

Biographical Statement

Dr. Vonnes (Sandi) is a certified Gerontological and Advanced Oncology Nurse Practitioner. She is certified in healthcare quality (CPHQ), Evidence-Based Practice (EBP-CH), Geriatric Specialist (GS-C), and Certified Professional in Age-Friendly Healthcare (CPAFH). Sandi is a Fellow of the American Heart Association, American Geriatrics Society, and the American Academy of Nursing. She is President-Elect of the Florida Association for Healthcare Quality and has been honored as a Hartford Distinguished Educator in Geriatric Nursing. GAPNA awarded her the 2022 Excellence in Leadership Award, and she received the ONS Excellence in Care for the Older Adult with Cancer Award in 2019. Under her leadership, Moffitt Cancer Center was the first hospital in Florida and the first cancer center recognized by IHI as an Age-Friendly Health System Committed to Care Excellence. Sandi served on the GAPNA Board as a member at large (2023-2025) and on the Communications, Education, and Conference Planning Committees (2025-2027). She has hosted the GAPNA CHAT Podcast since its inception, featuring conversations with healthcare leaders in geriatric care.

Sandi has been dedicated to improving health outcomes for older adults for over 30 years, with her clinical expertise extending to internal medicine in primary care and nephrology, cardiovascular disease, and oncology across the continuum of care. She is an adjunct graduate faculty member for the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Sandi is an educational and clinical consultant, creating advanced-practice geriatric simulations, mentoring nurse leaders in geriatric project implementation, and serving as faculty for the International Society of Geriatric Oncology (SIOG) Research Masterclass in Geriatric Oncology.

Ballot Statement

A key goal for Sandi is to facilitate an ECHO GAPNA collaboration to boost GAPNA's national visibility as the leading organization dedicated to improving the health of older adults. This project will support GAPNA's purpose by providing high-quality education, fostering leadership, and advocating for older adults through promoting best practices via interactive peer-to-peer learning strategies across the entire care continuum. This partnership creates an interconnected network of programs and organizations that support older adult care and underscores GAPNA's value as the premier experts in the care of older adults. GAPNA members and special interest groups will promote collaborative, solution-oriented case discussions coordinated by the Education Committee. These virtual ECHO sessions build a community that includes interested participants and students who are not currently members. They offer a digital space for sharing real-life, case-based learning opportunities to translate research into practice and enhance the quality of service and

teaching. Topics will be shared in advance on social platforms to gather cases and reach non-GAPNA members. Nursing schools will serve as points of contact to encourage student submissions and discussions.

Up to 50% patient panels of Adult-Gero and Family Nurse Practitioners may include individuals aged 65 and older. Gaps in their education can restrict their experience and understanding of the specific healthcare needs of older adults. This project offers an opportunity to nationally spotlight our expertise in caring for older adults.