

## ANI Innovator Profile

### Puget Sound Nursing Informatics (PSNI)

Interview with Karen Curtis, RN, MBA  
Governing Director for PSNI, Clinical Applications Project Manager  
UW Medicine  
<http://psni.drupalgardens.com/>

Conducted by: Joyce Sensmeier MS, RN-BC, CPHIMS, FHIMSS, FAAN  
Ex-Officio Chair, Alliance for Nursing Informatics  
<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 – PSNI**

Puget Sound Nursing Informatics was founded in 1997. It is composed of nurses that are working or interested in the field of nursing informatics. Additionally, membership is open to all healthcare informatics professionals and interested students. We hold meetings across Northwest Washington with the majority of the meetings in the Seattle area. Since its inception, PSNI has served a valuable resource for the NW Washington region without the traditional model of member dues, bylaws, and formal officers. PSNI meets 3-4 times a year in various locations throughout Northwest Washington. We have led or sponsored area conferences and are currently working to bring the NI Boot Camp to Seattle in October, 2013.

#### **PSNI Interview with Karen Curtis:**

##### **1. What is the primary mission of PSNI?**

Our mission is to provide members with education, networking and information resources to enrich their roles in the field of nursing informatics.

**2. How many members do you currently have?**

We are unique in that we don't have a formal membership list. We used to maintain a roster but now we maintain a list serv of 185 people. We are based in the Northwest Washington with Seattle as the hub and have members across a 125 miles span. We have three to four meetings a year and we rotate sites to make it convenient for all members.

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

We are currently trying to revitalize our group. We are working on revamping our web site and on moving our members forward by offering interesting programs and by sharing job opportunities. Because we are near to the University of Washington, we connect a lot with students and encourage them to get involved in informatics and encourage practicum activities. We facilitate knowledge sharing with our members.

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

Since we are out in the Pacific Northwest we don't always have the same opportunities to meet with national or policy groups like other groups on the East Coast, so being a member of ANI we feel more connected to the whole nursing world in the United States. Typically we work together with ANI virtually but do try to send a representative to in-person meetings when we can.

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

We distribute the information that comes from ANI to our members and we disseminate opportunities to our membership so they can choose whether or not to participate.

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

We want to continue to work with the local informatics groups such as HIMSS Northwest, Northwest ONE, and AHIMA and with nursing organizations locally to keep them involved in what's going on with informatics. We also work to strengthen the learning exchange and collaboration between hospitals and nurses. We connect novice informaticists with senior informaticists and help foster partnerships between clinical system technical analyst and nursing workflow analysts. We work with rural and urban settings and how those settings apply to informatics. We work to strengthen the knowledge and awareness of activities that are going on in the field with our members. We also want to make sure they are aware of new trends - everything from regulatory trends to robotics to smart medical homes - and we make sure education is provided around these topics.

**7. Additional Comments**

When PSNI started back in 1997 we had a handful of people who would meet and at that point there was, at most one person in informatics at each site, so they were few and far between. Today all the area hospitals have informaticists embedded, so we are not totally alone anymore. There is more of a structure and opportunities to learn and grow. The hospitals are always looking for new employees so there is a much more wide-spread architecture to work under.

We also encourage other disciplines, such as respiratory or social work, to come and participate and we help mentor them as well. We are focused on the care of the patient and that includes more disciplines than just nursing into informatics.

**Biography for Karen Curtis**

Karen Curtis, RN MBA has been working in the field of Nursing Informatics since 1986. She has been employed in a number of positions including analyst, educator, internal consultant, clinical information system lead and project/department manager in various Seattle area health systems. She is currently employed by UW Medicine in the role of Clinical Applications Project Manager focused on implementation of regulatory projects.

Karen has also served in a number of roles in the PSNI organization including Program Organizer, Membership Coordinator, Newsletter Editor and Liaison to ANI. She was a founding Governor of ANI and served on the National HIMSS Nursing Informatics Symposium Planning Committee for 2004 and 2005.

Recorded: May 17, 2013

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