

FIRST QUARTER 2025



DNA Annual Convention Photos

In the Leadership Corner with Mitzi Paulsen

DNA Committee Updates

A Tribute to Nancy Smail and Peggy Vernon

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DERMATOLOGY NURSES' ASSOCIATION®

Mission Statement

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

FOCUS, First Quarter, 2025

Dermatology Nurses' Association

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<https://www.dnanurse.org>

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It is with deep sadness that we remember Nancy Joan Smail, a cherished member of the Dermatology Nurses' Association and greater nursing community, who passed away on November 20, 2024, at the age of 73. Nancy dedicated more than 50 years to the nursing profession, embodying the very spirit of compassion, advocacy, and leadership.

Nancy's impact reached far beyond her clinical work. She served as the volunteer coordinator for the CCI, as Board President of the Dermatology Nurses' Association (DNA), an active constituent of the American Nurses Association (ANA) and worked her charm on the Capitol Hill with Coalition of Skin Diseases for advocacy and patient representation. Her commitment to the advancement of nursing practice, education, and professional development was unwavering.

She believed in the power of nurses to lead change and elevate care - and she worked tirelessly to make that vision a reality.

Those who knew Nancy remember her as a fierce advocate, a generous mentor, amazing laugh (and hair) and a steady presence. Whether she was guiding a new nurse through their first conference or championing policy on a national stage, Nancy led with grace, strength, and heart.

She is survived by her beloved husband of 31 years, Mark Steven Smail; her children Sam (Janice) Sedita and Rachel Bieger; and her grandchildren Sebastian, Reed, and Charles. Her legacy continues in the lives she touched and the profession she so passionately served.

We extend our deepest condolences to Nancy's family, friends, and colleagues. Her absence is deeply felt, but her influence endures—in every nurse she inspired and every patient whose care was made better because of her dedication.

Rest in peace, Nancy, knowing you truly made a difference.



44th Annual Convention



dna

DERMATOLOGY NURSES' ASSOCIATION®

Embracing Inclusive Care

Save the Date!

Denver, Colorado | March 25th - 28th, 2026

2026.dnanurse.org



Acheson, Amy, Cape Elizabeth, ME
Belvin, Alion, McDonough, GA
Boliche, Mariros, St. Cloud, FL
Boyer, Alicia, Bemidji, MN
Clayton, Marilyn, Kailua, HI
Da Nobrega, April, Portland, OR
Davis, Timothy, Acworth, GA
De Leon, Girlie, Daly City, CA
Dunn, Marissa, Estacada, OR
Eniola, Rukayat Adewunni, Bellingham, WA
Gonzales, Michelle, Portland, OR
Howe, Jennifer, Port Moody, BC
Jocson, Gerald, Stanton, CA
Johnson, Ashleigh, North Augusta, SC
Jones, Rachel, Beaverton, OR
Kraft, Jade, Bemidji, MN
Leung, Victoria, Seattle, WA
Mathews, Victoria, Silver Spring, MD
Mouhourtis, Courtney, Arden, NC
Nevin-Pike, Catherine, Barrie, ON
Nickles, Shirley, North Haverhill, NH
Paquin, Jessica, Madison, AL
Parent, Olivia, Grand Rapids, MI

Perdzock-Haas, Patricia, Juneau, WI
Perry, Marlicia, Apollo Beach, FL
Pinkhasov, Ksenya, Forest Hills, NY
Poteate, Amy, Roanoke, TX
Rivera, Luis, Alexandria, VA
Ronquillo, Irene, King City, OR
Schmid, Ashley, Clarksville, TN
Sum, Justine, Unionville, ON
Tellez, Yadira, Hillsboro, OR
Terrell-Crockett, Callie, Midlothian, VA
Trevino, Jade, Humble, TX
Umer, Misha, Ocala, FL

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 December, 2024)
Gross Revenue	\$ 356,588
Gross Expenses	\$ 824,945
	=====
Net Operating Income (loss)	\$ (468,357)
Balance on hand	\$ 91,750
DNA Membership	908

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DNASAVINGS



Dermatology Nurses' Association Membership Portal

The Dermatology Nurses' Association (DNA) launched its new membership portal in September. This state-of-the-art system replaces the old NetForum platform and offers DNA members a more seamless and empowering experience. ***If you have not visited the portal, please visit and update your professional profile and make sure your membership is current.***

Membership Management:

The new portal allows members to easily manage their membership details, communicate with fellow members, and renew their subscriptions with auto-renewal functionality. It also provides tools to track and cultivate each member's journey within the association.

Online Community:

Members will enjoy continuous engagement through instant connections with peers and DNA. The portal fosters networking opportunities and provides access to relevant content, including blogs, polls, surveys, and professional development resources—all in one place. With its mobile-responsive design, members can stay connected on the go.

Online Store:

The new portal also features an improved online store where members can purchase DNA memberships, books, and other resources. It includes a user-friendly shopping cart and options for recurring payments to simplify the renewal process.

The DNA membership portal is designed to enhance member engagement, streamline management, and offer a centralized hub for all things DNA-related.

Visit the New Portal

Looking ahead: 2025 and Beyond

Every quarter I look forward to updating everyone as to the latest accomplishments of this hard-working committee! Currently we have added a new member to our committee, her name is Nina Vakil. She is a new member to DNA and lives in Wisconsin. We are happy to have her on board! After conference I am stepping down as Chair for the EAC and will be replaced by Delaney Stratton PhD, DNP, FNP-BC. I will remain an active member on this committee and look forward to a productive year. I have thoroughly enjoyed my service in this role and would strongly encourage others to reach out if you are being called to serve as a DNA volunteer. Please feel free to contact me or other members if you are interested in volunteering.

As I mentioned, the EAC has been very busy, and the following is a current list of DNA CE center new launches in January 2025:

- Medications, Reactions, Eruptions and Life-Threatening Events (17146)
- At-Risk Skin: 21 Consensus Statements from the Coalition for At-Risk Skin (CARS) (17144)
- Evolving Management of Atopic Dermatitis (AD) (17145)
- Navigating the Biosimilar Boom in Dermatology (and beyond) (17141)
- Female Pattern Hair Loss: Evaluation, Testing, and Treatment (17148)
- Skin Barrier Function and Repair (17143)

While the achievements of 2024 are worth celebrating, the future holds even greater potential for growth and innovation within dermatology nursing. As dermatology nurses and members of this association, I challenge all of us to seek out optimism and look ahead to 2025, as there are several key trends that dermatology nurses can anticipate and prepare for:

1. **Emphasis on Preventative Care:** The importance of preventative care will continue to grow, and dermatology nurses will play a pivotal role in guiding patients on maintaining skin health and preventing skin cancer. Increased public awareness of the dangers of UV exposure will open opportunities for educational campaigns that dermatology nurses can lead.
2. **Advancements in Technology:** As one of the outcomes of the pandemic the use of telemedicine and artificial intelligence has become even more integrated into dermatology practice. Dermatology nurses will be crucial in helping patients navigate these technologies, from virtual consultations to the use of AI tools in diagnosis and treatment.
3. **Holistic Care and Mental Health:** With the growing recognition of the mind-skin connection, dermatology nurses will need to consider the psychological impacts of skin conditions. This includes providing emotional support and referring patients to mental health professionals when needed. Nurses may also engage more in collaborative care teams that address both the physical and emotional aspects of dermatological conditions.
4. **Continuing Education and Advocacy:** As dermatology continues to advance, the need for ongoing education and professional development will remain a priority. Nurses will continue to advocate for better resources, training, and policies that improve patient care and nursing practice.

As we enter 2025, the dermatology nursing profession will continue to evolve, and with it, new opportunities to enhance patient care, education, and professional practice. The commitment of dermatology nurses to improving the lives of patients will remain unwavering, and their role will continue to grow in importance. The future is bright, and the work accomplished in 2024 has set the stage for even more impactful contributions in the years ahead. I thank every one of you for making an impact!



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...**

Discover What a **DNA Membership** Can Do for You.

The vibrant city of Orlando, Florida, known for its tropical, sunny weather, close proximity to numerous parks and attractions such as Sea World, Walt Disney World, and Universal Studios, was the setting for the 43rd Annual DNA Convention, held from March 5th through March 8th, 2025. The theme for the Convention was “One for All”, and it took place at the Doubletree by Hilton at Sea World in Orlando, Florida.

The Program Planning Committee (PPC) worked diligently to plan the meeting and recruited experts in the field of dermatology to meet the needs of DNA members. The meeting offered educational and networking activities, as well as a hands-on laser workshop and both basic and advanced aesthetic workshops.

The Convention focused on the following educational tracks:

- Professional Development/Research Track
- Surgical/Cutaneous Oncology Track
- Medical/Pediatric Track
- Aesthetics Track
- Pharmacotherapeutics Track

The target audience for the 2025 Convention included nurse practitioners, registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, medical assistants, other healthcare providers, and staff who specialized in or had an interest in dermatology.

The goals and objectives of the convention were to:

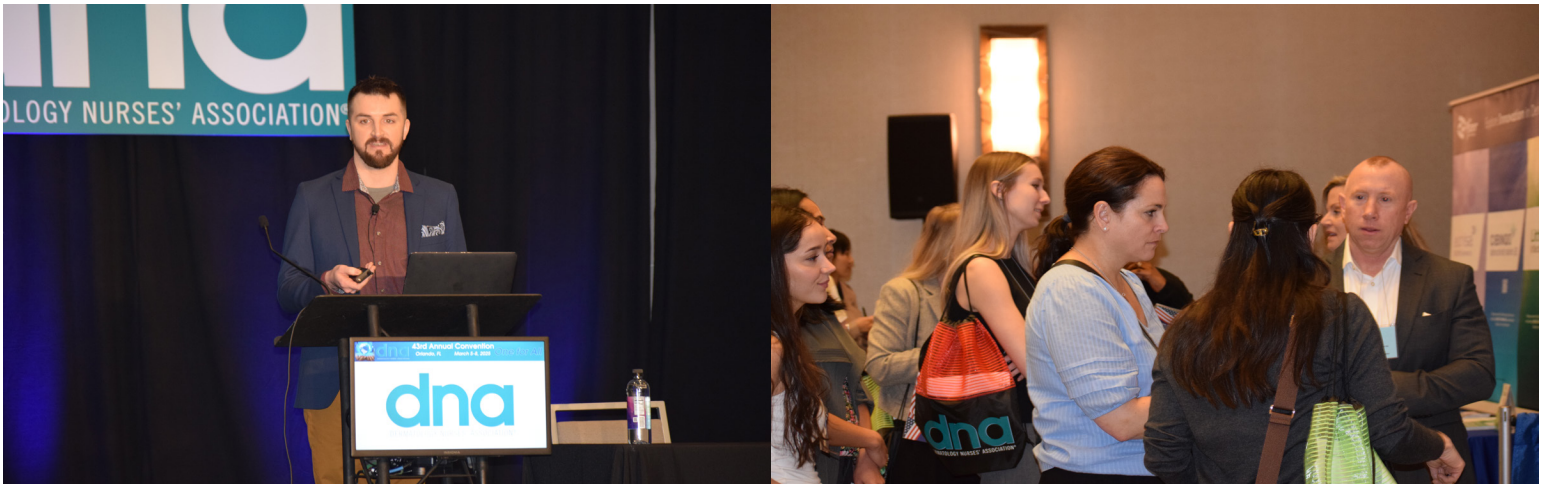
- Address educational needs through dermatologic programs based on feedback from previous conventions, educational needs assessments, evidence-based practice, current guidelines, therapies, and research.
- Provide opportunities for networking and professional growth.
- Facilitate mentoring, leadership development, fellowship, and social engagement to enhance professional growth for all attendees.
- Promote interest in dermatology-related fields, including safety, ethics, research, clinical testing, publishing, management, diverse and unbiased care, inclusivity, leadership, fellowship, and advocacy to advance dermatologic care.

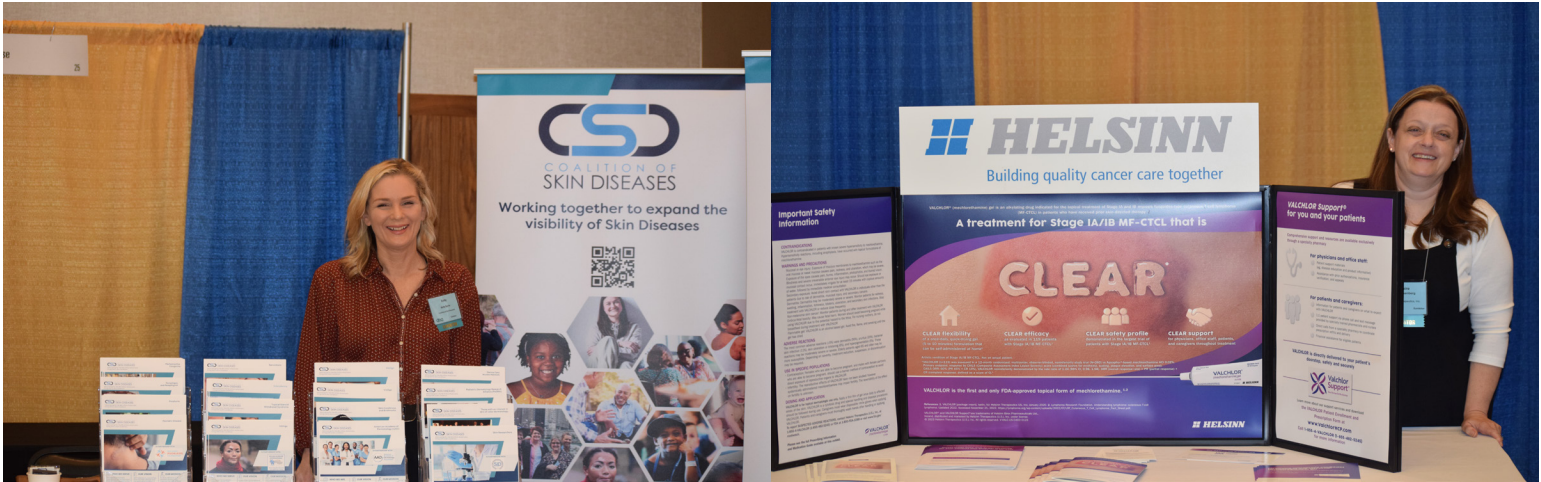
Exhibitors were present, allowing attendees ample time to visit the exhibits, engage with pharmaceutical representatives to learn about new treatments in dermatology, and speak with representatives about new products and services. Nursing and commercial posters were also available for review in the exhibit hall.

A Laser Hands-On Workshop, presented by Nina Harry, was conducted during the regular sessions. The convention concluded on Saturday with a half-day of basic and a half-day of advanced aesthetics, chaired and presented by Blake Bryant, DNP, FNP, DNC. As dermatology constantly evolves, attending the Convention helped participants stay engaged and up-to-date on the latest trends, evidence-based practices, and treatments to best meet their patients' needs. While the primary purpose of the DNA Convention was education and networking, Orlando offered a vibrant backdrop with world-famous attractions, along with a thriving art scene and diverse cuisine, making it an appealing destination for our Dermatology Nurses.

DNA's Annual Convention remains a must-attend event for all dermatology providers, nurses, and healthcare professionals interested in the field of dermatology.







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 affect 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

Follow us on social media @DNANurses

<https://www.dnanurse.org>

DNC Proud: Maintaining Credentials into Retirement

Certification provides an added credential beyond licensure for Registered Nurses and Nurse Practitioners demonstrating a core body of specialized knowledge and adherence to specialized nursing standards. Consumer protection and peer and public recognition are just a few of the many benefits of certification. The Dermatology Nurse Certified (DNC) designated credential is awarded to those Registered Nurses who have successfully completed the certification process by meeting the eligibility criteria and passing a written examination.

Attaining specialty certification in Dermatology Nursing is such a rewarding achievement for most nurses that it becomes a part of their identity. (I must admit that I am immensely proud to add DNC to my credentials; it always reminds me of my efforts, knowledge, and commitment to Dermatology Nursing and lets others know that I am devoted to continuous learning and expertise in this field.) Consequently, many nurses are interested in continuing to proudly display that achievement in their retirement. As a result, the Dermatology Nursing Certification Board (DNCB) decided that it was essential to create a policy that ensures standardized procedures to facilitate the application process for the retired credential and the possibility to recertify.

Retired Credential Policy

The DNCB offers nurses retiring from their profession the option to keep their credential in a retired capacity for an unlimited time. This credential is available for nurses who have retired during their active certification period.

The holder of the DNC-Retired credential is NOT considered certified and, as a result, the DNC credential is not to be used after the nurse's name and signature. The retired credential expressed as DNC-Retired may be used on a resume, business card, or professional/business correspondence.

Obtaining the DNC-Retired credential allows nurses to reclaim active DNC certification within 2 years of being granted the retired status. All nurses who have previously requested the retired credential will be notified of this policy and will have 2 years from the date of this policy to reactivate to an active DNC certification.

If you have requested the retired credential in the past or would like to learn more about the retired credential, please review the information and procedures found on our webpage:

<https://www.dnanurse.org/dnc-certification/#1731957842026-61d173de-5c02>

If you are interested in attaining the DNC credential, visit the DNA webpage, reach out to the DNCB Board, or visit us at the DNA Convention's DNCB Booth. Grants are available to support 3 RNs to take the Dermatology Nursing Certification examination. Information at:

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



Dermatology Nursing Certification Board

Visit the DNC Certification Center Online



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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.

CHAPTER CORNER

WISCONSIN/ILLINOIS CHAPTER
JOAN POHUTSKY DNP, NP-BC

Tell us about your Chapter:

Our chapter is unique in that it encompasses members of two neighboring states, Wisconsin and Illinois. The Wisconsin chapter was chartered on May 10, 1990, but combined with the Illinois chapter in recent years. There is a mixture of membership type between newer members joining within the past 5 years, as well as chapter members that have been active in the DNA since before the charter date! Chapter leadership dedicates their time and knowledge to continue chapter activities, and regularly meet the first Wednesday of every month.

What ways do you grow your Chapter?

Membership has been variable over the years, especially during the pandemic years. We have worked hard to maintain our cohesion and grow our chapter through welcoming interested members to leadership meetings, and offering a variety of continuing education events. Because our chapter spans a large geographic area, many of our continuing education events have been virtual-which has made attendance more attainable for members. We encourage leadership support and progression, offering to send two members to the national convention every year.

What impact does your Chapter make in your local area?

We focus on providing easily accessible educational programming to increase competency and knowledge of our dermatology provider members, directly impacting the care we provide in our respective practice locations. Sharing knowledge and expertise, and expanding opportunities for dissemination of discussion of such information, allows us to continue to provide excellent patient care and improve patient outcome.

What impact does your Chapter have on DNA?

Our chapter is unique in the ways we've used technology to expand our programming, piloting our "Dermatology Updates" live, virtual series the past couple of years. In these programs, a mixture of physician, nurse practitioner, and nurse panelists educate our chapter members. We've received great evaluation feedback from the programming.

What do your Chapter members love most about DNA?

Our chapter members love the networking aspect of the DNA, and getting to collaborate with a diverse group of dermatology providers at convention as well as online. They are excited that educational programs are offered on the national and local level, and getting access to our excellent bi-monthly journal, the Journal of the Dermatology Nurses' Association (JDNA).

What advice would you give to new and existing members?

I would give the advice to jump in and volunteer within the organization, whether that is with a role within your local chapter or within the national committees and board. I've met so many amazing dermatology providers across the country that I feel lucky to call my colleagues and friends by volunteering. Whether you are a seasoned member or a newer member learning about leadership opportunities, there is a role for you and you will feel supported and mentored throughout. The skills I've learned volunteering in DNA leadership positions has strengthened my abilities practicing in my professional role as a dermatology nurse practitioner.

What's one thing -DNA or Dermatology related – that you learned in the last month?

I recently attended the Mayo Clinic's 19th Annual Practical Course in Dermoscopy & Update on Malignant Melanoma event. One seminar focused on the future of melanoma diagnostics, and highlighted a technology called Nevisense- a device in which the clinic I currently practice in has been trialing. Nevisense is a non invasive tool that utilizes electrical impedance spectroscopy to help determine if a biopsy is needed, thus improving the accuracy of melanoma detection. It is exciting to continue to learn about the future of our profession.

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.

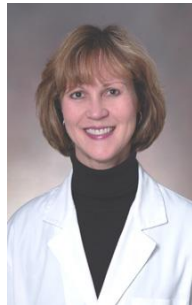
Nurse practitioners in dermatology emphasize the patient-centered holistic approach to dermatology through expert care, comprehensive examination, clear communication and continuity of care.

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



Congratulations to our Convention Award Winners and DNPCB Grant Winner, along with our DNA “Member Get a New Member Campaign” - our tremendous thanks to everyone who participated in the 2023 - 2024 Member Campaign - Growth is in our DNA!

Recruited 1 New Member

- Mat Avram
- Bridget Bellamy
- Carolyn Catinazzo
- Rhonda Hand
- Katelin Hartmann
- Rachel Howard
- Jessica Lansky
- Faye Lyons
- Kyle Morris
- Gilly Munavalli
- Heather Onoday
- Ashley Sanders
- Megan Schlichte
- Johnna Smith
- Christina Smitley
- Leslie Stahulak
- Rosa Stocker
- Jamie Villers

Recruited 2-4 New Members

- Robyn O’Keefe-Miller
- David Schlichting
- Brie Trefrey

Convention Award *(pictured above)*

- Michelle M. Clarahan, BSN, RN, DNC, CPN
- Kristi Johnson, RN

DNPCB Grant

- Briana Wischnack, NP

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 two completed consecutive 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 year round. Deadline for applications to be received and reviewed is October 1st 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 or call 800-454-4362.

DON'T MISS OUT ON THESE VALUABLE OPPORTUNITIES! APPLY TODAY!

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

On the Job

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

There are several benefits resulting from membership in the Dermatology Nurses Association! I joined as a Medical Assistant back in 2010 with the goal of gaining access to specialized education and professional development opportunities as I charted a course to obtain my BSN, RN. I met wonderful people along the way and learned a great deal from attending the annual conferences as well. As a member you can stay up to date on the latest dermatology trends, treatments, and best practices through:

- Continuing education courses: These courses can help nurses stay current with the latest advancements and maintain certifications.
- Networking opportunities: The DNA connects dermatology nurses with peers, mentors, and experts in the field, providing valuable opportunities to exchange knowledge and experiences.
- Exclusive resources: Members get access to journals, research, guidelines, and webinars specifically tailored to dermatology nursing.
- Advocacy: DNA advocates for dermatology nurses on a national level, helping to shape policies that impact the profession.
- Belonging to a professional organization like DNA provides credibility, enhances career opportunities, and ensures you're part of a community dedicated to advancing dermatology nursing.



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

Getting involved with DNA, you align yourself with a community dedicated to excellence in dermatological care, gaining access to resources and support that can significantly enhance your professional journey. Attending conference is always a good start! In addition, there are several opportunities to get involved in various roles or committees that allow for enhancing both creativity and leadership skills within their nursing practice. Developing as a nurse and continuing to grow benefits not only ourselves and each other but most importantly our patients!

Describe your first experience with DNA

My first experience with DNA was attending conference in Las Vegas, 2013. I remember feeling very nervous about going. I also had a poster presentation for the conference. I met lots of people, learned a great deal and had a good time! I remember leaving the conference with more confidence and new friends. The following year I joined the Planning Committee and took part in organizing the next conference for my fellow DNA members. It is a great committee to join if you enjoy creating and coordinating.

On the Job (*continued*)

What is the most satisfying aspect of your job?

One of the most satisfying aspects of being a dermatology nurse is the opportunity to make a visible, positive impact on patients' lives. Many dermatological issues affect people's self-esteem and confidence, so helping them achieve clearer skin or manage chronic conditions can be incredibly rewarding. I have always enjoyed the strong patient relationships, providing education, support, and reassurance. In addition, the diversity of medical procedures, skin cancer screenings, acne treatments, and cosmetic procedures keeps it interesting as I am challenged to learn new things. As a Dermatology Nurse I have developed over the years and most recently serve my group as a Dermatology Team Lead. This role has been one of the most challenging opportunities and yet one of the most rewarding positions in my nursing career. I have been blessed to have a Nurse Manager who has supported me through the challenges that leadership brings. She encouraged me very early on in my career at Mayo Clinic to get involved in the DNA. I have no regrets and feel like all the people I have met, and the education gained has helped me become a better Nurse.

On the Side

What would you be doing if you hadn't become a dermatology nurse?

I think I would have gone into OB/Women's Health. Because nursing was a 2nd career for me, I have not ventured very far from dermatology at this point. I love dermatology because there is so much to learn, and my days are never boring. I also love the people I work with! I am very fortunate.

Words to live by or favorite quote?

One of my favorite quotes is from Maya Angelou: "We may encounter many defeats, but we must not be defeated." It's a reminder that challenges are part of life, but our resilience and ability to keep going is what defines us. It's a great mindset to hold onto, especially when things get tough. This kept me going during the Covid pandemic which impacted so many of us working in this field. It was a very difficult time. As a Registered Nurse, I like to live in the solution as much as possible and create space for healing and hope.





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

Being a volunteer for DNA has given me the opportunity to give back to a profession that has shaped me in so many ways. Nursing is more than just a job - it is a calling, and dermatology has been my passion for over 20 years. Volunteering allows me to support others in their journey, whether they're new to the field or seasoned professionals looking to grow. I love being a friendly face (or name in an email) that welcomes new members and helps them navigate their membership. If I can be that small connection that encourages someone to stay engaged, ask questions, or explore dermatology further, then I consider that a win.

How has volunteering with DNA enriched you as a person?

Volunteering has reminded me how important community is. It's easy to get caught up in the day-to-day demands of work, but through DNA, I've connected with so many like-minded professionals who share my passion for dermatology and education. It has reinforced my belief that mentorship and guidance can make all the difference in someone's career. Seeing new members become more involved, feeling welcomed, and reaching out with questions brings me joy.

What motivates you to want to volunteer with the DNA?

As a first-generation Mexican-American and a nurse with a master's degree, I know how powerful representation can be. My parents came to this country with big dreams for me, and I want to show others - especially those from underrepresented backgrounds - that they, too, can achieve great things in nursing and dermatology. I want high schoolers, nursing students, and even practicing nurses to see my name, my credentials, and my passion, and know that they have someone in their corner. My role in DNA allows me to be a small but impactful part of that encouragement.

What have you helped your committee accomplish in the last year?

One of my main contributions has been welcoming new members and helping them navigate DNA's resources. A simple email might not seem like much, but when a new member sees a Spanish last name with "MSN, RN" attached, it sends a message: Someone like me is here, and they've worked hard to get where they are. It's that small but important step in making DNA a more inclusive and welcoming space.

How has your committee worked to further the goals and vision of the DNA?

DNA is about education, mentorship, and professional growth. By fostering connections between members, encouraging participation, and making sure everyone feels included, our committee plays a vital role in strengthening the network of dermatology nurses. Every new member we engage with is another person empowered to learn, grow, and contribute to our field. At the end of the day, my goal as a volunteer is simple: to be a cheerleader for others in this profession. I hope my story - one of perseverance, passion, and paying it forward - will inspire someone else to believe in their own potential. If I can help even one person take that next step, then my role in DNA has been more than worth it.





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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 if interested or for more information.

Margaret “Peggy” Vernon, RN, MA, CPNP, DCNP, FAANP was born on July 3, 1950, to Joseph and Margaret Kanies. Peggy was a Nurse Practitioner and a pioneer in the nursing field. She earned her associate degree in nursing from Arapahoe Community College, her Bachelor of Nursing from Metropolitan State College, was one of the first to earn a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Certificate from the University of Colorado, a Master’s of Counseling from University of Northern Colorado, and a Post-Master’s Clinical Dermatology Nurse Practitioner Certificate from Regis University. Peggy was a part of a team that initiated the nation’s first fellowship for dermatological nurse practitioners in the state of Colorado. She was an Adjunct Professor, and most recently launched an innovative Dermatology Nurse Practitioner Fellowship program at Regis University. She was one of the first dermatology NPs to own her own full-service dermatology practice, Creekside Skin Care in Centennial, Colorado.



Peggy served in numerous nurse practitioner leadership positions, including the Dermatology Nurses’ Association and the Society of Dermatology Nurse Practitioners. She was instrumental in developing the National Nurse Practitioner Symposium held each year in Keystone, Colorado and ensured that the conference had a robust dermatology curriculum. Peggy was a frequent speaker at national and international meetings and to her credit, has more than a dozen publications, including peer-reviewed journals and book chapters. She was instrumental in contributing to the development of the Dermatology Nurse Practitioner Competencies and the Dermatology Nurse Practitioner Scope and Standards of Practice.

During her distinguished career, she has received many honors and awards including the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Society of Dermatology Nurse Practitioners. She has the distinction of being Colorado’s first dermatology nurse practitioner and was named a Fellow of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners, one of the first dermatology NPs to receive the prestigious distinction. She was passionate about educating and mentoring the next generation of nurses and nurse practitioners and has touched the lives of thousands of patients, families, doctors, nurses, and NPs.

Peggy served others with a humble and loving spirit. She always had time to listen to others, and to offer sage advice. While she loved her professional life, her true pride and joy was her family, who she loved unconditionally and with great passion. Peggy passed away on January 26, 2025, and is survived by her husband and best friend, Rod Vernon, children Traci Slade (Todd) and Kevin Vernon, grandchildren Tia, Madilyn, Trent, Ruby, Trystan, Bodhi, and Crosby, and her brother, Jim. She was preceded in death by her parents, and two brothers, Terry, and Paul Kanies.

The dermatology nursing family has lost a hero and a legend. Peggy’s spirit lives on in the hearts, minds and hands of the many nurses and NPs who had the privilege of knowing her. She was a consummate professional and led her life with elegance and grace. She received many awards and accolades as a nurse practitioner, and she is leaving an everlasting legacy in the field of dermatology nursing practice. Her ending line of emails was “If you want more joy in the world - Put it there”. The world is truly a more joyful place because we were blessed to have the amazing “Miz P” in it.



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.

Visit the Courses Online at:
<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.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

April 2024

National Cancer Control Month

National Public Health Week - April 1-7th

National Volunteer Week - April 21-27th

World Health Day - April 7th

Administrative Professionals Day - April 24th

World Day for Safety and Health at Work - April 28th

May 2024

Skin Cancer Awareness Month

National Nurses Week - May 6-12th

National Safe Sun Week - May 20-26th

Melanoma Monday - May 6th

National Student Nurses Day - May 8th

International Nurses Day - May 12th

Don't Fry Day - May 24th



June 2024

Beautiful in Your Skin Month

National Cancer Survivor Day - June 2nd

Bed Bug Awareness Week - June 2-8th

Certified Nursing Assistants Week - June 13-19th

World Vitiligo Day - June 25th

Available in the CE Center RN Online Certification Course

Welcome to the Dermatology Certified RN (DNC) Online Review Course. This course was designed to provide the RN with a concise study guide to help prepare for the certification examination. It represents the countless volunteer hours of authors, vetters, and pilot testers. The course consists of 6 modules. The subject matter for each module was derived from content mapping of the DNC examination. 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 11.5 Nursing Continuing Professional Development/Continuing Education (NCPD/CE) credits, which includes 1.00 ANCC Pharmacotherapeutic Contact Hour Credit.

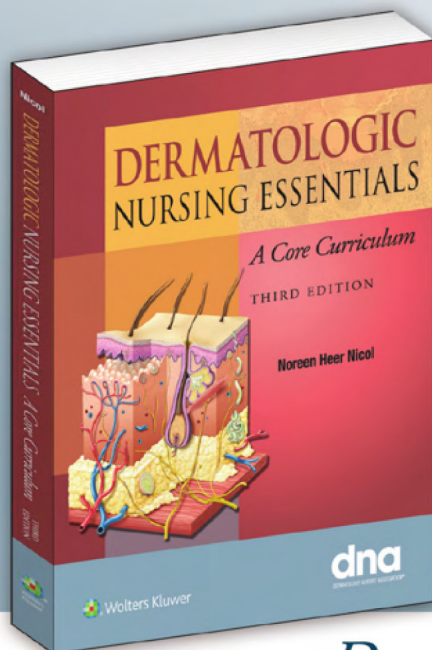
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2016
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Noreen Heer Nicol, PhD

ISBN: 978-1-4511-8878-3

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Promoting Excellence in Dermatological Care



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

A background image showing a person in a white lab coat holding a smartphone. Overlaid on the image are various medical and technology icons, including a stethoscope, a laptop, a microscope, a heart with a plus sign, a magnifying glass, and a smartphone. The URL "www.dnanurse.org" is written in a large, blue, sans-serif font across the middle of the image.

www.dnanurse.org

DNA Website:

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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.