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## Important Dates

**April 8**  
 San Diego Nursing Forum  
 (3pm), Spectrum

**April 11**  
 San Diego Nursing Forum  
 (8am), Spectrum

**April 16**  
 Journal Club (12pm),  
 Rancho Bernardo

**April 17**  
 Fresno Cohort 2 Nursing  
 Orientation (8am), Fresno

**April 23**  
 San Diego Nursing Forum  
 (8:30am), Rancho  
 Bernardo

## Dean's Message

Welcome to the April, 2009 issue of the School of Health and Human Services e-newsletter!

This month's issue contains a feature story about our newest graduate degree program, MS in Clinical Regulatory Affairs. This degree program is the first of several new programs that SHHS will propose in the next several months to begin meeting the expanding workforce needs in the life sciences industry.

I am most excited to announce that the School of Health & Human Services is now developing several new degree programs in applied healthcare informatics. Healthcare informatics is the science that studies the use and processing of data, information, and knowledge applied to medicine, health care and public health. Several "mega-trends" in healthcare are leading to the advancement of career opportunities in healthcare information management, nursing/clinical informatics, and public health informatics. We are also working with a consultant to establish an international consortium of individuals and organizations that would support a premier academic program in healthcare informatics science and hope to have the first degree programs ready for next year. We will provide more information as this initiative develops.

If you have additional questions about any information contained in this newsletter, please feel free to contact me at [mlacourse@nu.edu](mailto:mlacourse@nu.edu). We also invite comments and suggestions at [shhs@nu.edu](mailto:shhs@nu.edu).

Warmest regards,

Michael Lacourse, PhD  
 Dean

## Announcement

### Tobacco Free Communities Coalition Meet & Greet

The National University School of Health and Human Services hosted the Tobacco Free Communities Coalition of San Diego County Meet and Greet on March 27<sup>th</sup>. This event celebrated the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Proposition 99. Speakers included Dannah Hosford, Chair of the Tobacco Free Communities Coalition, Erica Phung of the American Heart Association, and Dr. Alan Henderson, Chair of the National University Department of Community Health, who gave closing remarks, entitled "The Power of Prevention."

### Cohort 1 Nursing Students in Los Angeles

Below, are the student members and faculty of the inaugural BSN Cohort at our Los Angeles Campus.



# Recognition

Dr. Ellen Kaye Gehrke's workshop proposal, More Effective Learning Outcomes with Scientific Application of Energy Medicine, has been accepted by the Spring Symposium Committee.

Dr. Erminia Guarneri, adjunct faculty member in Integrative Health and Director of the Scripps Center for Integrative Medicine, was recently honored as Scientist of the Year by the ARCS Foundation. Congratulations!

# Summary of March Journal Club

Gardasil is the new vaccine that was introduced by Merck to protect against four strains of HPV, including two believed to cause 70% of cervical cancer. It is recommended to girls and young women ages 9-26. There has been tremendous controversy surrounding this vaccine for many reasons, but primarily because it is a vaccine against a sexually transmitted infection. Furthermore, according to the literature, it is not the HPV virus which causes cervical cancer, but a persistent infection with the virus. Well over 90% of the population clears this infection without a problem.

Nurses are in a unique role to address this controversial issue. Concerns brought up by parents ranging from the reactions reported in the media to necessity of the vaccine, are valid concerns that need to be addressed on an individualized basis. If a parent is truly concerned about these issues, then the parent can be educated about talking to their child about the virus, as well as safe sex practices. Furthermore, the parent can be given literature that can help with their decision. It is important to remember that the vaccine is new, and has only been studied for 5 years. Overall safety and efficacy studies have not been proven, but are encouraging. The nurse should also be sure to properly interview each patient receiving the vaccine to be sure they have not been exposed to the HPV virus. Exposure to the virus, followed by the vaccine, is believed to increase the chances of developing cervical cancer by 44.6%. A nurse is in the position of minimizing the risks of adverse reactions to the vaccine, which maximizes the overall benefits to the population by assessing, monitoring, and educating the patient.

Summary: Cassandra Rae Lin

# Feature Story

## Introducing the MS in Clinical Regulatory Affairs

We are excited to announce the launch of the MS in Clinical Regulatory Affairs, the newest degree program offered by the School of Health & Human Services. The MS in Clinical Regulatory Affairs becomes the third master's degree program in SHHS, joining the Master's in Integrative Health and the Master's of Healthcare Administration.

This unique degree program was carefully designed for individuals seeking professional careers in regulatory compliance, including participation in clinical affairs or quality assurance. Opportunities for employment include private industry and government, where one would work with a wide range of products such as medical devices, medical diagnostic tests, pharmaceuticals or biologics.

There are currently more than 575 life science and biotechnology companies located in southern California. These companies focus on the development and delivery of innovative products that improve health and quality of life. Nearly all of these companies employ regulatory specialists to participate in their clinical and regulatory affairs, so opportunities for employment in San Diego should remain strong in the coming years.

The typical entry level regulatory affairs specialist has a degree in a scientific or technical field, so prospective students with this background and an interest in clinical and regulatory affairs should consider this degree program and career path. The primary student market for the MS in Clinical Regulatory Affairs are those with a bachelor's degree in a science field who wish to obtain an advanced degree that will lead them to a career in regulatory affairs or those already in the field of regulatory affairs but do not have the credentials to further advance their careers.

The National University MS in Clinical Regulatory Affairs provides a comprehensive program of graduate study in the field of clinical trials and federal regulations associated with this endeavor. Our program provides students with the opportunity to acquire a breadth of knowledge of the field, to develop and implement appropriate protocols and documents, as well as understand data management. In addition, the student will be prepared to take a certification exam offered by one of the professional societies that offer certification.

Interested students may gain additional information about career opportunities, education requirements and an overview of regulatory affairs duties and responsibilities by visiting the Regulatory Affairs Professional Society at [www.raps.org/personifyebusiness/](http://www.raps.org/personifyebusiness/).

For more information about career opportunities and the National University degree program, please contact Dr. Patric Schiltz at [pschiltz@nu.edu](mailto:pschiltz@nu.edu), Lead Faculty for the MS in Clinical Regulatory Affairs degree program.