



*Advancing Health through Nursing*  
Initiative on the Future of Nursing

## Executive Committee

### **Cole Edmonson, DNP, RN, FACHE, NEA-BC** **Co-Chair, North Region**



A Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Executive Nurse Fellow, is the Vice President of Patient Care Services and Chief Nursing Executive at Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Dallas. He has lead facilities to Magnet Designation and Re-designation in 2003 and 2008, becoming the first facility in North Texas to receive both honors. He received the Regional Nurses Week Excellence award and the National Visionary Leader award in 2009. Dr. Edmonson is adjunct faculty at the University of Texas at Arlington and Texas Woman's University. He serves on community colleges of nursing advisory boards, university advisory boards, and as an advisor to nursing publications. He completed his Doctor of Nursing Practice at Texas Christian University, in 2011. Dr. Edmonson serves as the Treasurer for Texas Organization of Nurse Executives and the President of the North Texas Organization of Nurse Executives. He is also the Vice-President of The DFW Great 100 Nurses Inc. He is a fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives and a certified Nurse Executive Advanced by American Nurses Credentialing Center.

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### **Cindy Johnson, MSN, RN** **Co-Chair, North Region**



Cindy Johnson joined Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas (BCBSTX) in 2000. Positions held with BCBSTX include: Director, Provider Services; Senior Director, Blue Care Connection® Programs responsible for operational oversight of the BCBSTX clinical programs; and Vice President, Texas Division Health Care Clinical Operations, responsible for the full spectrum of medical management services provided to client's and their members, including utilization management, condition management, case management as well as lifestyle management and wellness. Her current position is with the Enterprise Health Care Management division where she is responsible for clinical program development, implementation and integration. This position includes working closely with key areas including the individual plans, network, product, SDO, Pharmacy and Sales/Marketing. Cindy is a registered nurse who received a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Nursing from Mississippi University for Women and a Master's of Science in Nursing from the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

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### **Cindy Zolnierek, PhD, RN Co-Chair, Central Region**

As executive director of the Texas Nurses Association, Cindy leads the strategic operations of the Texas Nurses Association (TNA), a professional membership organization of registered nurses that advances nursing through leadership, collaboration, advocacy, and innovation. She has been active in policy development through previous work in nursing associations, most recently as co-chair of TNA's governmental affairs committee and TNA director of practice (2007-2011), Cindy's nursing career spans advanced practice, chief nurse executive, and academic roles. She has authored numerous publications focusing on nursing practice, advocacy, and care of persons with severe mental illness. She received a BSN from University of Detroit - Mercy, an MSN in adult psychiatric-mental health nursing from Wayne State University, and a PhD in nursing from University of Texas at Austin.

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### **Paulette Burns, PhD, RN North Region**

Dean of the Harris College of Nursing and Health Sciences at Texas Christian University (TCU) in Fort Worth, TX. During her administrative career in Oklahoma and Texas, she has focused on creating new educational pathways and opportunities in higher education for nurses. Under her leadership TCU has significantly increased the number of undergraduate and graduate students and programs in order to respond to the documented workforce shortage in nursing and other health sciences. She is the immediate past president of the Texas Organization of Baccalaureate and Graduate Nursing Education, serves as Chair of the American Association of Nursing's nominating committee, and is a member of the Texas Team Advancing Health through Nursing-a Regional Action Coalition leadership team. She is a Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nurse Fellow (2005).

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### **Margie Dorman-O'Donnell, MSN, RN** **North Region**

Margie is President of Texas Nurses Association (TNA), a statewide professional association of registered nurses, Dorman-O'Donnell has been active in policy issues related to nursing and health care since completing nursing school and achieving her nursing license. She is a past vice president of TNA, having served two full terms of office. She chaired the TNA Regulatory Task Force, and served as co-chair of TNA's Governmental Affairs committee, as well as the RN/APRN political action committee. Professionally, Dorman-O'Donnell is director of case management for Cook Children's Medical Center in Fort Worth.

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### **Freda Hanly, BSN, RN, CCM** **North Region**

Freda Hanley, Senior Director, Healthcare Clinical Operations for Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas, joined the Management team in Healthcare Clinical Operations (HCCO) Management in 2002. She has held various management roles responsible for Utilization Management, Case Management, Disease Management, and Lifestyle Management. As Director of the Blue Care Connection® Custom and Government Accounts, Ms. Hanley also holds responsibility for healthcare management of all Healthcare Service Corporation's (HCSC's) Federal Employee Membership representing over 750,000 lives. Ms. Hanley was one of the recipients of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association's Distinctively Blue Awards for Innovation in 2007 for a submission associated with obesity titled "Closing the Gaps in the Obesity Epidemic". Most recently, Ms. Hanley was the recipient of the 2012 HCSC Leadership Award. Prior to joining BCBSTX, Ms. Hanley served in a variety of leadership positions at Seton Healthcare Systems, Great West Life and Prudential. Ms. Hanley earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing from the University of Texas at Austin. She is a licensed registered nurse in Texas as well as a certified case manager (CCM).

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### **Mary Elizabeth Mancini, PhD, RN, NE-BC, FAHA, FAAN North Region**

Professor, Associate Dean & Chair for Undergraduate Nursing Programs at The University of Texas at Arlington College of Nursing. She holds the Baylor Health Care System Professorship for Healthcare Research. Prior to moving to an academic role in 2004, Dr. Mancini was Sr. VP for Nursing Administration & CNO at Parkland Health & Hospital System in Dallas, Texas, a position she held for 18 years. Dr. Mancini is active in the area of simulation in healthcare including serving as President of the Society for Simulation in Healthcare, member of the Institute of Medicine's Global Forum on Innovations in Health Professions Education, past member of the Royal College of Physicians & Surgeons of Canada's Simulation Task Force, Sigma Theta Tau International's Simulation & Emerging Technologies Content Advisory Group, & the World Health Organization's Initiative on Training & Simulation & Patient Safety. In addition to serving as a member of the Texas Team Advancing Health through Nursing, she is the Chair of the Texas Nursing Association's Education Committee.

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### **June Marshall, DNP, RN, NEA-BC North Region**

June Marshall, DNP, RN, NEA-BC, is currently the Director of Nursing Education and Research at UT Southwestern Medical Center. Marshall earned her BSN from Texas Woman's University, her MS in Pediatric Nursing from Medical College of Virginia - Virginia Commonwealth University and her DNP from Texas Christian University. Marshall has vast practice experience in direct care, advanced practice (CNS) and nursing leadership roles in a variety of health care settings. Her professional passion is centered on creating and sustaining transformational cultures of nursing excellence in healthcare organizations, promoting professional development, removing scope of practice barriers, and fostering healthy work environments. Marshall currently serves as the North Region Director on the Texas Nurses Association Board and as Treasurer for the North Texas Organization of Nurse Executives.

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### **Helen Reid, EdD, MSN, RN, CNE** **North Region**

Helen Reid, EdD, MSN, RN, CNE currently serves as the Health Science Center Provost providing administration of the health occupations programs for Trinity Valley Community College (TVCC) in Kaufman, Texas. During her thirty years in nursing education, she has served as previous T-OADN secretary and president and N-OADN treasurer and public relations director, and is now a member of the Texas Nurses Association (TNA) Education Committee, and treasurer of the Texas Association of Deans & Directors of Professional Nursing Programs (TADDPNP). Major projects include Perkins Leadership grant in 2011-2012, and currently co-project director for the Texas Academic Progression in Nursing (APIN) grant funded by the Robert Woods Johnson Foundation (RWJF), and project director for the Texas Concept-Based Curriculum grant project funded by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. Dr. Reid received her BSN from the University of Texas at Arlington, MSN from Texas Woman's University and EdD from the University of North Texas.

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### **Joyce Batcheller, DNP, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN** **Central Region**

A Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nurse Fellow alumna, President of J.Batcheller Consulting, and faculty at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, School of Nursing, Lubbock, Texas. Batcheller received a diploma in Nursing from Hartford Hospital School of Nursing in Connecticut, followed by a BSN and MSN from The University of Texas Health Sciences Center at San Antonio School of Nursing. In 2008, she completed the Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nurse Fellowship and in May 2010 she completed a Doctorate of Nursing Practice from the School of Nursing at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center. Most notably, Batcheller led the development of Seton's mature, 16-year-old shared governance structure, which resulted in nine of Seton's 11 hospitals being designated by the American Nurses Credentialing Center: four Magnet and five Pathway to Excellence.

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### **Pam Craig, MSN, RN** **Central Region**

Chief Nursing Officer Seton Medical Center Harker Heights, President of the Texas Organization of Nurse Executives, member of the Council on Policy Development for the Texas Hospital Association, and board member for the Greater Killeen Free Clinic. During her nursing career, she has focused on the quality of the nursing work environment with a special emphasis on efficient nursing processes. She is the co-author of Nursing Assessment, Plan of Care, and Patient Education: The Foundation of Patient Care. She received the 2009 Excellence in Leadership Award by Community Health Systems. She received her BSN from Grand Canyon College, now University, where she graduated with High Distinction and received her MSN at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Nursing.

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### **Elizabeth Sjoberg, RN, JD** **Central Region**

Joined the Texas Hospital Association in February, 1995. She is one of three in-house attorneys, whose responsibilities include advocating for member hospitals and health systems in the legislative and regulatory arenas, and informing members and the public about current topics in health law. As Associate General Counsel, her issue areas include nurse licensure, practice and education; data collection; advance directives and end-of-life care; quality and patient safety; children's and women's issues; and public health promotion and wellness. She also is a member of the Texas Team, working in coordination with the Office of the Governor to address nursing education capacity. Ms. Sjoberg received her law degree from St. Mary's University School of Law in San Antonio, and her bachelors of science in nursing degree from the University of Texas School of Nursing at Austin. Prior to attending law school, she worked in both the hospital and clinic settings. Ms. Sjoberg's professional affiliations include the State Bar of Texas and Health Law Section; the American Health Lawyers Association; the American and Texas Organizations of Nurse Executives; and the American and Texas Nurses Associations.

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### **Linda Lawson, DNP, RN, NEA-BC Upper Rio Grande Region**

Linda is the Administrative Director of Nursing Operations for Del Sol Medical Center, a 350-bed Acute Care facility in El Paso, Texas. She is responsible for directing the organization's performance improvement program, including compliance with accrediting and regulatory agencies' requirements, patient safety, and quality initiatives. Linda is a 2012 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Executive Nurse Fellow. She is a magnet surveyor for the ANCC Magnet Recognition Program®, a program that recognizes healthcare organizations for quality patient care, nursing excellence, and innovations in professional nursing practice. A faculty instructor for the Doctor of Nurse Practice Program at The University of Texas at El Paso, Linda earned her undergraduate degree in nursing from the University of Texas at El Paso. She earned her master's degree in nursing from the University of Massachusetts at Boston, and her Doctor of Nurse Practice in Executive Nurse Leadership from Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in Lubbock, Texas.

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### **Diana Ruiz, DNP, RN-BC, CWOCN, NE West Region**

Dr. Diana Ruiz obtained her Doctor of Nursing Practice Degree from Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Nursing in 2013. She currently serves as the Director of Population and Community Health at Medical Center Health System in Odessa, Texas. She is the leader of the Ector County Health Care Coalition through the Texas Department of State Health Services. Most recently, she served in the role of Director of Nursing Education & Clinical Consultation for the same facility for the past five years. She is board certified as a Nursing Professional Development Specialist, Nurse Executive, and Certified Wound Ostomy and Continence Nurse. Her professional experience includes: telemetry, home health, independent CWOCN consultant, nurse educator, and leadership. She enjoys traveling, medical mission work, reading and exploring innovative and creative approaches to reducing the occurrence of hospital acquired pressure ulcers.

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## **Susan Sportsman, RN, PhD, FAAN** **West Region**

Susan Sportsman is the Director of Academic Consulting Group, an innovative service of Elsevier, designed to provide targeted consultations & faculty development workshops to nursing & health professions programs. Prior to joining Elsevier, Dr. Sportsman was the Dean of the College of Health Sciences & Human Services at Midwestern State University. Her career as a nurse educator includes faculty & leadership positions in associate degree, baccalaureate & graduate programs in nursing and health care administration, resulting in her being honored as a fellow in the National League of Nursing Academic of Nursing Educators in 2011. She has also been active in policy advocacy related to nursing & health care through her work with the Texas Nurses Association (past President & Secretary), Texas Society of Allied Health Professionals (past President, Vice President, & Board Member), & Texas Mental Health Association (past Board member). Honors include: the Dallas-Ft. Worth Great 100 Nurses (1991), Leadership Texas (1990), Texas Woman's University (2005) and Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing (2012). As part of her leadership with the Texas Team, she is an author and Co-PI of the RWJ APIN grant focused on increasing the number of RNs graduating from TX BSN programs.

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### **Susan Ruppert, PhD, RN, ANP-BC, NP-C, FCCM, FAANP, FAAN**

#### **Gulf Coast Region**

Dr. Ruppert is a Professor at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston School of Nursing and Director for the Adult/Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Program. She is a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing, American Association of Nurse Practitioners, American College of Critical Care Medicine, American College of Critical Care Medicine, and the National Academies of Practice. She is certified as both a Family Nurse Practitioner and Adult Nurse Practitioner. In addition to teaching, she holds a faculty practice as a nurse practitioner. She has a long practice experience in adult medicine providing primary health care to both insured and underserved populations. She has been the founding Editor-in-Chief of The Internet Journal of Advanced Nursing Practice since 1997 for which she received a Sigma Theta Tau International Information Technology Award for Knowledge Advancement. She has served as an editor and contributor to major textbooks, and serves as an editorial board member/reviewer for numerous journals. She has published articles in many journals. She has served as an expert reviewer for the only college-based nursing program in Oman. Dr. Ruppert has held numerous national leadership positions within professional organizations, and currently serves on the Board of Commissioners for the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) and the CCNE Accreditation Review Committee. She also serves on the Executive Committee of the Fellows of the AANP, and is a member of the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF) Curricular Leadership Committee. She served as the first Nurse Leader of the Texas Team Gulf Coast Regional Leadership Team.

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