC

When you join DNA you become part of a growing nationwide network of dermatology nurse leaders who promote the highest standards of dermatologic nursing care.

**[Join the DNA online or print an application from our website by clicking here](#)**





Quarterly Financial Update	(as of 12/30/2023)
Gross Revenue	\$ 385,695
Gross Expenses	\$ 805,531
	=====
Net Operating Income (loss)	\$ (419,836)
Balance on hand	\$ 99,160
DNA Membership	1,109

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**As a DNA Member  
you gain access to:**

- Annual Convention
- Local DNA Chapters
- Educational Programs
- Certification Paths
- DNA Publications
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☒ JOIN DNA



**Join Online Today - [www.dnanurse.org](http://www.dnanurse.org)**

## **What Our Members are Saying**



*"DNA has helped me grow professionally and personally"*

*"DNA supports and empowers medical staff by offering education through national programs, awards, and recognition."*

*"I feel a connection with DNA's mission of spreading knowledge and expertise in dermatology."*

*Sign up today and experience all that DNA has to offer!*

***GROWTH IS IN OUR DNA!***



I can't believe 2024 is upon us! I look forward to new experiences and continued learning in the new year ahead. I would also like to take this opportunity to introduce the Education Advisory Council members for 2024: Mitzi Paulsen - Chair, Trudy Adamson - Program Director, Keischa Cash - BOD Liaison, Delaney Stratton - 2025 In-coming Chair, Marianne Woody, Veronica Fromann, Lynn Smith, Kamika McLaughlin, and Kathy Gross. The Education Advisory Committee will continue to work hard for our members in support of our primary function "promoting excellence in dermatological care in alignment with our core purpose".

Currently the new launches are as follows:

- A Patient's Odyssey with Pemphigus Vulgaris (17126)
- Pearls of Writing for Publication (17127)
- DNP The Impact of Generalized Pustular Psoriasis on our Patients Volume 3 Broadcast 4 (17131)
- Hair Loss in Pediatric Patients (17123)

On behalf of the Education Advisory Committee, I hope that you all enjoyed the 42nd annual DNA conference in beautiful San Diego, CA. Your attendance not only enriched the community of Dermatology Nurses but also emphasizes the strength of our community. We understand the demands on your schedule and the competing priorities you face, making your presence all the more meaningful to us. We extend our sincerest thanks to each attendee for your unwavering support and enthusiasm and we look forward to seeing you in Orlando, Florida for the DNA 2025 Conference. Your support is invaluable! In the meantime, the EAC will continue to advocate for quality education enhancing your practice as a Dermatology Nurse or Advanced Practitioner. Don't forget to access the online education portal for your continuing education needs. You may view re-purposed programs from the DNA annual convention.



# DNCB: FROM CRISIS TO RECOVERY, CERTIFICATION PAVES THE WAY

SANDRA WALSH, MScN, RN, DNC

While we continue to recover from the pandemic, we still face serious challenges. More than ever, nurses must continue to stand firm on delivering quality, safe, and effective evidence-based care. Nursing shortages are leading to indifference to the importance of nursing experience, expertise, and critical thinking – and we are paying the price with growing burnout. Patients also pay a high price with less-than-optimal care and outcomes. Another challenge is the erosion of public trust in healthcare and healthcare practitioners. While nurses still rank as the most trusted profession in 2023, trust was 7% higher prior to the pandemic and 11% higher at the start.

While there are many institutional and collective strategies being undertaken to improve the situation for nurses and patients in these uncertain times, as individuals, we can tackle some of the challenges by committing to practice reflection and continuous learning. Joining the DNA is a great first step in your journey to committing to quality patient care. By increasing growth opportunities and access to knowledge and experienced nurses you are on the path to optimal patient outcomes and quality evidence-based care.

The next step of the journey is attaining DNC certification which ensures that you achieve and maintain a high knowledge base throughout your career. DNCB certification will elevate your confidence in your knowledge and practice, increase job satisfaction, and possibly even decrease burnout. Certification also communicates to your colleagues, employer, and patients that you are a dedicated professional committed to life-long learning, patient advocacy, and that your practice meets the highest standards as a dermatology nurse. Your demonstration of advanced professional competence also communicates to employers that expertise and experience matter.

As a proud certified dermatology nurse, DNC, since 1999 and the new President of the Dermatology Nurses Certification Board, I will work to ensure that the highest standards and value of certification in Dermatology Nursing are promoted.

I would like to thank our Immediate Past President, Trudy Adamson, for her leadership and mentorship and wish her all the best in her future endeavors with the DNA.

Join the movement and learn more about the certification at:

<https://www.dnanurse.org/dnc-certification/>

Certification grants are available at:

<https://www.dnanurse.org/awards-scholarships-program/>

## Reference

Walker, A. (2024). Nursing Ranked as the Most Trusted Profession for 22nd Year in a Row. Retrieved from <https://nurse.org/articles/nursing-ranked-most-honest-profession/>





Dermatology Nursing Certification Board

**Visit the DNC  
Certification  
Center Online**



## **ATTN Job Seekers Find a Career in dermatology nursing**

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<https://www.dnanurse.org/resources/jobs-and-career/>

**dna**  
DERMATOLOGY NURSES' ASSOCIATION®  
Career Center



Get your resume noticed by the people in your field who matter the most. Whether you're looking for a new job or ready to take the next step in your career, the DNA Career Center will help you find the opportunity you've been looking for.

**Tell us about your Chapter? (Your location, regular meetings, goings on, etc.)**

We are a small 18-member chapter in Rochester, NY. Even though we are a small group, we continue to keep the chapter active. Meetings, like many other chapters, are not as frequent as desired but we try to meet 2 or 3 times a year. And since Covid it is a bit more difficult to return to the way it was, but we have held a couple of guest speaker CE events that have encouraged new members to join.

**List ways in which you grow your Chapter.**

Growing our chapter is a challenge. Thoughts and ideas that are written on paper sometimes do not execute well. Generally, scheduling a dinner CE event with a guest speaker, dermatology emails and word of mouth works well. Our chapter will be holding another guest speaker dinner event in April and hopefully this will encourage new membership for the 2024 season. We also promote the DNA to new hires and help bridge the newness of dermatology by mentoring and establishing access to resources, such as the DNA and co-working with certified dermatology nurses, to ease the transition. We inspire advancements and certification for dermatology and belonging to the DNA chapter is an amazing benefit.

**What impact does your Chapter make in your local area?**

The DNA chapter impacts our local area mostly within the dermatology office setting. The members of the chapter are DNA educated and certified RNs, LPNs and technicians who give great patient care. Well-rounded care by skilled and knowledgeable caregivers promotes a positive patient experience. We also participated in the Melanoma Awareness Skin Exam event to help promote skin cancer awareness to the community. We look forward to being part of this event again this year.

**What impact does your Chapter have on DNA?**

The members of the Rochester DNA chapter are dedicated dermatology nurses and technicians of all levels. They are knowledgeable and pride themselves in all branches of dermatology. In return, the impact this makes is a positive promotion of the DNA and the importance of knowledge, skill, and continuing education that the DNA strives for.

**What do your Chapter members love most about DNA?**

The chapter members are most excited about the learning tools that are available. Such as the on-line CEs, JDNA (Journal of the Dermatology Nurses Association), and the annual DNA convention. The resources the DNA provides are wonderful for all learners interested in dermatology.

**What do your Chapter members love most about the field of dermatology?**

Dermatology is such a growing field and what the members love is the flexibility this career brings. This discipline has many avenues that can lead a nurse on multiple different adventures. From bedside nursing to research, there is a place for a dermatology nurse.

**What advice would you give to new and existing members?**

The advice given to anyone entering a new world is to spread the word. Talk about what you do, why it is important and become active within the field you are learning. The DNA has so much to offer to help members refresh their knowledge, learn the latest information, or advance their careers. Being part of such an organization is truly a gratifying experience.



Back by popular demand after last years' rave reviews from chapter members, the Wisconsin/Illinois Chapter of the Dermatology Nurses Association is pleased to announce the return of their virtual education series, "Dermatology Updates: Spring 2024". Attendees will be eligible to obtain continuing education credit from the comfort of their homes via live Zoom presentations.

We will be hosting:

- Dr. Margot Reeder, MD-University of Wisconsin. (Contact Dermatitis and Patch Testing)
- Sylvana Brickley DNP, FNP-BC, DCNP-Lahey Clinic (Psychodermatoses)
- Dr. Kiracofe-Airia Comprehensive Dermatology (The Gut Microbiome and Skin Manifestations)

\*Event flyer and registration information coming to our chapter members soon via email. Can't wait to see you there!



### Thinking about volunteering?

<https://www.dnanurse.org/aboutdna/thinking-about-volunteering/>

Currently DNA has more than 100 member volunteers, from the Board of Directors and Nominating Committee members, to Membership Advisory Council Members, and convention workshop moderators. There is something to do for everyone. Volunteering within DNA can be a really rewarding experience that provides opportunities for you to expand your knowledge, sharpen skills, travel and have lots of fun!



# ALL SIGNS POINT TO **dna** DERMATOLOGY NURSES' ASSOCIATION®

DNA members join because they have **passion**...

“ I love the profession and patients and I joined DNA because I want to be current on new dermatology practices. ”

DNA members join to stay **informed**...

“ DNA has kept me informed about new policies and legislation around skin care, as well as FDA approved treatments for my practice. ”

DNA members join for **professional** and **personal** development...

“ DNA has helped improve my self esteem by holding office in a local chapter. I am more confident in addressing colleagues and audiences related to healthcare, and I am returning to college now to further my career goals since I see the success of my mentors in DNA who have gone before me. I know that I can accomplish similar goals and hope to be able to offer the dermatology community some good in the future as well. ”

*Become a DNA member for professional and personal development. Members receive...*

- Discounts on DNA Meetings, Professional Certification and Publications
- National and Local Educational Programs with Continuing Education Opportunities
- Scholarships, Grants, and Awards
- *Journal of the Dermatology Nurses' Association (JDNA)*
- Membership for NPs in the Nurse Practitioner Society of DNA
- **And Much More...**

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**DNA Membership**  
Can Do for You.



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**Sign up today to get free access to SkinSAFE as a member of the DNA!**

**Visit**

**<https://www.dnanurse.org/skinsafe/>**



## **Interested in Leadership Opportunities?**

**DNA is always looking for volunteers to help us succeed in our goals! Are you interested in volunteering with the Dermatology Nurses' Association?**

**Contact Us today or visit our [Volunteer Section](#) for more information!**

**Contact the DNA National Office at [www.dnannurse.org](http://www.dnannurse.org) if interested or for more information.**



## Tell Your DNA Story!

We invite our esteemed members to tell us their unique membership journey — why they chose to join DNA, the valuable benefits they've experienced, and the impact it's had on their professional growth. By sharing your story, you inspire others and showcase the numerous advantages of belonging to our vibrant community.

Join us in our conversation and be part of our collective commitment to excellence in dermatology nursing!

We call upon DNA members to express their membership story and the benefits of joining the Dermatology Nurses' Association:

**Written Testimonial:** Members can write testimonials detailing their personal experiences, highlighting specific benefits they've enjoyed.

**Social Media Posts:** We encourage members to share their membership stories on social media platforms.

**Video Testimonials:** Members can create short, 30 second video testimonials discussing their journey with the association.

**Blog Posts or Articles:** As a member, if you maintain a website, blog, or other news types of feeds, DNA encourages you to link to the DNA website.

**Email Campaigns:** Share our email campaigns!

Individual members can express the following points:

**Personal Growth:** Highlight how membership has facilitated your professional development and personal growth.

**Networking Opportunities:** Share the value of networking with your fellow dermatology nurses, experts, and leaders in the field.

**Community and Support:** Stress the sense of belonging and camaraderie within the DNA community.

**Advocacy and Influence:** Illustrate how membership empowers nurses to advocate for your profession and effect positive change.

**Exclusive Resources and Benefits:** Highlight the exclusive resources, benefits, and perks that come with your membership.

**Recognition and Leadership Opportunities:** Discuss how membership opens doors.

Your Stories can be emailed directly to:  
[dna@dnanurse.org](mailto:dna@dnanurse.org)

Follow us on social media @DNANurses

<https://www.dnanurse.org>

## On the Job

### Describe your experience with DNA.

For the last 2 years, I have served as the Co-Chair for the Program Planning Committee. What I like most about being involved in this committee is that it is productive, time sensitive and fast-paced. Everyone works together as a committee to review the goals and objectives of the convention, identify educational tracks, determine the workshops that will be offered at convention and recruit expert speakers in the field of dermatology based on the educational needs of the DNA. It's so gratifying to see it all come to fruition at the DNA's Annual Convention.

### What is the biggest benefit you get from your DNA membership?

DNA membership provides a wealth of education and is an avenue for networking, mentorship, and leadership. There are various ways to obtain up-to-date continuing education through the premier Journal of Dermatology Nurses' Association, (JDNA), eLearning, the DNA Annual Convention, and the DNA Continuing Education (CE) Center. I have found that networking with other dermatology nurse practitioners and dermatology professionals to be invaluable.

### What advice can you give people to get more involved with DNA.

I believe it is important to be involved in an organization devoted to the specialty of dermatology for professional development and for the advancement of the profession. DNA membership provides opportunities for high quality dermatology education and up-to-date scopes and standards of practice, position statements, networking with experts in the field, mentorship, and leadership opportunities. Volunteering for a committee is rewarding and develops leadership skills, professional growth, and career development.

### What is the most satisfying aspect of your job?

My position as the sole Dermatology Nurse Practitioner at the National Institutes of Health is very satisfying and rewarding. I am responsible for orchestrating the Dermatology clinic and managing patients with complex medical and dermatological issues. I maintain a high level of clinical competence in the specialized area of Dermatology integrating the art and science of both nursing and medicine into practice. I am recognized as an expert in Dermatology and serve as a role model to other health professionals in the institution. I get tremendous satisfaction from collaborating with multidisciplinary health care teams to care for patients with rare and complicated diseases and treatments to improve their quality of life. I value the opportunity to work with experts in Dermatology and treating patients with complex dermatological diseases. I was recognized for my expertise in Dermatology when I received a recognition award in 2021 for Nurse Practitioner of the Year in the height of the Pandemic.

### What is your proudest career accomplishment?

One of the proudest moments in my Dermatology career was when I announced at our Monday morning staff meeting that I was a Dermatology Certified Nurse Practitioner! Later I was recognized and congratulated by the entire NIH nurse practitioner group. I would encourage every nurse and nurse practitioner to become a certified dermatology nurse or nurse practitioner. Certification provides credentialing beyond licensure and demonstrates expertise in the field of dermatology offering peer and public recognition and proficiency in practice.



### On the Side

#### What's the first thing you do when you get home from work on a Friday evening?

I change into comfortable clothing and pour myself a glass of wine. My husband has dinner waiting for me. After dinner, we play a variety of board games, Cribbage, Sequence, A Ticket to Ride, Yahtzee, Scrabble, or card games, to name a few.

#### The one thing people don't know about me...

I started a new hobby building LEGOS during the pandemic. I have built several expert level buildings and cars including the Town Center, Gingerbread House, Elf House, a Mustang, and VW Bug to name a few. My co-worker gifted me the Orchid which I love. I look forward to building more, one brick at a time! My fun part-time job is working at a Maryland Vineyard educating people about wine and pouring wine tastings.

#### What do you do when you're not working?

As a nurse practitioner working at NIH in Dermatology Consult Clinic, I am confronted daily with patients fighting for their lives. This has given me a great appreciation for living life to the fullest and spending time doing the things I enjoy and are most passionate about. I have a passion for traveling, experiencing different cultures, cooking, and eating great food paired with great wine. Growing up in New Orleans, our family gatherings centered around food and the emphasis was on having a good time with family and friends!

#### Describe your family.

I live in Frederick, Maryland with my husband of 45 years, our Ragdoll cat, Harry and Russian Blue cat, Josie. We have one daughter who lives in Aspen, Colorado who works at Pilates studio and part-time in hospitality. She enjoys the outdoor life hiking, mountain climbing and skiing and is quite the expert. My sister, nieces and nephews live in New Orleans, and we try to visit at least once a year to gather for quality family time and enjoying southern hospitality and Cajun food.

#### Words to live by...

As they say in New Orleans, "Laissez les bon temps rouler" or "Let the good times roll"! Live life to the fullest and be happy.





# AWARDS/ SCHOLARSHIPS PROGRAM



## Dermatology Nurses' Association Awards/Scholarships Program

The DNA Awards, Grants and Scholarship Program is designed to acknowledge and recognize our DNA members and volunteers. The Program is divided into three categories:

### Recognition Awards, Monetary Grants and Scholarships:

Awards recognize our member volunteers who lead and give back to their community.

Grant funds support contributions to the dermatology nursing field and certification.

Scholarship funds support those wishing to advance their nursing education.

### Criteria for all awards, grants and scholarships include:

All candidates must be a current DNA member for a minimum of 2 consecutive and complete years of membership.

A DNA member may not win the same award two years in a row and may only win one award per year. All winners will write an article for the Focus Newsletter on what receiving their award has meant to them.

The Awards, Grants and Scholarships application process will be open all year. Deadline for applications to be received and reviewed is October 1 of the year prior to receiving the awards or funds. Applicants for certification grants, convention and mobility scholarships will be informed of the chosen recipient(s) by year's end. Funded grants and scholarships will be given out in the year following application. The volunteer recognition awards will be announced at the annual convention.

### Hall of Fame Award

Purpose: To identify the "Best of the Best" in the dermatology nursing profession. The recipient(s) will be inducted into the DNA Hall of Fame and will receive a plaque.

Please direct any questions to the DNA National Office via email at [dna@dnanurse.org](mailto:dna@dnanurse.org) or call 800-454-4362.

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**<https://www.dnanurse.org/aboutdna/awards-scholarships-program/>**

### **What do you get out of being a volunteer for DNA?**

Being a volunteer for the DNA has provided me with a sense of fulfillment and purpose. It's a platform where I can contribute to the advancement of dermatology nursing, support fellow colleagues, and make a positive impact within the field. Through various volunteer opportunities such as organizing events, contributing to educational initiatives, or participating in advocacy efforts, I've gained invaluable leadership skills, expanded my professional network, and developed a deeper appreciation for the work we do as dermatology professionals.

### **How has your volunteer work increased your professional knowledge of dermatology?**

In terms of professional development, my volunteer work with the DNA has been instrumental in expanding my knowledge and expertise in dermatology. By engaging in activities such as attending educational seminars, collaborating with experienced professionals, and staying updated on the latest advancements in the field, I've been able to enhance my clinical skills, stay abreast of current trends and best practices, and ultimately provide better care to my patients. Additionally, volunteering has provided me with unique opportunities for hands-on learning, allowing me to apply theoretical knowledge in real-world settings and gain practical insights that have been invaluable in my professional journey.

### **How has volunteering with DNA enriched you as a person?**

On a personal level, volunteering with the DNA has enriched my life in numerous ways. It has allowed me to connect with like-minded individuals who share a passion for dermatology nursing, fostering a sense of camaraderie and belonging within the community. Through collaborative efforts and shared experiences, I've formed lasting friendships and mentorship relationships that have been incredibly rewarding both personally and professionally. Moreover, giving back to the dermatology nursing community has instilled a sense of gratitude and humility, reminding me of the importance of service and making a positive difference in the lives of others.

### **What are some projects you are currently working on within your committee?**

I volunteered on the 2024 Program Planning Committee for the National Dermatology Nurses Association convention in San Diego, California. The convention promised to be an unparalleled opportunity for learning, networking, and professional growth. Our committee worked hard at coordinating speakers, organizing workshops, and ensuring that every aspect of the convention was meticulously planned to provide our attendees with a memorable and rewarding experience. I'm truly honored to be part of such a dedicated and passionate committee, and I'm inspired by the commitment and enthusiasm of my fellow members. Together, we are making meaningful strides in advancing the field of dermatology nursing and supporting the needs of our members.





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**What is your name?**

Melissa Adair

**What setting do you work in?**

I practice Medical Dermatology at Oregon Health & Sciences University in Portland, Oregon.

**How long have you been a nurse practitioner?**

I graduated from the University of Washington DNP program in 2018.

**How long have you worked as an NP in dermatology or a dermatology-related discipline?**

Since 2018.

**Can you describe your role as an NP in your practice and the healthcare team?**

I practice medical dermatology in an academic setting. Much of my clinical day focuses on performing full body skin exams, with an emphasis on early skin cancer detection and high-risk skin cancer surveillance. I also get to treat a wide variety of inflammatory skin conditions ranging from atopic dermatitis and psoriasis to cutaneous T cell lymphoma and calciphylaxis. I also have a special interest in nail and hair conditions, and I currently assist in running our institution's hair clinic with my physician colleague. Additionally, I am an instructor of dermatology who loves teaching, and I get to teach nurse practitioner students, physician assistant students, and medical students during clinic. I also get to teach skills sessions several times per year for the OHSU nurse practitioner program.

**What kind of procedures do you do daily?**

Skin biopsies by punch and shave technique, electrodesiccation & curettage, cryotherapy, sharp wound debridement, Grenz ray therapy, Kenalog injections for inflammatory alopecias/keloids/inflammatory skin disorders, and candida injections and cantharidin for verrucae.

**What is your favorite part of your job as a dermatology NP?**

I have several favorite aspects of working in dermatology. Foremost, I love working with my team. I feel very honored to have the opportunity to work with such astute and enthusiastic colleagues who energize me and continually help me understand dermatology differently. I also enjoy the mental challenge of dermatology, in which I get to use pattern recognition and investigative skills to figure out complex rashes. Additionally, I love partnering with my patients to help them achieve control of their skin, hair, and nail conditions.

**What advice would you give to aspiring dermatology nurse practitioners?**

Find a mentor early on. I was very fortunate to have attended the University of Washington, where my program director was a dermatology nurse practitioner. I knew that I wanted a career in dermatology and voiced my interest to my director, who helped me get an extended clinical rotation with a dermatologist during my last year of NP school. During my NP program, I attended multiple dermatology conferences across the country (many dermatology conferences are free or discounted for students!), and I met people who helped me better understand what it really means to be a nurse practitioner in dermatology. I highly recommend attending any conferences you can and trying to attend conferences in different geographic regions to be exposed to different people and different ways of doing things. I also recommend applying for a fellowship, residency, or formal training position in dermatology. I had the opportunity to complete a dermatology fellowship, which really helped me gain the foundational knowledge I needed to launch my career as a dermatology nurse practitioner. In addition, I engaged in other programs offering mentorship and support, such as attending the one-year Florida Atlantic University Post Grad Nurse Practitioner Certificate Program and the one-year Diversity in Dermatology Achieve program. I highly recommend programs, such as these, that focus on fundamental dermatology curriculum, combined with mentor support.

# NURSE PRACTITIONER IN DERMATOLOGY

A nurse practitioner in dermatology is a clinician who offers holistic, high-quality care for their patients. They have advanced clinical training beyond their initial professional registered nurse preparation with a master's or doctoral degree and advanced education and training in the specialty. Many nurse practitioners also achieve dermatology nurse practitioner certification demonstrating a higher degree of professional competence. Nurse practitioners are highly-trained dedicated professionals who are trusted by both patients and other healthcare providers.

Expertise in dermatology is accomplished through specialty training or completion of a post-graduate internship program. In addition, the dermatology nurse practitioner participates in independent continuing education activities such as those offered by professional organizations such as Dermatology Nurses' Association (DNA).

Increasing health care needs are driving the growth of the profession. Nurse practitioners in dermatology provide high-quality comprehensive care for diverse patient populations, increase patient access to healthcare services and decrease wait times to care.

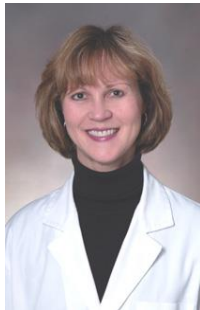
Nurse practitioners in dermatology emphasize the patient-centered holistic approach to dermatology through expert care, comprehensive examination, clear communication and continuity of care.

## Responsibilities

- Performs comprehensive examinations of the skin, hair, nails, and mucosa
- Orders and interprets diagnostic tests
- Prescribes medications
- Performs surgical procedures including biopsies and excisions
- Diagnoses and treats dermatologic conditions
- Provides counseling and education
- Works with other health care professionals to provide comprehensive care

### Other responsibilities may include:

- Phototherapy treatment
- Cosmetic procedures
- Laser procedures
- Telemedicine
- Policy development
- Dermatologic Research



*Role: Nurse practitioners in dermatology diagnose and treat a broad array of dermatologic conditions\**

*\*Scope of practice, regulations and prescriptive privileges vary by state*



*Nurse Practitioners in Dermatology work in a variety of settings including:*

*Group and private practices*

*Hospitals*

*HMOs*

*Academic centers*

*Community clinics*

*University health settings*

*Veterans hospitals and clinics*

*Nurse-managed clinics*



## NP Online Certification Review Course

### DCNP Course Description

#### **COST:**

***\$500.00 for members***

***\$800.00 for non-members***

Welcome to the Dermatology Certified Nurse Practitioner (DCNP) online review course. This course was designed to provide the nurse practitioner with a concise study guide to help prepare for the certification examination. It represents the countless volunteer hours of power point authors, vetters, and pilot testers. The course consists of 11 modules. The subject matter for each module was derived from content mapping of the DCNP examination. There is no audio associated with the course to allow the learner to proceed at their desired pace and facilitate timely updates. Each module has accompanying review questions. Continuing education credit is obtained by successfully completing the review questions and attaining a score of at least 70%. Completion of the evaluation for each course is required to attain the continuing education certificate. Eligible for up to 38.27 NCPD/CE credits.

We wish you success in completing the certification examination.

If you previously received CE's for any content you may access and complete again but for license requirements you can only claim credit once per module.

#### **Disclaimer**

The review questions at the end of each module may or may not be reflective of the certification examination questions. Completion of this course DOES NOT insure the participant will attain a passing score on the certification examination.

This package is only available for one year after purchase.

Commercial Support - Sanofi-Regeneron - Modules 1-10 only. No commercial support for Module 11.

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**<https://dna.digitellinc.com/dna/>**

*The Dermatology Nurses' Association (DNA) is accredited as a provider of nursing continuing professional development by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.*



## JDNA CORNER: EDITORIAL BOARD MEMBERSHIP

LISA BONSALL, MSN, RN, CRNP, CCRN  
DIGITAL DEVELOPMENT EDITOR, JDNA

The Editorial Board of the Journal of the Dermatology Nurses' Association (JDNA) plays an important role in the publishing process. By helping to guide the strategy for the journal, board members support the work of the Editor-in-Chief and contribute to the quality and value of the content in the journal. The responsibilities of JDNA editorial board members include serving as reviewers, advising on content, attending regular meetings, commissioning manuscripts, and identifying and mentoring authors. We also serve as ambassadors for the journal, reaching out to our networks and collaborating with colleagues to optimize the direction of the journal while also disseminating knowledge.

Along with those responsibilities, comes great rewards! The JDNA Editorial Board is comprised of individuals in nursing and medicine with various areas of expertise in dermatology. As an editorial board member for JDNA, you will stay up to date on the latest advances in dermatology, collaborate and network with experts, contribute to the body of dermatology knowledge, and impact practice and outcomes.

Are you interested in learning more about joining the JDNA Editorial Board? Please contact [alborger@aol.com](mailto:alborger@aol.com). Thank you!



*Join Us!*

**Become a JDNA Editorial Board Member!**

**If you have experience in dermatology nursing, expertise in an area of interest to the Journal, experience in writing or publishing, and a commitment to developing and promoting JDNA, then this is the opportunity for you!**

**As an Editorial Board member, your role as an ambassador to the dermatology nursing community, to the larger community of those caring for dermatology patients and their families, and to the public, is highly respected.**



Contact JDNA Editor-in-Chief  
Angela Borger at  
[alborger@aol.com](mailto:alborger@aol.com).  
Thank you!

## IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

### **April, 2024**

National Rosacea Awareness Month  
National Cancer Control Month  
National Public Health Week, April 1st - 7th  
World Health Day, April 7th  
National Volunteer Week, April 21st - 27th

### **May, 2024**

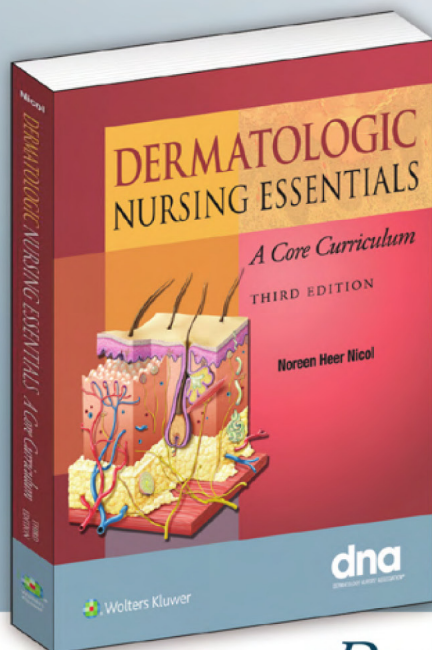
Melanoma/Skin Cancer Detection and Prevention Month  
National Lyme Disease Awareness Month  
National Asthma & Allergy Awareness Month  
Ichthyosis Awareness Month  
Melanoma Monday, May 6th  
National Nurses Week 2024, May 6th - 12th  
International Nurses Day, May 12th  
National Safe Sun Week, May 20th - 26th  
Don't Fry Day, May 24th  
National Sun Screen Day, May 27th

### **June, 2024**

Beautiful in Your Skin Month  
National Cancer Survivors Day, June 2nd  
Bed Bug Awareness Week, June 2nd - 8th  
World Vitiglio Day, June 25th

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Noreen Heer Nicol, PhD

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The Dermatology Nurses' Association is a professional nursing organization comprised of a diverse group of individuals committed to quality care through sharing knowledge and expertise.

A background image of a medical professional in a white coat, holding a smartphone. Overlaid on the image are various medical and technology icons: a stethoscope, a laptop, a magnifying glass, a heart with a plus sign, a microscope, and a pill. The URL "www.dnurse.org" is written in a large, white, outlined font across the center of the image.

www.dnurse.org



DNA is at the hub of a vibrant global network of dermatology care providers.



Health care professionals from around the world access DNA's knowledge and expertise in dermatology care through a wide variety of high quality educational resources including a premiere journal, international conferences and cutting edge technology.



DNA members serve as content experts, educators, and advisors in collaborative health initiatives to assure inclusion of the dermatology nursing perspective.

