

## 2008 National Clinical Conference

On October 29 – November 2, in Nashville, TN, the American College of Nurse Practitioners hosted its 2008 National Clinical Conference entitled *Nurse Practitioners: Shaping Policy, Improving Practice*. In addition to a series of hands-on educational clinical skills workshops, attendees were afforded the opportunity to select from over 120 clinically focused concurrent sessions on acute care, dermatology, diabetes, mental health, pain management, women's health and many other clinical topics. Attendees took advantage of abundant opportunities for networking with colleagues from their clinical specialty area as well as geographical location.

Challenging, enlightening, and informative! The three plenary sessions at the ACNP National Clinical Conference covered a broad scope of issues of interest to nurse practitioners. The session, *Fighting Chronic Disease: The Missing Link in Health Reform* presented by Kenneth Thorpe, PhD, Executive Director for the Partnership to Fight Chronic Disease provided a sobering overview of the impact on chronic disease in America. Attendees were challenged to push at the national, state and community levels for NP inclusion in the solutions for meeting the needs of the chronically ill.

Daneil McAuliffe, LHCRN, BSN, JD, sponsored by the Nurses Service Organization, spoke on *Mitigating Risk: Protecting Your Practice and Your Patients*. This session opened participant's eyes to a host of possible legal issues impacting NP practice. Examples and role play were utilized to offer practical suggestions and advice including methods for reducing the number of potential claims and techniques for increasing the likelihood of successfully defending claims. Actual case studies helped attendees understand how practice and law intertwine.

The third plenary session, *Policy in Action*, featured a dynamic, interactive exploration of recent political challenges and accomplishments of the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress related to ensuring solid legal authority for NP practice. In addition, board leaders, Janet Selway, DNSc, CRNP, Susan Apold, PhD, APN, Thad Wilson, PhD, APRN and ACNP President Julie Stanik-Hutt, PhD, CRNP-AC, CCNS provided an synopsis of a variety of "hot topics" directly affecting clinical practice for NPs. Among these hot topics were discussions of the APRN Consensus Model, DNP emerging issues, medical homes and the role of NPs, meeting with NP leaders and the American College of Physicians as well as other primary care initiatives. Every mind was invigorated by the presentations.

The city of Nashville offered a venue brimming with excellent food, exciting entertainment and delightful climate.

The 2009 National Clinical Conference will be held in Albuquerque, NM October 7 – 11. ACNP looks forward to another dynamic clinical conference during Albuquerque's International Balloon Fiesta.