Health Professionals
Advocating for Public Policy

Joyce Stein, RN.BSN
Neonatal Staff Nurse, retired
University of Michigan
Joyce Stein, RN, BSN
Neonatal Intensive Care Nurse

- University of Michigan
  Neonatal Intensive Care Unit

- President of Southeastern Michigan Association of Neonatal Nurses (SMANN)

- Member of Health Policy & Advocacy Committee
  National Association of Neonatal Nurses (NANN)

- Member of: Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments (ANHE)
  Michigan Nurses Association (MNA)
  Michigan Public Health Association (MPHA)
Always Remember the “WHY”

Niagara Falls

Rural Winter Scene Michigan
Always Remember the “WHY”

Grant was born prematurely with a Congenital airway defect
The History of Healthcare

- History of Healthcare
- For Physicians: Hippocrates
- For Nurses: Florence Nightingale
- Always changing and improving.
- Evidenced Based Practice
Environmental Issues in Health Care

- Pharmaceuticals
- Medical devices
- Plastics
- Medical waste
- Cleaning products
- Disposal
Issues in the Community

- Our patients come from the community
- Air Quality
- Water Quality
- Pesticides / fertilizers
- Food
- Consumer products: plastics, electronics, clothing, toys, baby products
The Good News......

- The Rise of the US Environmental Health Movement
- Author: Katie Davies
- History
- What makes it a movement
- Where are we going
Learn from The Past
Ways to Advocate

- Voting
- Town halls
- Meeting in State or DC
- Meeting with Staff
- Testimony

- Press Conferences
- Opeds / Editorials
- Social Media
- FaceBook
- Twitter
- Blogs
Legislator Town Halls

- Senator Stabenow
- March 27, 2013
- Home for townhall on Mental Health legislation
- Open Forum
Meeting in Washington DC

- Rep Mark Schauer Office
- Washington DC
- Constituent Open House
- Drop in
- Schedule a meeting before your visit
- Meeting with staff
Providing Testimony

July 31, 2013

Senate Committee Hearing

Lori Batzloff, RN from Three Rivers testifies at the Medicaid expansion committee hearing in Lansing. "We have to do something to interrupt this cycle of health care that devalues patients and hurts communities."
Professional Arena

- Professional Associations
- American Nurses Association
- American Academy of Pediatrics
- American Medical Association
Legislative Guides/Toolkits

- Professional Associations
  - Governmental Affairs
- Legislative webpage
  - Legislative updates
- Lobbying Guides
- Legislative Toolkits
Nursing Association Websites

- ANA Capitol Update
- Legislative Updates
- Political News
- In The Agencies
- End Notes
Take Action to Protect Our Smallest and Most Vulnerable Babies

Did you know upwards of 90 percent of drugs used in newborns do not contain information on safety or efficacy? The U.S. Congress is currently in final negotiations on a bill to reauthorize programs at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The legislation renews and strengthens essential laws to improve the safety and effectiveness of pediatric drugs used in children.
Health Professional Environmental Organizations

- General
  - Healthcare Without Harm

- Nursing
  - Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments

- Physician
  - Physicians for Social Responsibility
Healthcare Without Harm

What We Do

"First Do No Harm" ... Together with our partners around the world, Health Care Without Harm shares a vision of a health care sector that does no harm, and instead promotes the health of people and the environment.

To that end, we are working to implement ecologically sound and healthy alternatives to health care practices that pollute the environment and contribute to disease.”
The Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments (ANHE) is a network of nurses from around the country (and world) who are acting on the notion that our environment and health are inextricably connected. We are a group of nurses from all walks of our profession – hospital-based, public health, school-based, academics, and advanced practice, to name a few.
Physicians for Social Responsibility

Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR) has been working for over 50 years to create a healthy, just and peaceful world for present and future generations. PSR advocates on the issues you care about by addressing the dangers that threaten our communities, using our medical and public health expertise to:

- Prevent nuclear war and proliferation;
- Slow, stop and reverse global warming;
- Protection from toxic chemicals;
- Eliminate the use of nuclear power.
Michigan

PSR Affiliation: Chapter Director, Michigan

Stephanie Dernek comes to PSR from Chicago, IL where she worked at 8th Day Center for Justice, a multi issue peace and social justice organization for over 10 years. Her work consisted of organizing and animating people to engage in critical social justice issues through advocacy, action, and education. She has worked on a variety issues including economic justice, environmental justice, im/migration, as well as civil and human rights. She has a B.A. in Political Science from University Wisconsin Milwaukee and M.A. in Social Justice from Loyola University Chicago. Stephanie is originally from Wisconsin. She enjoys mountain biking and being outdoors. She is also a Certified Yoga Instructor focusing on self-care for activists, organizers, social workers and those who care for others.
Advocacy Coalitions

- Michigan Network for Children’s Environmental Health
- Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families
- Environmental Working Group
- Children’s Environmental Health Network
Examples of Advocacy through Coalitions

- Lobby days
- Lobby Events
- Press Conferences
- Press Releases
- Opeds
- Editorial
- Presentations
Lobby Events
Stroller Brigade
Engaging Legislators at a Lobby Event
Lobby Days

- November Lobby Day for MNCEH
- Great learning as well as advocating event
- Coalition provides Talking points
- Coalition has prearranged meetings with specific legislators
- The coalition provides Fact Sheets
- Lobbying for the Safe Children’s Product Act
Press Conferences
Advocacy through Press Conferences
Opeds & Editorials
Internships / Fellowships

- Coverage of an event in your local Newspaper

- Press release of an Oped in a larger city newspaper
Brooklyn nurse participates in rally

Joyce Stein of Brooklyn recently attended a rally in Washington DC to participate in a children’s environmental health rally. The “National Stroller Brigade” featured hundreds of people from around the country demanding lawmakers take measures against toxic chemicals.

The group rallied in support of Sen. Frank Lautenberg’s (D_NJ) Safe Chemicals Act, a bill to overhaul the Toxic Substances Control Act, which protesters describe as an antiquated law governing industrial chemicals.

“In my 30 years of nursing, I have become increasingly concerned with the role of toxic chemicals in various birth defects, especially those affecting the male reproductive track” said Stein, a neonatal nurse.

“From a public Health perspective, it is baffling that we would allow toxic chemicals on to the market without any health and safety testing.” she said.

Brooklyn Exponent, June 12, 2012
Guest commentary: Protect health with stronger controls on toxic chemicals

As a nurse, I empathize with the strong desire to find a cure for many of today's medical problems: cancer, infertility, immune disorders and learning and developmental disabilities. They all have profound and devastating effects on American individuals and families.

Written by Joyce Stein  Detroit Free Press guest writer

Detroit Free Press, June 7, 2012
Resources for Educating Ourselves, our Colleagues

- Internships
- Fellowships
- Conferences
- Webinars
Nurse in Washington Internship

The Nurse in Washington Internship (NIWI)

- Influence policy
- Work effectively
- Key steps to effect change
- Grassroots
- Capitol Hill meetings
REACH the Decision Makers Fellowship

Sponsored by:

- UCSF Dept of Reproductive Health & the Environment
- Utilize best health science
- Promote health standards
- Develop tools to engage
Other Resources

- Conferences
  - APHA
  - MPHA
  - HCWH

- Webinars.
  - Environmental Coalitions
  - UM MPH Dept
Clean Med 2014

2013 Clean Med Conference Topics

- Tour a Climate Resilient Hospital
- Climate Change & Public Health
- Food Matters – Advocacy Training
- Nurses Safe Handling of Hazardous Drugs
- Green Cleaning
Remember the “WHY”
References

1. Silent Spring (1962), Rachel Carson

2. Generations At Risk, Reproductive Health and the Environment (1999), Ted Schettler, M.D., Gina Solomon, M.D., Maria Valenti, and Annette Huddle

3. The Rise of the U.S. Environmental Health Movement (2013), Kate Davies
References

1. Michigan Network for Children’s Environmental Health (MNCEH)  www.mnceh.org

2. Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments (ANHE) www.envir.org

3. American Nurses Association (ANA) www.nursingworld.org


5. Center for Health, Environment and Justice www.chej.org
Resources

1. Endocrine Society [www.endo-society.org/advocacy]
2. Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families [www.saferchemicals.org]
3. Environmental Protection Agency [www.epa.gov]
4. Design for the Environment, EPA [www.epa.gov/dfe/]
5. The Food and Drug Administration [www.fda.gov]
6. Lowell Center for Sustainable Hospital Programs [www.sustainableproduction.org/proj.shos.abou.php]
7. Center for Environmental Health [www.ceh.org]
Online Newsletters

1. Academy of Pediatrics Smartbrief
   aap@smartbrief.com

2. American Nurses Association Smartbrief
   ANA@smartbrief.com
Reports / Studies

1. *Hidden Hazards in the Nursery*
   www.watoxics.org/publications/hidden-hazards-in-the-nursery

2. *Body Burden: The Pollution in Newborns*
   www.ewg.org/research/body-burden-pollution-newborns

3. *The Price of Pollution*
   www.sehn.org/tccpdf/childhood%20illness.pdf

4. *Chemicals and Our Health*