

Biographical Statement

Sharon is a creative clinical palliative care leader, End-of Life Consortium Educator, yoga therapist, and advanced nurse practitioner thrives to promote collaboration with members of the hospital and assisted living facilities. I have a long standing commitment to older adults and have been on the forefront of providing evidence based modalities to the older adults. I have incorporated palliative care skills to assist with symptoms in the older adults and assist with an easier path towards transition.

Sharon has practice as a Gerontological Nurse Practitioner for over twenty-five years and practice nursing for over four decades. Certification achieved as an advanced hospice and palliative care nurse practitioner in 2017. She received her doctorate of nursing practice from Brandman University in 2014 and the emphasis was on palliative care education in long term care. Presently, I provide palliative care consults at a suburban hospital and provide primary care to the older adults in the assisted living facilities. I educate the hospital staff (RN's, SW's, and MD's,) on palliative care symptom management and advance directives. I have recently precept doctor of nursing practice students from Chamberlain (2023-2025).

Sharon has served on the board as Director-at-Large (2019), participated on the Health Affairs and Research committee 2014 to present (chair 2018-2020), Gero-Psych Sig, 2018 to present and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) task force co-chair (2023-2025). Sharon has provided self-care modalities for the GAPNA membership to promote a collective well-being for all. I publish chapter seven in the Practical Guide for the Gerontological Specialist book on palliative care. Sharon has collaborated with GAPNA membership to provide selected presentations at the annual GAPNA conference (2024 and 2025).

Ballot Statement

As the president-elect, I will be passionate about enhancing care to our older adults through the GAPNA mission and promoting excellence in advanced practice nurses, and other team members within the gerontological arena. Incorporate other disciplines to provide holistic care for the older adults in the different settings. Another educational opportunity could be to develop mentors and champions from novice advanced nurse practitioners to experts with the assistance of GAPNA support within the ever-changing health care system. Develop leaders with gerontological empathy, recognizing the importance of membership growth, and collaborate with other organizations to enhance the care of older adults.

Sharon has a heartfelt desire to promote the mission and vision of the Gerontological Advanced Practice Nursing Association (GAPNA) to encompass the advancement of nurse

practitioners. Acknowledging the advancement of nurse practitioners is imperative to include cultural humility and recognition of the specific needs of the older adults in the forefront of our healthcare arena. A desire to incorporate more online educational connection through increased frequency for gerontological evidence-based practice.

I will strive to promote excellence in the advanced practice of nurses for the good health and safety of our older adults. I will lead with collaboration with others, communication, and commitment within the GAPNA organization to follow strategic goals, grow membership, expand innovative ideas, and provide a felt sense of belonging. I will continue to be approachable, accountable, and honest to the members. It will give me great pleasure to be considered for the prestigious President-Elect position.