



Gay Johnson, CEO

Message from the CEO

This September marked NPWH's 19th Annual Premier Women's Healthcare Conference, and it was a huge success! The main conference began with presentations by dynamic women who set the tone for the rest of the event. First, we enjoyed *A Conversation with Loretta Ford, EdD, RN, PNP, FAAN, FAANP*. Loretta was co-founder of the first nurse practitioner (NP) program in the United States. Loretta, along with Henry Silver, MD, inaugurated the pediatric NP program at the University of Colorado in 1965. Then in 1972, Loretta joined the University of Rochester as founding Dean of the Nursing School. Jacki Witt, Chair of the NPWH Board of Directors, and I presented Loretta with a Leadership Award with this inscription: *For Extraordinary Vision, Remarkable Dedication, Passionate Commitment to Excellence in Creating the Nurse Practitioner Role*. Loretta Ford is truly an inspiration to everyone who meets her.

The next two speakers were Teresa Gardner Tyson, DNP, MSN, FNP-BC, FAANP, and Paula Meade, DNP, MSN, FNP-BC, PNP-BC, FAANP. Teresa and Paula are lifelong friends who grew up in the rural Appalachian Mountains of Virginia. They left the area to pursue their education and clinical experience, and then returned to start a free nurse-managed health clinic, The Health Wagon, for uninsured patients. These two NPs and The Health Wagon were featured in a segment on *60 Minutes*, which showcased their efforts to provide access to healthcare for the poor and marginalized people of Appalachia. Their clinic also



Jacki Witt, Loretta Ford, and Gay Johnson

received notable recognition by *Nightline*, *CBS Nightly News*, *Inside Edition*, *The Washington Post*, and *The New York Times*. Teresa and Paula continue to extend their reach to underserved populations. For the past 17 years, they have provided services to the Remote Area Medical Health Expedition in Virginia, which is the largest healthcare outreach in the U.S. They currently manage two mobile units and two stationary Health Wagon clinics.

Once again, NPWH was proud to present the Inspiration in Women's Health Award to four different NPs. The Inspiration Award Winner for Education was Sharon D. Baker, BSN, MS, CWHNP, CMP, of Georgia; the Inspiration Award Winner for Clinical was Jennifer Kurkowski, MSN, WHNP-BC, of Texas; the Inspiration Award Winner for Research was Naomi Jay, PhD, RN, NP, of California; and the Inspiration Award Winner for Policy was Denise Link, PhD, WHNP-BC, CNE, FAAN, FAANP, of Arizona. The award winners received free conference registration, travel to and from New Orleans, and accommodations for the duration of the conference, as well as an award and a scholarship to continue their great work. All of these awards were



Teresa Gardner Tyson and Paula Meade



From left to right: Sharon D. Baker, Jennifer Kurkowski, Denise Link, and Naomi Jay

made possible through a grant from Hologic, Inc. “Inspiration” was clearly a theme throughout the conference; the sessions and symposia—notable for their captivating content and spirited speakers—were truly inspiring to the attendees.

One last thing: We are all inspired by the contributions that *you* make every day to the healthcare of women! Thank you, and have a happy and healthy holiday season!

– Gay Johnson
Chief Executive Officer, NPWH

Colorectal Cancer Screening Saves Lives

Colorectal cancer is the 2nd leading cancer killer in the U.S.

But it can be prevented.

Screening helps find precancerous polyps so they can be removed before they turn into cancer.

Screening can also find colorectal cancer early, when treatment is most effective.

**If you're 50 or older—don't wait.
Talk to your doctor
and get screened.**



www.cdc.gov/screenforlife
1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



“I don't have symptoms.”

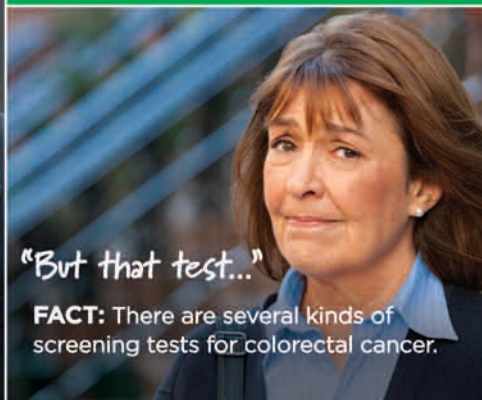
FACT: Colorectal cancer doesn't always cause symptoms, especially early on.



“It doesn't run in my family.”

FACT: Most colorectal cancers occur in people with no family history.

“Why Should I Get Screened?”



“But that test...”

FACT: There are several kinds of screening tests for colorectal cancer.