It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light and winter in the shade.” - Charles Dickens

ON PREDICTIONS
By Dean Gail Stuart, PhD, RN, FAAN

Did you ever wonder why, with all the sophisticated equipment they now use, weathermen are more often than not wrong in their predictions? Of course they are not the only ones, as we saw with the “predicted” results of last year’s presidential elections, the pollsters were also way off mark.

A prediction or forecast is a statement about an uncertain future event. A good prediction should be based on data from the past and the present and an analysis of trends over time. Still apparently there is a significant margin of error, and perhaps that’s why people say you cannot predict the future. All you can really do is express possibilities.

So that may be how we view recent reports of the nursing workforce supply, demand and anticipated shortages, such as those from HRSA. They are best guesses – nothing more and nothing less. Those of us who have been in the field for decades have seen the rhythmic rise and fall of nursing supply and demand data – all the while knowing that patient, family and community health care needs continue to grow each day.

Which brings me to all the speculation about what will happen to the Affordable Care Act under the new administration. At this time it is still an open area of discussion and yes, prediction by those who wish to dive into the dialogue.

But then there are what I consider to be the fundamental beliefs of our profession of nursing, which have remained stable and focused for decades and I trust will remain so in the future. These are as follows:

• Health care is a human right that we must continue to advocate for and defend.
• Health is embedded in the core issues of economic, educational and environmental disparities. To ignore or deny this is not politically or morally acceptable.
• Health care must not only be available but it must also be affordable to all.
• Health care costs must be contained, but quality must not be sacrificed in our quest for greater efficiencies.

So I am staying away from the world of predictions and staying focused on what I know our patients and communities need. What I do hope is that we don’t get distracted by health care predictions and forecasts, and instead stand ready to take focused action to defend and promote our professional beliefs as nurses. - Gail
FOUR TO RECEIVE PALMETTO GOLD
Julie Barroso, PhD, RN, FAAN; Michelle Nichols, PhD, RN; Martha Sylvia, PhD, MBA, RN and Kathy Van Ravenstein, PhD, FNP-BC, have been named Palmetto Gold recipients for 2017. The four faculty members will be recognized at the 16th annual Palmetto Gold Gala on April 22 in Columbia, SC. The Palmetto Gold Award is a program sponsored by the South Carolina Nurses Association that recognizes and honors nurses who have demonstrated excellence in the practice of nursing and a commitment to their professions.

Palmetto Gold, a subcommittee of the SC Nurses Foundation, is a statewide recognition program that both showcases the valuable contributions nurses make to patient care in South Carolina and raises funds to endow scholarships for registered nurse students.

CON LEARNING HUB OFFERS OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT, THINK, GROW
With the launch of the College of Nursing’s Learning Hub, the College continues to “take nursing higher” by connecting people, growing opportunities, and facilitating innovation. The CON Learning Hub is a lifelong learning portal that will provide access to up-to-date educational materials targeted to meeting the ongoing and emerging educational needs of nurses and other health care providers. The hub will support faculty initiatives through online learning modules and campus-based workshops that award certificates of completion, all aimed at offering enhanced specialty instruction with increased reach and accessibility.

The CON Learning Hub’s first offering is the Qualitative Research Intensive. This in-person, week-long series of classes is for researchers and others who wish to learn how to develop and implement a qualitative research project. The Intensive will be facilitated by Julie Barroso, PhD and will take place on the MUSC campus June 5-9.

For more information, visit musc.edu/nursing/conhub.

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION NEWS
In early February, several members from the Diversity and Inclusion Committee, along with student volunteers, participated in the Sister Summit Expo at the Charleston Area Convention Center (photos on p. 4). Sister Summit strives to educate and empower women of color through sessions, services, and entertainment that is good for the mind, body, and spirit.

In an effort to contribute to Sister Summit’s commitment to social, cultural, and economic empowerment through education, the Diversity and Inclusion Committee hosted a vendor table to promote MUSC’s College of Nursing. With the help of several engaging undergraduate and graduate students, attendees were able to ask questions about our programs while spinning a prize wheel for a chance to win some of our giveaways. This event generated interest in our RN-BSN and ABSN programs from promising applicants.

CON LEARNING HUB OFFERS OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT, THINK, GROW
UPCOMING TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES
“Safe Zone All Training”
Mar. 3 / 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Harper Student Center Auditorium
(4 hours of D&I credit)

Enrollment available in MyQuest
Contact Paula Sutton with class or enrollment questions at suttonp@musc.edu or 843 792-1568.

SPRING INTO ACTION
CON DIVERSITY SELFIE CONTEST
Beginning March 1 and running through May 19, grab your cellphone to take a picture of yourself with a co-worker or student. Be creative and show some nurse spirit.

Email pics to: con-diversity-selfie@spweb3.clinlan.local
MARCH

3 / Hon. Bethany Hall Long / Noon - 1 pm / CON 202
3 / CON Alumni Awards / 6:30 pm / Charleston Country Club
4 / APRN Primary Care Update / 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. / BEB 100
8 / Feed Your Mind / Noon / CON 513
13-17 / Spring Break
20 / "Conflict Resolution“ / Noon - 1 p.m. / CON 202
20 / Faculty Assembly / 1 p.m. / CON 202
22 / Staff Meeting / 10 a.m. / CON 202
25 / CON Student Social Event / The Barrel

APRIL

13-14 / MUSC Board of Trustess Meeting
13 / "Leadership“ / 4 - 5 pm / CON 202
17 / Faculty Assembly / 1 pm / CON 202
19 / Staff Meeting / 9 a.m. / CON 413

LOOKING AHEAD

FEED YOUR MIND
March 8 / Noon / CON 513
"From Metasynthesis to Intervention: Developing a Stigma Reduction Intervention for Women Living with HIV Infection“ presented by Julie Barroso, PhD

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERIES
March 20 / Noon - 1 p.m. / CON 202
"Conflict Resolution“ presented by Molly Valerio MA, MSW, LISW-CP
April 13 / 4 – 5 p.m. / CON 202
"Leadership“ presented by Lisa Saladin, PhD

CON CONVOCATION
May 18 / 2 p.m. / Charleston Music Hall

MUSC COMMENCEMENT
May 19 / 9 a.m. / MUSC Horseshoe

FACULTY RETREAT
August 18 / Mt. Pleasant Waterfront Park (Cooper River Rm.)

SCTR SCIENTIFIC RETREAT
ON THE HUMAN MICROBIOME
May 3 / 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. / BEB 110

“Invisible Influence: The Microbiome in Precision Medicine“
Keynote Speaker:
Jack A Gilbert, PhD, Professor,
Department of Surgery, University of Chicago
Group Leader for Microbial Ecology, Argonne National Lab.

The retreat aims to provide a forum for sharing research ideas, professional networking and to foster new interdisciplinary research collaborations to advance Human Microbiome related research.

Abstract deadline: March 31
Click here to register
(registration is free but must register by April 10)

SCTR
South Carolina Clinical & Translational Research Institute

ANNUAL CHARLESTON
APRN Primary Care Update
Saturday, March 4
7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.
MUSC - Bioengineering Bldg

This one-day program will provide an update on common primary care diagnosis and evidence-based management for advanced practice providers. This activity has been approved for 0.85 CEUs (8.5 clock hours) by Lowcountry AHEC.
Register at: www.bit.ly/LCAHEC2017
Lowcountry Advanced Practice Nurses members: $100
Non-members: $180
Provided by
Lowcountry Advanced Practice Nurses Association
and MUSC College of Nursing
ACADEMICS

PHD STUDENT RECEIVES GRANT FUNDING

Congratulations to Mary Beth McCloud, PhD student (2014 cohort), who has received a Nurse Educator Doctoral Grant (NEDG) for Practice and Dissertation Research award in the amount of $30,000. McCloud is a faculty member of the RN to BSN program at Frostburg State University.

The Nurse Support Program II provides funding for Nurse Educator Doctoral Grants for Practice and Dissertation Research (NEDG) to nurse faculty at Maryland’s nursing programs who are currently enrolled in or who have recently completed a doctoral degree. Maryland institutions with nursing degree programs may nominate an unlimited number of existing faculty pursuing doctoral degrees within the final two years of a program of study.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

The Faith Jefferson Hohloch Scholarship is accepting applications from students who have been accepted or enrolled in a 2-year or 4-year U.S. based institution of higher education.

Scholarship applications will be accepted by Coastal Community Foundation and must be submitted online by April 7. All applicants will be notified of the outcome by June 30.

If you have any questions contact Coastal Community Foundation at 843-723-3635 or Caroline@CoastalCommunityFoundation.org.

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS COOK FOR A CAUSE

Last month a group of Presidential Scholars including Brandon Gates, DNP student, teamed them up with Louie’s Kids, a non-profit that serves economically disadvantaged kids nationwide and aims to help treat childhood obesity. After the group procured food donations from Harris Teeter, Publix, and MUSC Food Services, they convened at the donated showroom kitchen at Duvall Catering, to perform an interactive cooking class for four children and their families. The class aim was to teach kids and their families a few ways to have fun in the kitchen while preparing a healthy meal.

The scholars program is a two-semester experience for approximately 50 students, joined by selected faculty scholars from each college as well as the Charleston School of Law. The program explores complex social, political, and human issues of broad interest to health care professionals and biomedical researchers in a format that maximizes student participation and interaction. Monthly evening sessions are held for students to learn about issues related to the program theme and to engage in interprofessional project work.

SISTER SUMMIT - FEB. 4

Many thanks to Jessica Williams, Cristina Lopez, Tonya Hazelton, Chyrese Jenkins, Alexandra Prather, Frederica Hughes-Joyner, and Simone Chinnis, Sylvia Panos, Carrie Cormack who generated a great deal of interest to our nursing programs.
FUNDED GRANT
PI: Cathy Durham, DNP, APRN, FNP-C
SPONSOR: New Morning Foundation  TITLE: The Choose Well Initiative
GOALS: Choose Well is a statewide initiative of the New Morning Foundation, whose goal is to substantially and measurably reduce unintended pregnancy among women and teens in South Carolina over a 4-year period (2017-2020). This collective impact initiative will involve a wide range of partners, including state agencies and coalitions, health care services, schools and colleges of nursing and medicine, and community-based and community-serving organizations, whose individual and collaborative work will result in better access to highly effective contraceptive methods and a decrease in unintended pregnancy.

PI: Julie Barroso, PhD, ANP, RN, FAAN
SPONSOR: NIH/NINR
TITLE: A multi-site RCT of a stigma reduction intervention for HIV-infected women
GOAL: To use a repeated measures randomized wait-list control group designed to compare those receiving the ‘Maybe Someday’ (Algún Día, Será Posible in Spanish) intervention to a wait-list control group to determine the intervention’s ability to reduce stigma, improve coping self-efficacy and self-esteem, improve effective HIV prevention behaviors, and improve antiretroviral adherence with 240 women living with HIV infection in El Paso, TX; Washington, DC; Durham, NC; and Charleston, SC.

PI: Susan D. Newman, PhD, RN, CRRN
SPONSOR: DHHS/Admin. for Community Living
TITLE: PHOENIX: Development of a Spinal Cord Injury Peer-Supported Self-Management Intervention
GOAL: To improve participants’ community participation and quality of life and decrease subjective impact and occurrence of secondary conditions and re-hospitalization after spinal cord injury.

PI: Tatiana M. Davidson, PhD
SPONSOR: NIH/NICHD
TITLE: Development and Evaluation of a Mobile Emotional Recovery Service for Adolescent Traumatic Injury Patients
GOALS: To develop and pilot test mTRRP, an innovative, scalable and sustainable technology-based intervention to assist traumatically injured adolescent patients in their emotional recovery.

PI: Brian E. Bunnell, PhD and Kenneth J. Ruggiero, PhD
SPONSOR: NIH/NIMH
TITLE: The Mobile Trauma Resilience and Recovery Program (mTRRP): A Scalable and Sustainable, Stepped-Care Intervention to Facilitate Emotional Recovery after Traumatic Injury
GOALS: The goal is to develop and pilot test mTRRP, an innovative, scalable and sustainable technology-based intervention to assist traumatically injured patients in their emotional recovery.

PI: Kathy VanRavenstein, PhD, FNP-BC
SPONSOR: NIH/NIA
TITLE: AlzTalk, a simulated virtual mHealth application to deliver communication skills training to caregivers of persons with dementia: A feasibility study
GOALS: Persons with dementia evince changes in communication for which family caregivers (CG) are often ill equipped. Unfortunately, needed communication skills training is not typically delivered in current best practices CG training and support programs. The aim is to leverage technology to address this deficit through an interactive mHealth CG communication skills training program: AlzTalk.

PUBLISHED ARTICLES

PASOs Program Assistant and AmeriCorps VISTA, Sarah Mahonski, spoke at the Alliance for Hispanic Health meeting in February. She explained how PASOs and the Hispanic Health Initiative (HHI) both address health disparities in local Latino communities through the Boosting our Barrio Early Childhood Initiative, the HHI Scholars, and the maternal/prenatal care program. To illustrate existing barriers in Latino communities, Mahonski used results from HHI Scholars health screenings and described how PASOs works with local partners and health providers to assist Latinos with accessing health resources.

This legislation would significantly advance the APRN role in our state. Hearings are occurring now as the bill is in the Medical Affairs Committee of the Senate. There is also a sponsor for a complementary bill in the House.

Here’s what YOU can do to help advance the bill:

- **Call or write senators** on the Medical Affairs Committee, asking them to support the bill to improve health care access and outcomes in our state. These senators include Sen. Tom Davis, subcommittee chairperson and sponsor of the bill, (thank him for his support), Sen. Floyd Nicholson, Sen. Tom Corbin, Sen. Bright Matthews, and Sen. Mike Gambrell.
- **Attend hearings on the bill and bring posters and information** that highlight your own or APRN practice in our state. We are a large group with diverse practices and the legislators want to know how our practice improves the lives of their constituents. There is a physician’s group opposing the bill who will attend the hearings as well so we need to be sure we are represented appropriately
- **Make a donation to the Coalition for Access to Health Care** who is fighting for your rights and to increase access to care.

South Carolina is one of 12 states in the U.S. that has restricted APRN practice, 16 states have reduced APRN practice and 22 states and the District of Columbia have full scope of APRN practice. In fact, South Dakota passed legislation to have full scope of practice on Feb. 23.

APRNs and APRN advocates believe that expanding scope of practice in all states will allow increased access to care and improved health care outcomes given that APRNs have a 40 year track record in high-level research studies of providing care that is equitable in patient outcomes, safety and patient satisfaction as physician-led care. Physician opponents of the bill argue that APRNs lack the same type of training as they receive and should therefore practice in a restricted or reduced capacity.
NEW ARRIVAL: Congratulations to Jennifer Winkelmann and her husband, Scott, who recently welcomed a baby boy to their family. Finn Joseph was born on Jan. 27, weighing 7 pounds, 5 ounces and measuring 20 inches long.

APRN RECOGNITION: Faculty members, Amy Williams, Joy Vess, Barbara Edlund, Cathy Durham, Katherine Chike-Harris and Whitney Smith, traveled to the SC Statehouse to speak with legislators about expanding the scope of practice in SC for advanced practice nurses.