APAP NEWSLETTER

| June – 2025 |

To: **Program Directors of IFNA's Approved Anesthesia Programs**
IFNA Officers
IFNA Executive Committee
IFNA Country National Representatives

From: **Rebecca Madsen, APAP Manger**

Hello Everyone!

2026 WORLD CONGRESS OF NURSE ANAESTHETISTS:

The Spring in-person meetings of IFNA's Board and the IFNA Committees just concluded. I am very enthusiastic to report that the program for the 2026 World Congress of Nurse Anesthetists in Brisbane, Australia (May 7-9, 2026) is going to be superb! Recently, I sent an email to you with a message from Vera Meeusen the Chair of the 2026 WCNA Congress Planning Committee. Please respond to the email to receive updates for your students regarding the Congress. The Congress website is: Home - World Congress of Nurse Anaesthetists

2026 WCNA Koala Competition

How to Enter:

- "Like" the original Koala Competition post on Facebook
- "Like" both the ACPAN and World Congress of Nurse Anesthetists 2026 Facebook Pages
- Comment and tag a fellow anaesthesia nurse or friend on the original Koala Competition post
- Share the original Koala Competition post to your story
- Bonus entry if you follow ACPAN on Instagram

Winning Prize:
The Ultimate Koala Experience in Brisbane, a **personalised WCNA stuffed koala and 1 x complimentary WCNA 2026**

LUNCHEON FOR APAP PROGRAM DIRECTORS:

Once again, the National Board of Certification and Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists (NBCRNA) in the United States is going to sponsor a luncheon at the WCNA; it will be held on Friday, May 8, 2026. The director of each APAP approved program will receive an invitation to the event. As always, we hope to have a lively discussion. You may remember at the last WCNA, the theme of the conversation was "*What can be done to help clinical faculty be better educators of student nurse anesthetists?*" There was a great deal of information shared and great ideas for follow-up. Over the last three years, the IFNA Education Committee has been working to develop the ideas you shared, and they will be presenting them to you at the WCNA!

WATCH FOR YOUR INVITATION TO THE

PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S LUNCHEON

MAY 8, 2026, BRISBINE, AUSTRALIA

SPONSORED BY:

NBCRNA
National Board of Certification & Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists

Highlights from the Education & Practice Session @ the WCNA:

- **Nurse Anesthetist Preceptors: Critical Partners in Nurse Anesthesia Education**
- **Competency-based Clinical Education: Is My Student Performing at the Expected Clinical Level and How Can I Help Them?**
- **Improving Anaesthesia Outcomes in Cameroon Through Sustainable Educational Initiatives**
- **The New Future for Continued Certification for CRNAs in the USA… Longitudinal Assessment (LA)**
- **Do Standards of Practice Matter?**
- **Anesthesia Practice in Urban vs. Rural Rwanda**
- **Innovations in Nurse Anesthetist Practice: Quality Improvement or Research?**
- **The World Health Organization Operative Encounter Registry: Practice Data Impacting Policy.**

EVALUATION:

A fundamental reason for developing an Anesthesia Program Approval Process (APAP) is to promote quality improvement by ensuring quality assessment. The design and implementation of a programmatic evaluation process is critical to such an endeavor.

APAP approved programs must pledge to comply (registration, recognition) or pledge to meet (accreditation) the IFNA Educational Standards. Among those are Standard VIII, the Evaluation Standard. This Standard requires programs to evaluate every aspect of the program – on an ongoing basis - so that the program can determine what is working and what areas need to be improved. It also requires monitoring student progress and success. Last year, the Education Committee and the IFNA Board made a change to the APAP Applications and Applications for Renewal; programs are now required to provide evidence of the evaluations they regularly conduct during the application process.

EDUCATION STANDARDS

Standard VIII. Evaluation:

Regular evaluation of the student's academic and clinical progress is required in order to make adaptation and changes.

Aspects of evaluation should contain:

A. *Achievement of the learning objectives*
B. *Appropriateness of the program's content*
C. *Course administration and venues*
D. *Learning support (theory)*
E. *Adequate clinical practice opportunities*
F. *Learning support (clinical practice)*
G. *Support provided by faculty/teachers*
H. *Achievement of the graduate competencies*

THE GOAL OF THE APPROVAL PROCESS IS TO ENCOURAGE PROGRAMS TO COMPLY WITH IFNA'S EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS FOR PREPARING NURSE ANESTHETISTS THROUGH AN APPROVAL PROCESS THAT TAKES CULTURAL, NATIONAL OR REGIONAL DIFFERENCES INTO CONSIDERATION.

Specifically, programs must:

- Describe their evaluation process (how the elements of Standard VIII are evaluated)
- Provide current results (data) from completed evaluations that shows that the evaluations (related to each of the elements in Standard VIII) are conducted
- Demonstrate how evaluations are utilized by the program to make positive change within the program.

Many programs struggle with developing an effective evaluation program. The Education Committee has taken on a project to develop a variety of evaluation tools that programs could use, or modify for use, in their program. These tools will be available soon.
Examples of the tools being developed include:

- Course Evaluation
- Daily Student Clinical Evaluation
- End of Rotation Evaluation of the Student
- Anesthesia Care Plan

More to come… Please watch for them to be published!

Thank you to the Education Committee for taking on these projects to benefit APAP Programs!!

Education Committee Members

- **Thorunn S. Eliasdottir, CRNA, PhD, Chair - Education Committee (Iceland)**
- **Gye Seong Jeong, CRNA, PhD (South Korea)**
- **Etienne Nsereko, RNA, Ph.D (Rwanda)**
- **Edwin Aroke, CRNA, PhD (USA)**
- **Ann-Chatrin Linqvist Leonardsen, RNA, Ph.D, Professor (Norway)**

Anesthesia Program Approvals:

The following programs were approved for renewal in May 2025:

- Anesthesia Nurses Education Program, Shanghai Ninth People's Hospital Affiliated to School of Medicine, Shanghai Jiaotong University – Recognition
- Postgraduate Education Program in Anesthesia, Xuzhou Medical University – Recognition
- The Specialist Training Program for Nurses in Nurse Anesthesia in the Eastern part of Denmark – Accreditation

The following program received initial approval in May 2025:

- Zhengzhou Central Hospital Affiliated to Zhengzhou University - Educational Standards Curriculum for Nurse Anesthetists (Beginner Level) - Registration

The following programs were approved for renewal in November 2024:

- University of Cincinnati, College of Nursing BSN – DNP Nurse Anesthesia Major – Accreditation
- Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center (LSUHSC) School of Nursing Nurse Anesthesia Option - Accreditation

The following programs were approved for renewal in May 2024:

- Anesthetic Nurse Specialist, LAB University of Applied Sciences, Finland – Registration
- Northeastern University Bouve College of Health Sciences School of Nursing Nurse Anesthesia Program, USA – Accreditation
- Phebe Nurse Anesthesia Program, Liberia – Recognition
- Postgradutae Programme in Specialist Nursing - Anaesthesia Care, University of Gothenburg, Sweeden – Recognition
- Goldfarb School of Nursing at Barnes-Jewish College Nurse Anesthesia Program, USA – Accreditation
- Specialized Nursing Postgraduate Diploma, Faculty of Nursing, University of Iceland – Accreditation
- Aargauische Fachschule für Anaesthesie-Intensiv-und Notfallpflege, Aarau, Switzerland – Accreditation

The following program received initial approval in May 2024:

- Diploma IV/Bachelor of Applied Health Nursing Anesthesiology, Institute of Technology and Health Bali - Regular Program – Recognition

Congratulations to all of you!

If you know of a program director who is interested in the IFNA Anesthesia Program Approval Process, information about all categories of approval can be found on the IFNA website. Applications are also posted for easy access.

Visit: https://ifna.org/apap/apap-procedures/