



PROGRESS REPORT

THE CHALLENGE

As the nation grapples with decreased nurse staffing in many settings today and predictions of an unprecedented shortage of nurses in the next decade, national nursing organizations have united around a shared vision for the future of the profession and developed a strategic plan to address the complex, interrelated factors that have created a growing shortage of nurses. The plan, *Nursing's Agenda for the Future (NAF)*, focuses on strategies that will move the profession forward in quantum leaps, thereby ensuring that consumers have access to high-quality nursing care.

VISION

To set the framework, nurses were asked to describe the profession in the year 2010. Their answer: Nursing is the pivotal health care profession, highly valued for its specialized knowledge, skill and caring in improving the health status of the public and ensuring safe, effective quality care.

The profession mirrors the diverse population it serves and provides leadership to create positive changes in health policy and delivery systems.

Individuals choose nursing as a career, and remain in the profession, because of the opportunities for personal and professional growth, supportive work environments and compensation commensurate with roles and responsibilities.

“Nurses know what needs to be done to achieve the vision of Nursing's Agenda for the Future.”

— Linda J. Stierle, MSN, RN, CNAA, BC
Chief Executive Officer, American Nurses Association



MOVING TOWARD THE VISION

Nursing organizations submitted more than 200 specific proposals that could move *NAF* forward.

FOR EXAMPLE:

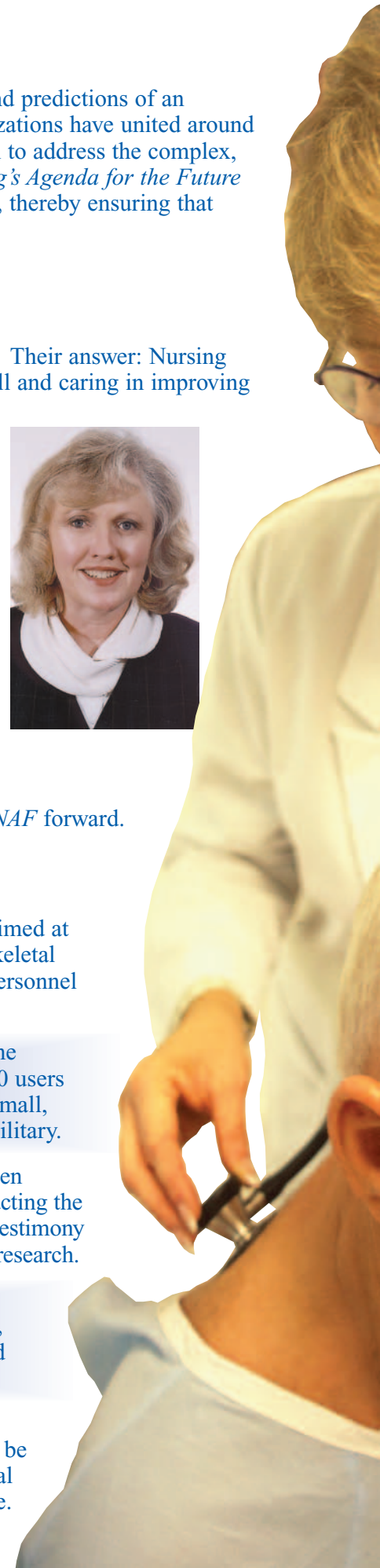
“Handle with Care,” a proactive, multi-faceted campaign aimed at promoting safe patient handling and preventing musculoskeletal disorders among nurses. More than one-third of nursing personnel are affected by back-related injuries.

ECCO, an Internet-based education program that teaches the Essentials of Critical Care Orientation, has more than 1,300 users in 26 states and abroad, representing health care systems, small, midsize and rural hospitals, community colleges and the military.

Programs to enhance cooperation and communication between orthopaedic nurses and orthopaedic surgeons on issues impacting the nursing shortage, including position statements, testimony and collaboration on grants to support nursing research.

Development of a modular preceptor program for the orientation of nurses to the perinatal clinical area, including content related to both theoretical knowledge and guided clinical experience.

VA Nursing Outcomes Database (VANOD), a database of nursing-sensitive indicators of quality at VA hospitals, will be used to benchmark and compare local, regional and national patient-quality outcomes that are related to nursing practice.



PRIORITIES

In December 2002, *NAF's* steering committee met and prioritized the 10 original areas of interest. Although work will continue in all 10 areas, four were singled out as top priorities:

Economic Value
Delivery Systems
Education
Work Environment

QUANTUM LEAP WORK

Given its high priority, establishing the economic value that RNs bring to the health care equation was deemed to be work that could move the nursing profession forward in a “quantum leap.” This work has significant policy implications that will make a strong business case for the care delivered by RNs.

FUND RAISING

To support *NAF's* quantum leap initiatives, the American Nurses Foundation – founded in 1955 as the scientific research, education and charitable not-for-profit arm of the American Nurses Association – has taken on the responsibility to raise \$25 million for *NAF*, the foundation of the “Invest in Nursing” campaign. The success of this capital campaign has significant implications for current and future stakeholders in *Nursing's Agenda for the Future*, but none more than consumers across the nation; the desired outcome being safe, quality patient care.



“The greatest investment we can make in health care in this country is an investment in our nursing workforce. It will reap valuable rewards now and in the future.”

— **William L. Holzemer, PhD, RN, FAAN**
President, American Nurses Foundation

HELP US ACHIEVE THE VISION.

To download a copy of *Nursing's Agenda for the Future*, visit our web site at www.NursingWorld.org/naf.



NAF AREAS OF INTEREST
Leadership and Planning
Economic Value
Delivery Systems
Work Environment
Legislation/Regulation/Policy
Public Relations/Communication
Professional/Nursing Culture
Education
Recruitment/Retention
Diversity

As members of the *Nursing's Agenda for the Future* Steering Committee, we wholeheartedly endorse the bold and ambitious goals of the *Invest in Nursing* campaign.

- American Academy of Nursing
- American Association of Colleges of Nursing
- American Association of Critical-Care Nurses
- American Association of Nurse Anesthetists
- American Nurses Association
- American Nurses Credentialing Center
- American Psychiatric Nurses Association
- Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
- Emergency Nurses Association
- Infusion Nurses Society
- National Black Nurses Association
- Oncology Nursing Society
- Sigma Theta Tau International, Honor Society of Nursing



600 Maryland Avenue, SW, Suite 100 West
Washington, DC 20024
(800) 274-4262
www.NursingWorld.org/naf



Printing courtesy of the American Nurses Foundation

