

ANI Innovator Profile

National Association of Schools of Nursing (NASN)

Martha Dewey Bergren DNS, RN, NCSN, FNASN, FASHA

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<http://www.nasn.org/>

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<http://www.allianceni.org/>

The Alliance for Nursing Informatics (ANI) is a collaboration of organizations that represents more than 5,000 nurse informaticists and brings together 30 distinct nursing informatics groups globally.

Mission: To advance NI leadership, practice, education, policy and research through a unified voice of nursing informatics organizations

Vision: Transform health and health care through nursing informatics and innovation

ANI Innovator Profiles Program

The purpose of this program is to capture an ANI Innovator Profile for each ANI member organization to increase awareness and visibility, and to describe their contribution towards a unified voice for nursing informatics.

ANI Innovator Profile – NASN

The National Association of School Nurses is a non-profit specialty nursing organization, incorporated in 1977, which represents school nurses exclusively. NASN has nearly 15,000 members and 51 affiliates, including the District of Columbia and overseas.

Vision: NASN is the leader in advocacy for student health and professional development of school nurses. Every child deserves a school nurse.

Core Purpose/Mission: The National Association of School Nurses supports the health and educational success of children and youth by developing and providing leadership to advance school nursing practice by specialized registered nurses.

Core Goal: Every child has a school nurse, all day, every day.

Core Values:

Scholarship - NASN believes in continuous, critical exploration and utilization of knowledge.

Excellence - NASN exhibits high quality service, products, standards and practice.

Integrity - NASN values ethical, fair, and honest relationships.

Collegiality - NASN promotes respectful, accountable and responsible community and professional partnerships.

Diversity - NASN embraces a diverse membership and acknowledges that each member is inherently valuable and brings unique perspective and contribution to its mission.

Collaboration - NASN values collaboration with diverse groups to advance common goals.

Strategic Plan Goals:

Advocacy and Public Relations: NASN will be an influential advocate for safe and effective school health services. NASN will be the recognized expert voice of school nursing.

Governance and Administration: NASN will formulate and implement effective, ethical, accountable policies and procedures that permit and promote quality school nurse practice.

Member Programs and Resources: NASN will be its members' primary and indispensable resource for school health programs, services, and experiences.

Research: NASN will improve the reliability, quality, and accessibility of school health data to promote research and knowledge development in child health and school health.

Representation

NASN represents school nurses on national and federal committees which affect health services to children:

- American Academy of Pediatrics/School Health Committee;
- National Education Association (NEA)/Health Information Network;
- Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC)/Partners for Children Coalition;
- Centers for Disease Control (CDC)/Division of Adolescent and School Health;
- CDC/Immunization Division; and
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Asthma Triggers.

In addition, NASN supplies written and oral testimony to Congress about school health services on request and advises members of federal legislation affecting school health services.

NASN Interview with Martha Dewey Bergren:

1. What is the primary mission of NASN?

We are promoting the health of children through the services that a school nurse can provide. Our case for school nursing, which can be found for [NASN web site](#) under advocacy, details the research that is evidence for school nurses being effective in improving and promoting child health. We know when a school nurse is in school all day every day children are 57% less likely to be sent home from school early. They are instrumental in providing the education and support that parents need when they are concerned with their child's immunizations. Studies have shown that having a school nurse makes it much less likely for parents to waive immunization in those states that they have the ability to do so; and that promotes that child's health but also the health of the community. School nurses are instrumental in school-based vaccine clinics, in case management of chronic disease such as asthma and Type 1 and 2 Diabetes and as the chronically ill population of children increases the need for a school nurse



becomes greater and greater. When I graduated from college, children that are now in school every day would not have even been discharged from the hospital. In my last school setting, which was approximately 12 years ago I had 2 students on ventilators in my school. So what people consider school nursing is what the school nurse did when they were in school, which might have been first aid or treatment for minor health issues. But today we know about 25% of all children have a chronic health need that is addressed at school. One of the causes of that is the increased number of children who graduate out of the NICU, which was my first job out of college. We have children who died in the unit 30 years ago now that are discharged to home and later come to school with some of the complications that they may have suffered in that newborn period.

2. How many members do you currently have?

There are about 74,000 registered school nurses in the country and NASN has over 15,000 members. So as a specialty organization, we have a very high percentage of the total number of school nurses as members of NASN. We also have affiliate chapters in every state, so we have both the national presence and a presence at state and regional levels.

3. What projects is NASN working on to advance informatics and innovation in healthcare?

NASN supports the education of school nurses so they can be knowledgeable in influencing the choice of electronic health records in their school environment. We do regular updates on the interaction between the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and HIPAA. FERPA is the privacy law that protects information in school health records and there are many times where there is not a good interaction between HIPAA and FERPA. So we spent a lot of time finding out about how those two laws fit together. We published a document that advises schools on policies and procedures so that HIPAA covered entities feel comfortable sharing those records in the school and we also provide information at our annual meetings on student health records. We have a discussion list serv for our members on informatics topics, and the typical topics are items such as using unified data sets, standardized language, what are good products to buy, HIPAA/FERPA issues, and recently health information exchanges. So one of the things we would really like to see is for health information exchanges to understand the wealth of data that is maintained on all the children in a particular geographic area so that connection between the primary care provider and the school setting is one that promotes the continuity of care. Right now we are very excited that one of the CMS Innovation grants through the Department of Health and Human Services is funding a study in Delaware between Moneymore Medical Center and the Red Clay School district where there is going to be a health information exchange set up. They are going to measure how that enhances the continuity of care for children in that locale.

4. What value do you see in NASN being an ANI member?

To be able to interact with the leaders in informatics and remind them that healthcare doesn't stop at the hospital door or ambulatory center door. Any child that is hospitalized on a Friday and then discharged over the weekend is probably going to be going to school on Monday. To be able to enhance that communication and data exchange so that children are safe and their health is promoted when they get to the school setting is essential. So to have those leaders

around the table that are being exposed to not forgetting about school nurses and children in schools is so essential to us. It also helps NASN stay up to date on what is going on in the informatics community, being able to keep our finger on the pulse of advances in the informatics arena and standards and expectations that are coming down the road. We have been included in public comments by the ANA and other groups so that we can weigh in on how different guidelines and standards would be interpreted in the school setting and we are so pleased to participate in that way.

5. In what way(s) is NASN supporting ANI Initiatives e.g. the [ANI Consumer Pledge](#), ANI Comments & Testimony, the Emerging Leader Program, etc?

I know that we have been looking at the Emerging Leaders program and I have been working with Katie Johnson, the Chair of the NASN Informatics Advisory Committee, on how we can work with that in a more complete way. So that is one area that we have targeted and would like to spend some more time on.

6. What is NASN's vision for the future of nursing informatics?

Definitely the health information exchanges. I remember Mimi Hasset saying at an AMIA conference that if you are not in the database you don't exist! And in this day and age school nurses continually find ourselves not in the national databases. The Department of Education collects a large amount of data points on instruction, class sizes, curriculum, etc. but they collect almost no data at all on school health and school nurses, or credentials in the school setting. It is very difficult to get a handle on the issues that need be resolved when you don't have basic data sets to refer to. We have worked closely with the CDC on what they call their study, School Health In Policies and Practices (SHIP), to enhance the granular data that are collected on the intensity of school health services around the country. They have also partnered with us on identifying that we want to bring that ratio of nurses to students, which is now on average 1:1150 but can be as high as 1:5000, down to what the recommended ratio is at 1:750. But in order to do that we need the data and the evidence to support that argument, so getting school nurse data and child health data in to those national data sets is very important to us.

7. Additional Comments

Get to know your school nurses in your community. Nurses and healthcare providers can be the best advocates and the best champions in their local communities. So look into the staffing in your school districts and try to promote the adoption of electronic records technology in your school. We really want to partner with our colleagues in acute care and ambulatory care to promote the health of children nationwide.

Biography for Martha Dewey Bergren

Martha Dewey Bergren is an Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Health Systems Science at University of Illinois at Chicago. Dr. Bergren has taught classroom, online or clinical child health and public health nursing for sixteen years at University at Buffalo-SUNY, the University of Minnesota, and the University of Illinois-Chicago. Currently, she leads the graduate course, School Nursing Theory and Trends. Dr. Bergren is a national expert on protecting privacy in schools in the electronic age and the

intersection of HIPAA and FERPA privacy regulations in school nursing. Dr. Bergren has been widely recognized for her expertise in web-based and Internet resources for school nursing.

Dr. Bergren is a consultant to the Second Taskforce on Confidential Student Health Information and testified before the National Center for Vital Health Statistics Subcommittee on Privacy and Confidentiality. She serves on the Board of Directors of the National Board for the Certification of School Nurses. Dr. Bergren is a member of the National Association of School Nurses School Nurse Educator's Consortia Research Committee, and Associate Editor of the *Journal of School Health*. She was inducted into the National Association of School Nurses Academy of Fellows in 2002 in recognition of significant, unique, extraordinary achievements with broad influence toward the advancement of the specialty practice of school nursing. Dr. Bergren is nationally certified in both school nursing and informatics.

Recorded: October 24, 2012

For full interview recording you can [click here](#) or visit <http://www.allianceni.org/members.asp>