

Brazilian Nursing has a new ambassador from the American Association of Advanced Practice Nurses

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In 2023, on the occasion of the International Advanced Practice Nurse Conference, which took place from June 20 to 25, in New Orleans, Louisiana, USA, the nurse and professor, Dr. Beatriz Rosana Gonçalves de Oliveira Toso, president of this Brazilian Society of Pediatrician Nurses, vice president of the *Red de Enfermería Practica Avanzada de Latino-America y el Caribe*, member of the *International Council of Nurses Advanced Practice Nurse/ Nurse Practitioner (ICN APN/ NP) Research Subgroup*, professor of the Nursing Course and the Graduate Program Biosciences and Health, at the Western Paraná State University - Cascavel campus, received from the American Association of Advanced Practice Nurses – AANP, the designation of international ambassador of the AANP.

The AANP conference is one of the largest in the world for Advanced Practice Nurses (APN), with thousands of Nurse Practitioners (NP) in attendance and more than 400 educational sessions and workshops. The chosen ambassadors have participated in the full conference and selected meetings within the conference, as well as, they have reflected and published about the experience. They also represent the AANP in their countries after receiving the honor.

To be chosen as an AANP ambassador, the requirements included: to be a nurse working in advanced practice, whether in clinical practice or in education and research, who resides in a country with emerging or developed advanced practice; to be a foreign citizen and fluent in written and spoken English; to describe how information about the conference experience will be shared in the candidate's home country, i.e. presentations, meetings, press releases, etc.; to be a current member of the AANP or willing to become one; to be willing to write a short article or other written submission about the conference experience and to be an AANP ambassador.

This is an AANP program that has been in existence since 2018. In addition to Brazil, this year, four other countries received the honor, they were: Chile, Australia, Netherlands and Kenya. Brazil receives the honor of having an international ambassador of the AANP for the second time. History records the emergence of Advanced Practical Nursing in 1965, from the actions of a nurse - Dr. Loretta

Como citar:

Toso BG. Brazilian Nursing has a new ambassador from the American Association of Advanced Practice Nurses [editorial]. *Rev Soc Bras Enferm Ped.* 2023;23:e-edt11.

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Conflicts to interest: none to declare.

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DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.31508/1676-379320230001edt1>

Ford and a pediatrician - Dr. Henry Silver, who formed pioneers in developing advanced practice in a training program at the University of Colorado.⁽¹⁾

According to the AANP historical line,⁽¹⁾ in 1985, a small group of visionaries gathered under an apple tree in Pennsylvania to address the growing need for NPs of all specialties to have a unified voice. They created AANP to fill that need and become *The Voice of the Clinical Nurse*®. These insightful leaders recognized that national action was essential to ensure the relevance and durability of the NPC's role. Thanks to their foresight, AANP has flourished and now represents the interests of more than 355,000 NPs in the U.S.

Here in Brazil, the discussion on the subject has advanced since the first publications in 2013-14, with research being conducted, articles being published, debates in universities and congresses of Nursing taking place, nationally. However, there is still some confusion about the understanding of the APN role. Reflection begins with terminology. The large area Advanced Practice Nursing can be translated into Portuguese as *Prática Avançada de Enfermagem*, without affecting the meaning. However, for the translation and understanding of the professional according to its area of expertise, it is necessary to perform the cultural adaptation, not only the literal translation of the terms.

In order to exemplify how literal translation impact on the meaning, the term *Nurse Practitioner* has been translated in many national publications as *enfermeiro praticante*. Thus, two factors may be considered: firstly, *practitioners*, as nurses we all are, consequently, as qualified professionals for a practice, we are *practitioners*. Secondly, related to the health area terminologies in English, the *clinical physician* is designated as *general practitioner*, the same understanding from Brazil.

If the *clinical physician* is a practitioner, why is the nurse a *praticante*? This way, knowing both languages is necessary to make the cultural adaptations. Thus, the best translation for this kind of nurse is *clinical nurse* and, whether being a generalist or a specialist depends on the scope of practice. Thus, there is the *clinical nurse generalist* (nurse practitioner), whose place of action is primary health care, and the *clinical nurse specialist*, whose area of expertise will be the specialties according to their training.⁽²⁾

Another aspect that has been discussed concerns education. Among all countries adopting advanced practice, few of them do not require the education of nurses, minimally from the master's degree, such as England, in which education at the specialty level coexists with *stricto sensu* education.⁽³⁾ The Pan American Health Organization⁽⁴⁾ presents three distinct models of training in a document that encourages Latin American and Caribbean countries to adopt advanced nursing practice. This author presents as possibilities two modalities of training for Brazil, from the master's degree and in professional residencies associated with the master's degree.⁽⁵⁾

The fact is that the country has already advanced in the production of knowledge on the subject. In 2023, the Coordination for the Improvement of Higher Education Personnel (Capes) received five program proposals for education of advanced practice nurses for Brazil. These proposals cover the areas as follows: two in the field of women's health, two for the chronic condition care, and one for nurse practitioners to primary health care. All of them were rejected by the evaluation and coordination committee of the Nursing area.

Within the scope of the regulation of practice in the country, the Federal Council of Nursing (COFEN) recently renewed the Advanced Practice Commission board, which exists since 2016. The aim of the board is to produce subsidies to the autarchy for the implementation of this practice in the country. The new members are expected to move forward in proposing this regulation of the practice. In turn, they have already issued a technical note from COFEN on the subject, an advance on the actions of the council.⁽⁶⁾

Another advance in 2023 concerns the Ministry of Health, which, through the Secretariat of Primary Health Care (Saps), highlighted the APN issue for discussion. At the National Free Conference: PHC of the Future, with the intention to prepare delegates to the 17th National Health Conference, APN was chosen as one of the thematic axes to be debated, nominated as: Expanded practice - the importance of nursing in the scope of care in PHC.

All these strategies show that we are advancing, with the pardon of the pun, more and more with the debate, the reflection and the proposition of the advanced nursing practice implementation in the country. Therefore, at this moment, to have a representative Brazilian nurse at an international institution, such as the AANP, which can offer support to develop advanced practice, brings relevance. Moreover, for SOBEP, to have its current president in this position, a pediatric nurse, goes back to the beginning of APN history, as described above, it all began in our area of expertise - the care of children.

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