Objectives

- Define Nurse Practitioner
- Identify the foundation and pioneers of practice
- Understand role progression
- Timeline of events
- Implications for APRN and future Evolution
What is a Nurse Practitioner?

A nurse practitioner is an advanced practice nurse that is trained to provide care throughout the lifespan. The NP will generally focus on health promotion, health education, and the foundations of health care (Lowe, Plummer, O’Brien, & Boyd, 2012).

Currently, there are approximately 148,000 Nurse Practitioners within the United States. They are considered the largest group of independently licensed primary care providers and account for approximately 600 million patient visits every year (Auerhahn, Mezey, Stanley, & Wilson, 2012).
Dr. Loretta Ford and Nurse Practitioners

• [http://youtu.be/oQlvqCcIsc4](http://youtu.be/oQlvqCcIsc4)
Momentum for Change

• Early 1960’s
  – Opportunity for change during social, political, economical, legal instability and chaos
  – Concern for lack of healthcare for underserved
The Big Year: 1965

- Dr. Loretta Ford and Dr. Henry Silver collaborated for solutions to care deficits
  - Sought nursing based solutions
  - Saw physician shortage as an opportunity
  - Saw cultural, social, political chaos as another opportunity

(American Association of Nurse Practitioners, 2013).
Nurse Practitioner Pioneers

- Dr. Loretta Ford, RN, FAAN, FAANP, collaborated with Dr. Henry Silver to develop a curriculum designed to educate pediatric nurses practitioners.
- This resulted in the development of the first nurse practitioner program in the United States.
- Pediatric nurse practitioners were the first NP’s introduced in our country.
- Soon after, the idea of the nurse practitioner escalated both nationally and internationally. (Beckett Geldens, 2012)
Roots for Change and Movement: Advanced Practice Role

• Take risks
• Do not accept standards of practice, “always done this way” → catalyst for change and practice improvement
• Change from illness oriented system to a wellness oriented system
• Always remember why we practice → to care for and about the people (American Association of Nurse Practitioners, 2013).
NP Role Development

- The nurse practitioner was introduced with the hopes of closing the gaps found in health care services.
- Literature has pinpointed the mid 1960’s as the general time frame in which the first reported nurse practitioner role was introduced within the United States (Lowe, Plummer, O’Brien, & Boyd, 2012).
- Development in the 1960’s of the advanced practice nurse role was primarily to assess and treat patients in an ambulatory setting (Brown & Draye, 2003).
Pioneering the Role

Advancing Autonomy
• Build on existing nursing role and expand to accommodate the new role

Six Themes
• Breaking free
• Molding the clay
• Encountering obstacles
• Surviving the proving ground
• Stay committed
• Building the eldership

(Brown & Draye, 2003)
Timeline of Events: 1940’s-1960’s

- 1942 - Ford received her Diploma in Nursing from Middlesex General Hospital in New Jersey.
- 1949 - Ford received her B.S. from the University of Colorado, School of Nursing.
- 1951 – Ford obtained her M.S. from the University of Colorado.
- 1961 - Ford earned her Ed.D. from the University of Colorado School of Education.
- 1965 - Dr. Loretta Ford and Dr. Henry Silver develop the first Nurse Practitioner (NP) program at the University of Colorado.
- 1967 - Boston College initiates one of first master’s degree programs for NPs.

(American Association of Nurse Practitioners, 2013)
Timeline of Events: 1970’s

- 1971– One of first family NP programs established at University of Washington
- 1973- More than 65 NP programs exist and establishment of National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNP)
- 1974- American Nurses Association helps legitimate role by creating Council of Primary Care Nurse Practitioners
- 1975- University of Colorado hold first continuing education symposium

(American Association of Nurse Practitioners, 2013)
Timeline of Events: 1980’s

- 1980- >200 NP programs or tracks available; 15,000-20,000 NPs practicing; Establishment of Nurse Practitioner Associates for Continuing Education (NPACE); Publication of Guidelines for Family Nurse Practitioner Curricular Planning after five years of development at the University of New Mexico
- 1985- American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) established; AANP creates development of NP database
- 1987- $100 million spent by federal government for NP education
- 1989- 90% NP programs either master’s degree or post-master’s degree

(American Association of Nurse Practitioners, 2013)
Timeline of Events: 1990’s

- 1992- work to develop NP role internationally begins
- 1994- Mundinger publishes "Advanced Practice Nursing – Good Medicine for Physicians" in *The New England Journal of Medicine*, provides supportive evidence that NPs are cost effective and quality primary care providers
- 1995- In attempt to enhance communication and collaboration with industry leaders the AANP initiates the Corporate Advisory Council (ACAC)
- 1999- Estimated 60,000 NPs practicing in United States

(American Association of Nurse Practitioners, 2013)
Timeline of Events: 2000’s

- 2000- AANP establishes the Fellows program; hosts first international NP conference in U.S.; creates the Political Action Committee (PAC)
- 2001- Estimated 87,000 NPs in U.S.; number of NPs enlisted to offer support and aid to NYC and Washington
- 2003- Estimated 97,000 NPs in U.S.
- 2004- U.S. Congress proclaims recognition of National Nurse Practitioner Week, held annually in November; The American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) publishes position paper on Doctorate of Nursing Practice
- 2005- Estimated 106,000 NPs in U.S.; NPs celebrate 40 years of practice
- 2008- Initiate development of online CE tracking; increase presence of AANP as a major advocate and leader for all NPs through lobbying and direct communication with policy makers; Create petition urging pharmaceutical companies and other suppliers of health care products to use provider-neutral language in consumer print and broadcast advertisements
- 2009- Estimated 125,000 NPs in U.S.; advertorial/open letter produced to President Obama and Members of Congress highlighting NPs as primary care providers

(American Association of Nurse Practitioners, 2013)
Timeline of Events: 2010’s

- **2010-** Estimated 135,000 NPs in U.S.; NP organizations meet with White House Office of Health Reform to review the primary care perspective on preventive care, access, coordinated primary care, quality of care, payment and the need to recognize all primary care providers as solutions to the health care crisis.

- **2013-** American Academy of Nurse Practitioners and the American College of Nurse Practitioners combine to create the largest membership organization for nurse practitioners of all specialties.

(American Association of Nurse Practitioners, 2013)
Progression of Role

• Building from nursing experience and continuing education role expansion included:
  – Increased autonomy
  – Central role in primary care
  – Enhancement of quality of care
  – Increased access to underserved (Brown & Draye, 2003).

• In the mid-1980’s, research indicated that the NP role was most valuable in providing access to underserved, uninsured, rural, and minority populations (Brown & Draye, 2003).
Implications for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses

- Role of NP as an APRN come far since inception
- Progressively have expanded scope of practice
  - Multiple specialty NPs
- Increased recognition by patients, physicians, insurance companies, and culturally
- Developed meaningful relationships with patients and colleagues
- Remained focused on goals with mindfulness of where we came from, rooted in improving patient care and availability of quality care
Future of Practice

- Continually analyze purpose and benefits of increased autonomy
  - Driving force behind change in collaborative agreement
- Continue to research and produce documented magnitude of impact APRN has on current healthcare situation and how it can help in future, especially removing barriers and reducing obstacles
- Bring united front to face challenges of resistance to change through education and evidence of APRN influences
- Encourage continuing education and professional growth through networking and collegiality
References


