

ANI Innovator Profile

North Carolina Nurses Association (NCNA) Council on Nursing Informatics (CoNI)

Interview with Kelly Wiseman, BSN, RN

Electronic Health Record (EHR) Technical Specialist

Wake Area Health Education Center (AHEC)

<http://www.ncnurses.org>

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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 – NCNA Council on Nursing Informatics

The [North Carolina Nurses Association \(NCNA\) Council on Nursing Informatics \(CoNI\)](#) was started in May 1993 and will celebrate 20 years of supporting North Carolina (NC) informatics nurses this year. The organization began only one year after the American Nurses Association identified nursing informatics as an area of specialty practice. CoNI was also one of the founding members of the Alliance of Nursing Informatics. The practice Council provides a place for NC informatics nurses to connect through quarterly council meetings, email communication, informatics conferences and a [blog](#). The Council's primary mission is to provide continuing education (CE) to its membership which is accomplished by providing CEs at quarterly meetings. Through the practice Council, NC informatics nurses are provided opportunities to develop skills, to become experts in their roles and to participate on local, state and national committees and boards. Authoring and presentations are promoted by the practice Council providing informatics nurses with both opportunities and expert mentoring. CoNI members also serve NCNA as information technology consultants and advocate for nursing care and practice supported by information systems.

CoNI Interview with Kelly Wiseman:

1. What is the primary mission of the Council on Nursing Informatics (CoNI)?

The primary mission of CoNI is to provide informatics nurses in North Carolina with continuing education opportunities. The members of the Council believe that this specialty is helping to shape the future of nursing. Healthcare information management and its inherent technologies must be developed with the input of nurses and nurses must be knowledgeable consumers to provide this direction. The Council offers opportunities to informatics nurses and nurses interested in informatics to meet, network, discuss issues and attend programs that enhance their knowledge of the specialty. CoNI also serves NCNA as information technology consultants and advocates for nursing care and practice, supported through information systems and processes.

2. How many members do you currently have?

Currently, we have 147 members and the last few years we have grown rapidly. In 2012, membership grew by 29%.

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

We have three major projects this year as this is the 20th anniversary for CoNI. The first thing we are going to do is update the CoNI brochure and reach out to other committees within NCNA to provide nursing informatics continuing education and guidance. One of the strengths of NCNA is our ability to cross pollinate between committees and provide necessary and timely opportunities for professional development. We are also planning to write an article for the Computers Informatics Nursing Journal on 20 years of CoNI. It will include a look back at the history of CoNI, what our organization has contributed to nursing informatics, interviews with original members and statistical information on our membership, such as how many of our members hold doctorates or are Board certified. We also plan to nominate an informatics nurse for the NCNA Nurse of the Year award. Each year NCNA recognizes a nurse for their contributions to the field and during our 15th anniversary two of our members were honored for their contributions to nursing informatics and nursing practice as a whole.

Another effort we are engaged in is with the North Carolina Health Education Center. We are planning a day-long informatics workshop in Charlotte, NC in the fall of 2013. This will eventually evolve into a regular course offering to nurses interested in and working in informatics. Topics will include an introduction to nursing informatics, health reform's impact on nursing informatics, implementation of technology's best practices, dashboards, quality reporting, improving patient care, management, leadership, and practice trends and issues. The goal will be to provide a pragmatic toolbox for those who are navigating nursing informatics, whether they are beginning to transition from paper to EHR or if they are tasked with managing health information to create actionable reports and improve quality of care.

The third effort we are looking at this year is contributing to the NCNA Leadership Academy. NCNA has developed its own emerging leaders program called the Leadership Academy and in 2012 the first cohort graduated 16 members, including our current CoNI chair, Deb Aldridge. The



inaugural class of NCNA leadership was recognized on October 3, 2012 at the NCNA Awards luncheon. So, we are encouraging current members to apply for the Leadership Academy. We always try to build leadership skills of informatics nurses by encouraging presentations at our quarterly meetings, volunteering to participate on executive committees and participating in the broader NCNA discussion and community.

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

CoNI was one of the original founding members of ANI in 2004 and our ANI membership assists us with keeping up with nursing informatics initiatives, national policy changes and other activities that impact nursing informatics communities.

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

We continue to monitor all of ANI's initiatives, and we encourage our membership to support and promote the ANI Consumer Pledge. We have been contributing to and supporting the reviews of ANI Comments and Testimony. We also participate on the ANI Governing Director calls.

The NCNA Leadership Academy is an effort of NCNA as a whole, and it was created in response to recommendations from the IOM Future of Nursing report. Through this program, NCNA identifies emerging nurse leaders across the state and encourages them to take on leadership roles with a series of leadership workshops. The program assists in sharpening their skills so they can have a strong influence on nursing and the healthcare industry.

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

CoNI's vision for the future of nursing informatics is to amplify the voices of nursing informatics specialists and their contribution to the advancement of health IT and health reform, and to the highest quality patient care. It is also to augment all levels of nursing education to include some basic informatics concepts and competencies to enhance the collection, interpretation, translation and advancement of nursing in healthcare.

7. Additional Comments

Nursing informatics is a great specialty to join - it is right on the cutting edge. One thing I would suggest is to get involved with an organization such as NCNA. It really provides me with a way to have other people to look to as mentors and gives me opportunities to do presentations and be involved in groups like ANI.

Biography for Kelly Wiseman, BSN, RN

Kelly Wiseman, BSN, RN is the Electronic Health Record (EHR) Technical Specialist for Wake Area Health Education Center (AHEC) in Raleigh, North Carolina (NC), which is a branch of the federally-designated NC AHEC Regional Extension Center. She has personally assisted over 300 primary care providers in 8 counties in meeting Meaningful Use Stage 1 requirements and attaining over 2 million dollars in Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentives. She has also assisted providers in using their EHR to gather



reports allowing them to measure quality improvements for key clinical topics like diabetes, hypertension and asthma. Kelly began her career in nursing informatics at Hospice of Wake County (HOWC) in Raleigh, NC as their first Nursing Informatics Coordinator. She assisted over 250 nurses, social workers and spiritual care counselors in learning to use the EHR functionality to be able to meet Medicare Conditions of Participation. The results enabled the HOWC to improve quality initiatives to ensure consistency in care and quality of care. Before working in informatics, Kelly was a charge nurse in the cardiothoracic intensive care unit for Palmetto Health Richland and participated in shared governance to improve documentation as the hospital transitioned to electronic health records. She was also a staff nurse in Duke's cardiothoracic intensive care unit when the unit transitioned to computer provider order entry. Kelly graduated in the second cohort for Duke University's accelerated Bachelor of Science (BS) in nursing program. She also has a BS in mechanical engineering from University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

Recorded: February 8, 2013

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