

Jamie Abrahamson, BSN

Following 12 years of nursing experience in emergency and urgent care, Jamie will graduate in August 2018 from Gonzaga University with her Master's Degree in the Family Nurse Practitioner program. She plans to focus on pediatrics, women's health, or urgent care. Jamie indicates, "It is helpful to have an organization like IENA to support and promote the ANA Code of Ethics for nurses, but most of all have excellent knowledge in public health policies and will speak on behalf of all nurses in legislation and governmental programs."

Teresa Bigand, MSN

After four years of gaining experience as an RN in a variety of clinical settings, Teresa became convinced her calling was to pursue a career as a nurse faculty member. She believes a key piece of developing a strong nurse leader has at its core an excellent academic preparation supported by caring, enthusiastic teachers who serve as role models of excellence to students. "Organizations such as WSNA/IENA encourage nurses to come together to identify major social and healthcare issues and to devise a plan to solve complex challenges."

Annalisa Brombach, BS

Following completion of the SCC nursing program, Annalisa plans to pursue a career as a nurse practitioner and looks forward to practicing at the expert professional level and provide her patients with the best health care possible. "I believe I can speak for almost every nurse and nursing student when I say the American Nursing Association has made an impact on political, economic, and social decisions in promoting nurses and all of healthcare. There is no better way to be heard and have issues resolved than if nurses unite in numbers."

Elena Butov, ADN, RN

Elena felt a call for nursing since her childhood in Ukraine. She is pursuing her BSN at Boise State University. An advocate for continued learning and teamwork, Elena believes both are essential to provide safe and effective care. "Professional organizations help nurses to stay current with research, best practices, technology, and politics. By participating in the organization, together our voice can be heard."

Cassandra Dubbels, BSN

Over the past 20 years, Cassandra's nursing career has grown including serving as an officer in the US Air Force and 10 years working in the Pediatric Emergency Department at Sacred Heart Medical Center. As a nursing instructor for Gonzaga University, she has helped bridge the gap between units and improved communication. For the future, she plans to continue to teach and mentor while transitioning from an RN to Family Nurse Practitioner. "I have been a supporter of WSNA and its influence at Sacred Heart Medical Center for the past 10 years. Nursing is more than just a job, it is a way of life."

Ruth Bryant, PhD, RN, CWOCN

Nominated by Matthew Ortiz: "Ruth has been an incredible support to the Unit Based Council on 7 South at Sacred Heart Medical Center. Over the past 12 months, she worked on a project to reduce compassion fatigue in oncology nurses. She supported the team in creating their research question that inspired the project. Without her guidance, we lacked the organization necessary. Once the work was done, we had a pile of data and no idea what to do with it. Ruth walked us through the data analysis and how to group the information into domains, collaborating with her colleagues to provide us with a statistical analysis which showed promising results in several areas. Ruth helped us to submit our abstract to three separate research programs and was accepted by all three: Oncology Nursing Congress,

Providence Research Symposium, and Western Institute of Nursing Research Conference. Throughout the whole process, Ruth provided ongoing encouragement. Her passion for research was inspiring and pushed us to go the extra mile. When it came time to creating our presentation, her direction was key. We could not have done this project without her.”