July 26, 2023

Summer and transitions. The longer daylight hours have been a welcome change for me. Morning exercise with the sun rising is a peaceful way to start the day, and I enjoy the sunlight for hours after completing my day at the hospital. At the same time, some of you may be dreading another day (or more) of temps greater than 100 F, while others may be forced to hibernate inside due to the residue from the Canadian wildfires. One thing is for certain: weather patterns are more unpredictable than ever before. This in turn, forces us to withstand new weather events that we may have been sheltered from in the past. It may require we make adaptations to our lifestyle or routines or transition to a new location that provides more comfort and safety. Regardless of this choice, future changes in weather are likely to occur which can change our trajectory once again. It's a shuffling pattern that is seen in many facets of our lives. We started our nursing careers with personal goals and ideas about what our future would hold. However, after additional health care experiences, some of these goals may have shifted from one path to another, requiring the shuffling for other life aspects.

As I just celebrated my 30 year nursing career at the University of Iowa, this milestone lead me to reflect on the many transitions in my career. Unlike the weather, these were not forced transitions, but rather transitions of choice. From a bedside stepdown nurse taking classes on days off to earn my Master's Degree and PNP certification, to working as a nurse practitioner in the NICU and newborn nursery, and then landing my dream position in pediatric cardiology. Transitions continued from student to mentor and leader. The years have blessed me with meeting many CHD nursing icons and establishing long-lasting friendships. SPCN has been a key component in making those connections.

With the end of summer comes the World Congress of Pediatric Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery, to be held August 37-September 1 in Washington D.C. There will also be a pre-conference nursing session August 26-27. SPCN will be a joint sponsor of the nursing reception on August 30 from 4:30-5:30 pm. Following this reception, SPCN members plan to gather at a local restaurant for more socializing. Look for more information to come prior to the meeting. New members are welcome to attend!

We would like to highlight all SPCN members who are presenting an oral abstract or poster at World Congress. Please share your name, credentials, affiliation, name and timing of presentation so we can make sure all SPCN attendees are up-to-date and supportive of our colleagues.

Looking beyond World Congress, AHA Sessions will be held in Philadelphia on November 11-13. The annual SPCN Educational Meeting will be held on the morning of November 10, live in Philly and virtually via Zoom. Look for more details to follow in the months ahead as we continue to make preparations. Our annual meeting will be the official kick-off to a series of webinars focusing on transitions for our patients and families, and how we can best support them. We look forward to spotlighting the expertise of many members throughout this series.

Transitioning out of summer and into a most exciting time of gathering and learning. Let's make the most of this and celebrate each of our contributions to the nursing profession.