

THIRD QUARTER 2026

Nurse Practitioner Spotlight with Beth Haney

DNA Awards and Scholarship Winner Yota Vang

Talking Leadership with Brie Wischnack

**The Benefits of Volunteering with
Leslie Thompson**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

3	DNA President's Message
4	Welcome New DNA Members
5	Board of Directors Minutes
7	Financial Oversight Report
9	Education Advisory Council
12	DNCB Updates
15	Nurse Practitioner Spotlight
20	DNA Awards and Scholarships Winner
23	DNA Leadership Corner
26	DNA Volunteer Interview



DERMATOLOGY NURSES' ASSOCIATION®

Mission Statement

The Dermatology Nurses' Association mission is to cultivate a supportive community and deliver comprehensive resources for current and aspiring dermatology nurses, nurse practitioners, nursing students, and other care team members, empowering them with the knowledge, skills, and inspiration to excel in dermatologic care.

FOCUS, Third Quarter, 2026

Dermatology Nurses' Association

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Linda Markham, BSN, RN, DNC

<https://www.dnanurse.org>

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1-800-454-4362

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Dear DNA Members,

It is a privilege to write to you as President of the Dermatology Nurses' Association, and an honor to work closely with a Board and to come to know members as talented and as diverse as ours. What has stood out most since stepping into this role is how much ground our membership covers. Our members practice across an enormous range of settings, including clinics, hospitals, academic centers, private practice, industry, education, and research, and bring backgrounds from every corner of nursing. That reach is our greatest asset, and it shapes everything this Board is working toward.

Dermatology nursing is growing and evolving quickly. Our responsibility is to make sure the DNA moves with it. We are looking at ways to modernize how we connect with members, deliver education, and bring new clinicians into the specialty.

Our central priority is growing membership and making sure we are meeting our members' needs. More nurses, nurse practitioners, and health care providers across the entire dermatology care team are entering this specialty, and many do not yet know that a professional home exists for them here. Meeting those needs means expanding what we teach and who we teach it to. We have several educational efforts underway, along with exploring new mentorship and networking opportunities and a continued emphasis on certification.

Dermatologic care is collaborative by nature, and our educational efforts reflect that. Every member of the dermatology care team contributes to the patient experience, and outcomes reflect the competence of the team as a whole rather than any single clinician. These roles also constitute a professional continuum: many of our nurse practitioners entered the specialty as medical assistants or bedside

nurses, and the dermatology nurse of today is the dermatology nurse practitioner of tomorrow. Educating the team at every level is therefore both an immediate obligation to our patients and a long-term investment in the future of the specialty.

The DNA brings together providers from across the dermatology field: medical, surgical, pediatric, oncologic, wound care, aesthetics, and beyond, each with different training, different practice settings, and different education. That variation is precisely what makes this organization valuable. The knowledge one member has accumulated over years in a subspecialty is knowledge another member is looking for right now, and our role is to close that distance.

We want to meet more of you. Our focus this year is on member engagement and networking, and we are looking for members who want to be more actively involved, whether that means sharing a quick clinical pearl, mentoring a nurse who is new to dermatology, contributing to educational content, or connecting with colleagues while exploring a new position.

Most importantly, tell us what you want from your professional organization. Which topics, which formats, what would make membership indispensable? Please reach out to the board directly at: dnanursesorg@gmail.com

Thank you for continuing to elevate dermatology through your practice, and for choosing to do that work alongside this organization. This organization belongs to you.

With gratitude,
Nina Harry, MSN, FNP-BC
President, Dermatology Nurses' Association



DNA WELCOMES OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Aponte, Chynna, Elizabeth, New Jersey

Auffermann, Diana, Merrick, New York

Bohac, Autumn, Effingham, Illinois

Broussard, Tiffany, West Monroe, Louisiana

Campbell, Sydne, Biddeford, Maine

Chesney, Katelyn, Lebanon, New Hampshire

Cho-Wenzlaff, Hee, Baltimore, Maryland

Cicon, Indijana, Rincon, Georgia

Clark, Emily, Portland, Oregon

Cohen, Jana, Calabasas, California

Craig, Christina, Rochester, Michigan

Demsky, Ashley, Portland, Oregon

Deng, Abby, Madison, Wisconsin

Dotchou, Afi, Germantown, Maryland

Dunkelberger, Sophie, Laguna Beach, California

Edge, Alexis, Seymour, Tennessee

Farrar, Katharine, Porter, Texas

Feddersen, Alexander, Falmouth, Maine

Flores, Aleasa, Lake Elsinore, California

Gilbert, Jennifer, Catharpin, Virginia

Hamlett, Megan, Concord, Virginia

Johnson, Arionne, Las Vegas, Nevada

Keavney, Jennifer, San Carlos, California

Kelly, Holly, South Bend, Indiana

Kenderdine, Ashley, Sellersville, Pennsylvania

Messam, Chantoye, Upper Marlboro, Maryland

Moore, Virginia, Sedro Woolley, Washington

Mukhatev, Michael, Palm Springs, California

Nieto, Giovanni, Jacksonville, Florida

Onah, Adaeze, Chicago, Illinois

Scott, Angela, Langley, British Columbia

Shaw, Emily, Hillsborough, North Carolina

Topala, Renee, Montgomery, Ohio

Tuck, Elizabeth, Cadillac, Michigan

Tyler, Kendra, Old Forge, Pennsylvania

Varghese, Reenu, Pearland, Texas

Zielinski, Marina, Beaufort, South Carolina

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES

T. DANIELLE WILLIAMS, FNP-BC, DCNP

On Tuesday, April 14, 2026 the DNA BOD held its Board Orientation Meeting.

Board Members Present:

- Nina Harry, President
- Karisa Son, Treasurer
- Mary Fish, Director
- Maura Flynn, Director
- Briana Wischnack, Director

DNA Staff:

- Linda Markham, DNA Executive Director
- Kara Briggs, DNA Administrative Coordinator

The Board convened for orientation to review the governance materials and expectations that guide Board service, all of which were posted to Basecamp for ongoing reference. Topics included the history of the DNA, the role and timeline of the Nominating Committee, Board liaison responsibilities, the action agenda process, the operational calendar, the ten basic Board responsibilities, the DNA Ambassador program, and the DNA Bylaws. The three fiduciary duties of care, loyalty, and obedience were outlined, along with the distinction between the Board's governance role and the staff's role in operationalizing Board decisions. Discussion of the 2026 Strategic Plan focused on which areas should be developed for the remainder of the year, with members weighing membership recruitment and retention against a desire for further clarification of roles and management structure. The Board voted to discontinue Board meeting evaluations in their current form. Action items included review of orientation materials, a written response to management and contract questions, development of a new evaluation process, identification of Nominating Committee candidates, a report on portfolio trends, and a future deep-dive discussion on 2027 convention options once the 2026 convention financials are available.

On Tuesday, May 12, 2026 the DNA BOD held its monthly meeting.

Board Members Present:

- Nina Harry, President
- Karisa Son, Treasurer
- T. Danielle Williams, Secretary
- Mary Fish, Director
- Maura Flynn, Director
- Briana Wischnack, Director

DNA Staff:

- Linda Markham, DNA Executive Director
- Kara Briggs, DNA Administrative Coordinator

The Board reviewed eleven pending action items and closed several carried over from earlier in the year. After discussing options for dedicated Board email addresses, the Board voted not to move forward with a professional DNA email platform and instead directed members to consider standardized Gmail accounts for DNA business, an approach that is free, easily managed, and avoids added cost. The Board approved a new member of the Education Advisory Council on the recommendation of the committee chair and the Accredited Provider Program Director. A proposed patient advocacy collaboration with Indero, a dermatology and rheumatology research company, was tabled so that members could submit clarifying questions before any agreement is formalized. The Board approved a collaboration with the Biologic Coordinators of Dermatology, which includes a September 2026 webinar, a speaker exchange at the organizations' respective conferences, shared on-demand continuing education resources, reciprocal newsletter promotion, and an exhibit booth exchange. The Board closed with a review of the Nominating Committee timeline and the outreach required to produce a slate of candidates for the next election.

On Tuesday, June 9, 2026 the DNA BOD held its monthly meeting.

Board Members Present:

- Nina Harry, President
- Karisa Son, Treasurer
- T. Danielle Williams, Secretary
- Mary Fish, Director
- Maura Flynn, Director
- Briana Wischnack, Director

DNA Staff:

- Linda Markham, DNA Executive Director
- Kara Briggs, DNA Administrative Coordinator

Following a review of pending action items, the Board approved T. Danielle Williams as President-Elect. Because that appointment creates a Secretary vacancy, the Board discussed potential candidates and tabled a decision pending verification of membership status. The Nominating Committee Chair position remains unfilled, with candidates under consideration and an updated curriculum vitae requested for review prior to appointment. The Board requested that the consulting assessment completed for the organization be posted for newer members who had not previously reviewed it. The Board further discussed the Bylaws requirement for an annual meeting and whether a virtual format or a joint convention could reduce cost in 2027.

Dear Diary...

WHO SHOULD
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ADVANCED
PRACTICE
PROVIDERS

Unlocking the Secrets to Better Care of Patients with Plaque Psoriasis

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October 14
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Make plans to attend this CE-certified educational activity designed to improve the care of your patients with plaque psoriasis.

Featured Topics: Pathophysiology, efficacy/safety of systemic and topical therapies, and patient quality of life issues.

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Third Quarter 2026 Financials

Quarterly Financial Update
(April, May, June of 2026)

Gross Revenue	\$ 168,199
Gross Expenses	\$ 467,407
	=====
Net Operating Income (loss)	\$ (299,208)
Balance on hand	\$ 120,257
DNA Membership	694

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Dermatology Nurses' Association Membership Portal

The Dermatology Nurses' Association (DNA) membership portal is a state-of-the-art system that 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 DNA Membership Portal](#)

New in the DNA CE Center: Aesthetics Core Curriculum Workshop

The Education Advisory Council is excited to announce a new learning opportunity in the Dermatology Nurses' Association CE Center: Aesthetics: A DNA Premiere Core Curriculum Workshop. This self-paced workshop brings together foundational, evidence-based education for dermatology professionals who want to expand their understanding of aesthetic practice while keeping safety, regulation, and patient-centered care at the forefront.

Participants explore the aesthetic industry from several complementary perspectives. The curriculum reviews state practice acts, licensing requirements, federal oversight, and FDA regulations before moving into the science and clinical application of aesthetic treatments. Learners will examine laser and intense pulsed light physics, how light interacts with skin chromophores, and approaches to integrating laser science into inclusive care for patients of all skin tones.

The workshop also introduces injectable anatomy and treatment mapping, with attention to the anatomical structures and safety protocols that support effective use of neuromodulators and dermal fillers. Additional modules review hyaluronic acid fillers, regenerative aesthetics, and the thoughtful combination and layering of therapies to enhance outcomes. Throughout the curriculum, participants are encouraged to consider risk management, patient communication, and safe treatment planning.

This core curriculum will build knowledge and help learners identify appropriate next steps for practical, hands-on training. It is not a substitute for supervised skills development, but it provides a strong educational foundation for those exploring or advancing within aesthetic dermatology.

Participants who complete the workshop in its entirety will receive 7.50 Nursing Continuing Professional Development/Continuing Education credits, including 0.67 ANCC pharmacotherapeutic contact hours. Please note that access to this self-paced workshop is available for three months after purchase.

The development of this curriculum reflects the dedication of our faculty, nurse planners, content experts, reviewers, pilot testers, and EAC members. We are grateful for the time and expertise they contributed to creating a comprehensive resource for our members.

We invite you to explore Aesthetics: A DNA Premiere Core Curriculum Workshop and the many other educational offerings available through the DNA CE Center at:

<http://dna.digitellinc.com/dna/>.



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.



Dermatology Nursing Certification Board

Visit the DNC Certification Center Online



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

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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.

Dermatology Nurse Certification: Why Wait?

Dermatology nursing is a specialty that asks us to bring together knowledge, skill, compassion, and attention to detail. Every day, dermatology nurses support patients who may be facing something new, uncomfortable, visible, or deeply personal. We educate, reassure, assist with procedures, identify concerns, reinforce treatment plans, and help patients feel seen and cared for. That work matters, and becoming Dermatology Nurse Certified (DNC) is one way to recognize the value of the expertise we use every day.

Certification is not about claiming to know everything. It is about choosing to keep learning, growing, and showing up with confidence in a specialty that continues to evolve. The DNC credential reflects time, commitment, and pride in dermatology nursing. It tells patients that their nurse has invested in specialty knowledge, and it tells our teams that professional growth is worth pursuing.

For nurses, certification can be a powerful confidence builder. It can support opportunities to mentor others, participate in quality improvement, contribute to staff education, or step into new leadership responsibilities. It also strengthens the voice of dermatology nurses by highlighting the specialized knowledge behind the care we provide. When we invest in our own professional development, we bring that growth back to our patients, our colleagues, and our practice.

One of the best parts of certification is the example it sets. When one nurse takes that step, it can encourage another nurse to ask questions, study, prepare, and believe they can do it too. Certification becomes more than an individual accomplishment; it becomes a culture of learning, encouragement, and professional pride. It reminds us that growth does not have to wait until we feel completely ready.

If dermatology nursing is work you care about, certification is a meaningful way to honor that commitment. Your experience already has value; certification helps make it visible. So do not wait for the perfect time, the perfect schedule, or the perfect amount of confidence. Start with one step. Open the study guide. Ask a certified colleague for advice. Set the goal. The letters after your name will not just tell others what you earned; they will remind you of what you were brave enough to begin.

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.

Visit the CE Center Online:
<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.

Dermatology Nursing Essentials

A DNA Premiere Core Curriculum Workshop

Visit the DNA CE Center to get started!

Course Description

The Dermatology Nursing Essentials Premiere Core Curriculum Workshop has been developed for the new or experienced dermatology healthcare professional (NP, RN, LPN, MA, Office Staff) to help them gain an overall understanding of the body's largest organ, the integumentary system. Anatomy and physiology to common diseases and treatments encountered in dermatology are the focus. This course is also recommended for dermatology nurses who work in specialized dermatology practices, such as surgery or aesthetic dermatology, or who are reviewing for national certification in dermatology nursing, nursing students, and other healthcare professionals interested in dermatology. This expert faculty have authored chapters in the current DNA textbook, *Dermatologic Nursing Essentials, A Core Curriculum*, 3rd Edition. This workshop is an online core curriculum supplement to the DNA *Dermatologic Nursing Essentials* textbook.

Estimated time for completion: 8.33 hours

Participants who complete this workshop in its entirety will be awarded 8.33 Nursing Continuing Professional Development/Continuing Education (NCPD/CE), which includes 1.33 ANCC Pharmacotherapeutic Contact Hour Credit.

This self-paced premiere core curriculum workshop is only available for three months after purchase.

Learning Outcome: Individuals participating in this professional development activity will have an increased knowledge and understanding of the integumentary system, disease processes, skin assessment, wound healing, and treatment modalities.

Objectives:

- Name the layers and appendages of the skin which comprise the integumentary system.
- List subjective and objective information necessary for a comprehensive assessment of the skin.
- Identify common dermatology disorders of the sebaceous, apocrine, and eccrine glands.
- Distinguish between premalignant lesions and malignant skin lesions by different growth patterns and clinical presentations.
- Identify skin disorders that would be appropriate for phototherapy and desired outcomes.
- List appropriate treatment modalities for infection, bites/stings, and infestations.
- Define several types of eczemas and their clinical presentations including atopic dermatitis, seborrheic dermatitis, contact dermatitis and nummular eczema.
- Define the phases of wound healing.
- List three factors that delay the wound healing process.

The cost of the workshop: DNA member \$160 and nonmember price \$225.

Lessons:

Module 1- Introduction
Module 2- A & P of the Integumentary System
Module 3- Skin Assessment
Module 4- Infections, Bites, Stings, and Infestations
Module 5- Phototherapy Basics
Module 6- Papulosquamous Diseases
Module 7- Cutaneous Malignancies
Module 8- Wound Healing
Module 9- Acne and Other Disorders of the Glands

What is your name?

My name is Beth Haney

What setting do you work in?

I opened my first aesthetics office in Yorba Linda, CA in 2006 and I sold it to a plastic surgeon from Beverly Hills in 2023. I had a fantastic team and we grew it into a multi-year award winning practice. I employed 4 nurse practitioners, one registered nurse, 3 office staff and one aesthetician, all of whom were, and still are, the best in the business. I continue to go back once a quarter to see patients. I moved to Idaho in 2024 and opened my second aesthetics practice in Eagle, Idaho in 2025 and plan to grow it into the best in the area as well.

I also teach the nurse practitioner health policy course at University of Southern California (USC) and I co-developed and teach the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) leadership course at Boise State University (BSU).

I am also very involved in the communities where I live. I served as mayor and councilwoman of Yorba Linda, CA for 8 years and was involved with the Chamber of Commerce there. I am currently a member of the Eagle Chamber of Commerce and am building a fantastic network of people in the area.

How long have you been a nurse practitioner?

I have been a nurse practitioner for 26 years – I did my undergrad and graduate work at Loma Linda University and earned my DNP at University of Colorado, Colorado Springs in 2010.

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

I am certified in family practice and started out at a small, physician-owned family practice office and simultaneously worked in urgent care for several years before adding aesthetic practice into my schedule. I have been working in aesthetics since 2002.

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

My role as an NP in my practice(s), is to ensure patients are getting the best, most current care and treatments possible. Teaching and mentoring students and colleagues is where I derive the greatest joy from my professional role. I also serve as the leader of my practice(s) and employee satisfaction and growth are priorities for me.



Continued on next page...

What kind of procedures do you do daily?

I do facial dermal filler procedures in various areas and at different depths in the skin depending on the desired outcome. Neurotoxins, microneedling, intense pulsed light, and CO2 laser treatments are some of the other procedures that I do. Sunscreen and avoiding long-term sun exposure is a crucial aspect of skin health, so I educate practitioners and patients on the latest developments in sunscreens and other skin care ingredients. It's not the brand that matters, but the ingredients used that matters most.

What is your favorite part of your job as an NP in dermatology?

I love doing things that make other people happy and, working with the public and aesthetic practice offers both of those things. I get to visit with people, assess their concerns, offer information on how to best treat those concerns, and establish relationships that last many years. This is very rewarding for me; I strive to offer exceptional care and outcomes.

There are risks involved with aesthetic procedures, some very serious, that I find interesting and important to understand – this provides a level of challenge that pushes me to be mindful, up to date, and prepared for something unexpected. This also pushes me to educate colleagues and patients on safety aspects of aesthetic procedures. One of the ways I do this is to publish articles, author textbooks, and give national workshops.

What advice would you give to aspiring dermatology nurse practitioners?

Here are a few tidbits in no particular order of importance; 1) learn as much as you can about the skin, 2) learn medications that affect the skin and body systems, 3) best practices in customer service, 4) learn to negotiate effectively, 5) know deadly skin cancer signs, 6) get hands-on training for any procedure – from Botox to punch biopsies, 7) Join a professional dermatology association for NPs such as the DNA and the Nurse Practitioner Society of DNA.

Dr. Beth Haney, DNP, FNP-C, FAANP, FAAN, is a nurse practitioner, educator, and policy leader. She teaches health policy at the University of Southern California and leadership at Boise State University. She founded Luxe Aesthetic Center in 2006 in Yorba Linda, CA, sold it in 2023, and in 2025 she opened Eagle Aesthetics in Eagle, Idaho.

A past president of the California Association for Nurse Practitioners, Dr. Haney has served nationally on the AANP Health Policy Committee, the National Forum for State Nursing Workforce Centers, and as AANP Southern California State Representative. Currently, Dr. Haney serves as co-chair of the Dermatology Community Committee for AANP and as an editorial advisory board member and Advocacy Department Coordinator for The Nurse Practitioner Journal.

An accomplished author and civic leader, she wrote *Aesthetic Procedures: Nurse Practitioner's Guide to Cosmetic Dermatology* (2nd ed., 2024) and previously served as councilwoman and mayor of Yorba Linda, California



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 PowerPoint 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.



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Dear Diary...

WHO SHOULD
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Unlocking the Secrets to Better Care of Patients with Plaque Psoriasis

Please join us for this
free, live, in-person
dinner event and
earn ANCC/AAPA Credit

SEATTLE, WA

Wild Ginger Downtown (Mezzanine Rooms)
1401 3rd Avenue

October 27
6:30-8:30 PM

Make plans to attend this CE-certified educational activity designed to improve the care of your patients with plaque psoriasis.

Featured Topics: Pathophysiology, efficacy/safety of systemic and topical therapies, and patient quality of life issues.

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Supported by educational grants
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YOTA VANG, CMA(AAMA), NURSING STUDENT

Tell us a little about yourself:

I live in Charlotte, North Carolina, and I am currently a nursing student at Central Piedmont Community College in an accelerated Associate Degree Nursing program, with an expected graduation in June 2026. Prior to nursing school, I gained nearly a decade of experience as a Certified Medical Assistant (AAMA) in dermatology, where I supported patients through medical, surgical, and cosmetic procedures. That experience strengthened my attention to detail, patient education skills, and ability to build trust with patients during vulnerable moments. While my long-term interest in skin health remains, I recognize that opportunities in dermatology for new graduate nurses are limited. I am excited to begin my nursing career in an ICU residency with Novant Health, where I will continue developing strong clinical judgment, critical thinking, and acute care skills. My background in dermatology has prepared me to approach patient care with precision, compassion, and a strong foundation in assessment, all of which I will carry into my transition to critical care nursing.



How will this award/scholarship help you in accomplishing your career goals?

This scholarship will support me in continuing my nursing education and transitioning into professional practice with greater confidence and focus. I made the decision to step away from full-time work to become a full-time nursing student, which has required significant personal and financial commitment. This award helps ease that burden and allows me to remain fully dedicated to my education and clinical training. Receiving this scholarship also enables me to invest in continued learning opportunities, certifications, and professional development as I grow into my role as a registered nurse.

What are your short-term and long-term career goals?

In the short term, my primary goal is to successfully pass the NCLEX and begin my transition into professional nursing practice. I am excited to start an ICU residency with Novant Health, where I will spend the next year developing strong clinical judgment, critical thinking, and the ability to care for high-acuity patients. This experience will allow me to build a strong foundation and grow in confidence as a new graduate nurse in a complex clinical environment.

In the long term, I hope to continue advancing my clinical knowledge and leadership within the nursing profession. I plan to pursue my Bachelor of Science in Nursing followed by a master's degree to further expand my opportunities in advanced practice or leadership roles. I also hope to remain actively involved in professional organizations, taking on leadership roles that allow me to advocate for patients and support the growth of others in the field. Additionally, I am passionate about participating in volunteer work, including opportunities to provide care in underserved or international communities.

Continued on next page...

Where do you see yourself ten years from now?

In ten years, I see myself as a highly skilled and confident nurse who has grown both clinically and professionally. I envision myself in a role that allows me to combine clinical expertise with leadership, whether through mentoring new nurses, participating in professional organizations, or contributing to patient education and quality improvement initiatives. I also hope to have advanced my education and continue seeking opportunities that allow me to give back through service and professional involvement. Ultimately, I strive to make a meaningful and lasting impact on the patients and communities I serve.

Who is a role model for you and Why?

My role models are my parents, who are immigrants and have shown me what resilience, determination, and hard work truly look like. They navigated the challenges of adapting to a new country, language, and culture while still building a life centered around providing opportunities for their family. Watching them persevere through uncertainty and obstacles has shaped my work ethic and mindset, especially during difficult moments in my own journey.

Their strength and sacrifices have motivated me to pursue my education with purpose and to remain grounded, compassionate, and driven in everything I do. They have taught me the importance of resilience, adaptability, and giving back—values that I carry with me as I continue to grow in the nursing profession.

What is your favorite part about being a DNA member?

My favorite part about being a member of the Dermatology Nurses' Association is the opportunity to stay connected to a specialty that has been such a meaningful part of my healthcare experience. Although I have been a member for the past three years, I have had the opportunity to attend a seminar in Raleigh, where I was able to learn from experienced professionals and stay current on advancements in dermatologic care. I also enjoy receiving the organization's publications, which allow me to continue learning and stay engaged with new developments in the field. I appreciate how the organization supports continued education, professional growth, and networking.

What have you contributed to our Dermatology Nurses' Association and how do you plan to contribute in the future?

As a member of the Dermatology Nurses' Association for the past three years, my contributions have primarily been through active engagement and a commitment to continued learning. While my involvement has been at a foundational level as a student, it has been meaningful in helping me stay connected to the field of dermatology. In the future, I hope to become more actively involved by attending the national convention, where I can expand my knowledge, connect with other professionals, and learn from leaders in the specialty. I also hope to continue growing within the organization by participating in educational opportunities and may consider contributing through leadership, mentorship, or patient education as I advance in my nursing career.

What is your favorite quote and why?

One of my favorite quotes is by Florence Nightingale: "The best nurse is the one who sees the patient, not just the disease." This quote resonates with me because it reflects the importance of holistic care—treating the whole person rather than focusing only on a diagnosis. Throughout my experience in healthcare and nursing school, I have learned that emotional, psychological, and social factors all play a significant role in healing. I strive to provide care that is not only clinically effective but also compassionate and patient-centered, ensuring that each individual feels seen, heard, and supported.

AWARDS/ SCHOLARSHIPS PROGRAM



Take Advantage of an Underutilized Opportunity!

Each year, the DNA Awards, Grants, and Scholarships Program receives fewer applications than you might expect - meaning your chances of being selected are higher than you think.

If you've been considering applying, now is the perfect time to take that step. Whether you're advancing your education, launching a project, or being recognized for your impact, this could be your moment.

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.

Please direct any questions to the DNA National Office via email at dna@dnanurse.org or via our [Contact Us Page](#) or call 800-454-4362

Dermatology Nurses' Association Awards/Scholarships Program

The DNA Awards, Grants and Scholarship Program is designed to acknowledge and recognize our DNA members and volunteers.

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

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

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

I recommend you find your local chapter or a committee that you are interested in joining and reach out. You can find more information on both on the DNA website under the membership tab. I was approached for two different volunteer roles within DNA. The first was with the planning committee for one of the national conventions and the second was with the research task force. I was able to meet and forge connections with other members through those roles and it helped me become a more invested member of the DNA. Without those initial points of contact, I doubt I would have felt comfortable self-nominating and running for a position of the board of directors.



Describe your first experience with DNA.

My first experience with DNA was at convention. I had just started working as an NP in dermatology and one of the physicians I worked with offered to send me to the convention. I learned so much and was inspired to keep growing as an NP. It was at that convention that I first learned about becoming a DCNP. It took me several years before I felt like I was at a place in my life to really study for the exam, but I finally did it last year and I am so glad I did.

What is the most satisfying aspect of your job?

I like that every single time I go to work, I get to help someone feel more confident. Whether I am treating a major surgical scar or doing miraDry to help with someone's hyperhidrosis, I know that I am making a huge impact on that person's life.

What is your proudest career accomplishment?

The first time I got published was a pretty amazing feeling. I have been doing research with Dr. Ross for many years, but somewhat recently started a more active role in our cases. When Dr. Ross told me that he put my name on that first article and that it was accepted, I was completely speechless. I was proud to be recognized as part of a team that is working to advance our field.

What do you do when you're not working?

One of my favorite things to do in my free time is to try a new recipe. My first undergraduate degree is in chemistry, and I think the technical aspect of baking really hits home for me. Baking is just chemistry you can eat!

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

Friday nights in the Wischnack house are Fro-Yo Fridays. Somehow the kids convinced my husband to start taking them to get frozen yogurt after school on Fridays, and it quickly turned into a routine. Now we go every Friday and usually end up meeting friends there for a quick unwind after a long week.



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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.

Dear Diary...

WHO SHOULD
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LESLIE THOMPSON, RN, BSN EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBER

How has volunteering with the DNA enriched you as a person?

Volunteering with DNA has given me a stronger sense of connection to the dermatology nursing community while also deepening my respect for the specialty. It has deepened my appreciation for the commitment to excellence within dermatology nursing and the responsibility we carry to be not only skilled clinicians, but also leaders within our field. Volunteering with DNA has expanded my perspective of what it means to be a nurse and shown me the impact we can have beyond direct patient care. It has empowered me to use my voice, contribute to the advancement of our profession and step into a broader role within dermatology nursing.

What have you learned through your time as a volunteer with the DNA?

I've learned the tremendous value of bringing people together and learning from one another. It is rewarding to be in a space filled with peers who share the same passion for dermatology and understand the responsibility we have as dermatology nurses to ensure that the information we provide to our colleagues, healthcare professionals and the public is accurate, meaningful and evidence-based. Being part of DNA has given me a greater appreciation for the work that happens behind the scenes to create quality educational opportunities for our profession.

What motivates you to want to volunteer with the DNA?

I'm motivated by my passion for dermatology and my desire to contribute to the growth and advancement of dermatology nursing. I'm especially passionate about medical dermatology, skin of color dermatology and health equity. I want to help create opportunities for nurses and nurse practitioners to learn, connect and grow within the specialty.

What is your favorite part about the committee that you're serving on?

My favorite part of the Education Advisory Council is the collaborative and ongoing nature of the work. We maintain open communication with each other, regularly come together to identify priorities and have the opportunity to take on projects that align with our individual interests and expertise. I also value that the work keeps me continuously engaged with dermatology nursing; With each project, I am learning something new and gaining perspective on the evolving needs and priorities of the specialty. It keeps my passion for dermatology fresh and continually challenges me to think about how we can better serve our members and patients.

What have you gained through serving on your committee?

I've gained confidence, a stronger voice and a deeper sense of belonging within the dermatology community. When I first began exploring my passion for dermatology, Dr. Kimberly Madison, DNP was one of the first people who truly listened, validated that passion and helped create a bridge for me into the specialty by welcoming me to the DNA Education Advisory Council. Through that opportunity, I've met incredible professionals who have continued to encourage me and give me space to contribute. That experience has reinforced the power of mentorship and the importance of creating those same opportunities for others. Most importantly, it has strengthened my confidence as a nurse and my desire to continue advancing dermatology nursing.





October 2026

- Eczema Awareness Month
- National PA Week - October 6-12th
- International Infection Prevention Week - October 19-25th
- Global Handwashing Day - October 15th
- National Medical Assistant Day - October 15th
- World Psoriasis Day - October 29th

November 2026

- DNA Month
- DNA Founder's Day - November 15th
- National Healthy Skin Month
- National Nurse Practitioner Week - November 9-15th

December 2026

- National Handwashing Awareness Week - December 5-11th

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!

Your Stories can be emailed directly to:
dna@dnanurse.org

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.

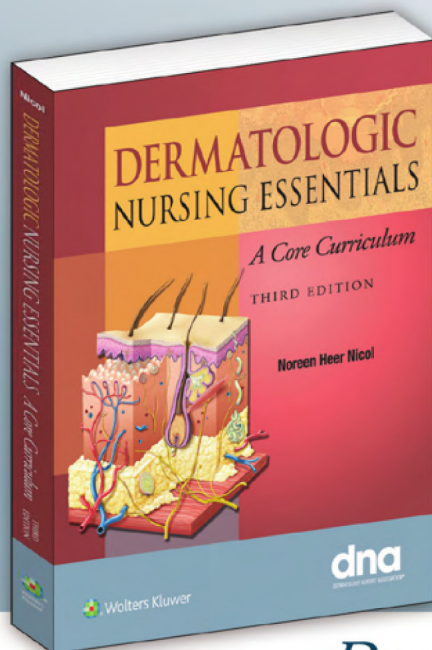
Recognition and Leadership Opportunities: Discuss how membership opens doors.

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2016
Edition

Dermatologic Nursing Essentials: A Core Curriculum, 3rd Edition

Noreen Heer Nicol, PhD

ISBN: 978-1-4511-8878-3

An official publication of the Dermatology Nurses' Association

Filled with cutting-edge advice and clinical instruction, this one-of-a-kind resource provides a comprehensive foundation in dermatologic nursing through:

- vital practice principles and care instructions in an easy-to-read outline format
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Promoting Excellence in Dermatological Care



The Dermatology Nurses' Association mission is to cultivate a supportive community and deliver comprehensive resources for current and aspiring dermatology nurses, nurse practitioners, nursing students, and other care team members, empowering them with the knowledge, skills, and inspiration to excel in dermatologic care.

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

www.dnanurse.org

DNA Website:

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

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/DNAnurses/>

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LinkedIn:

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/dermatology-nurses-association/>

Twitter/X:

<https://twitter.com/dnanurses/>

YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/DNAOfficial-Channel/>

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.