

# SPEAKER DETAILS

## **Keynote Speaker, Dr. Peter Buerhaus, PhD, RN, FAAN**

Dr. Peter Buerhaus, a nurse and healthcare economist, is well-known for his studies and publications focused on the nursing workforce in the U.S. He is the Valere Potter distinguished professor of nursing and director of the Center for Interdisciplinary Health Workforce Studies, the Institute for Medicine and Public Health, Vanderbilt University Medical Center. Dr. Buerhaus served as the senior associate dean for research at Vanderbilt University School of Nursing (2000-2006). Before coming to Vanderbilt University, Dr. Buerhaus was assistant professor of health policy and management at Harvard School of Public Health (1992-2000) where he developed the Harvard Nursing Research Institute and its post-doctoral program in nursing health services research. During the 1980s he served as assistant to the chief executive officer of The University of Michigan Medical Center's seven teaching hospitals (1983-1986) and assistant to the vice provost for medical affairs, the chief executive of the medical center (1987-1990). Dr. Buerhaus was inducted into the American Academy of Nursing in 1994, and elected into the National Academy of Sciences Institute of Medicine in 2003. He has published nearly 90 peer-reviewed articles and is the lead author of the award winning 2008 book, *The Future of the Nursing Workforce: Data, Trends, and Implications*. On September 30, 2010, Dr. Buerhaus was appointed chair of the National Health Care Workforce Commission. Created under the Affordable Care Act, the Commission advises Congress and the Administration on health workforce policy and serves as a resource for the states and localities.

*Spanning the Continuum of How Nurses Matter.* This session discusses two studies illustrating the critical difference that nurses make in improved healthcare. Learn about a major study providing new evidence on the association of hospital nurse staffing and inpatient mortality. You will also find out preliminary results of a national survey of primary care nurse practitioners and primary care physicians.

*State of the Nursing Workforce.* This session will discuss four related areas: describe latest projections on the size and age composition of the nursing workforce (some improving news); describe the state of the nurse labor market and the recession; describe some key trends in the physician workforce that we need to keep our eyes on and prepare for; and describe the status of the National Health Care Workforce Commission.

## **Denise Lucas, RN, MSN, NEA-BC**

Denise Lucas is vice president of patient services/CNO at DuBois Regional Medical Center in DuBois, PA. She has served in this capacity since 1989, helping the facility grow from a 140-bed hospital to a multihospital system. Lucas is responsible for all clinical inpatient and outpatient services, including cardiovascular services, women's and children's care, home care, emergency services, surgical services, behavioral health, inpatient and rehabilitation departments, infection prevention and control, and cardiology/respiratory therapy services. Since 1999, she has served as the customer service excellence champion to transform the organizational culture to one of respect and caring. Over the last year she has served as the informatics champion through the implementation of 31 Cerner solutions simultaneously, thus explaining hair loss and absence of finger nails. She has served in leadership positions within NWPONC and PONL over the past 20 years and was fortunate to be the AONE Region 2 representative for PA/NY/NJ from 2003-2005. Lucas has presented leadership programs for and represented AONE at national meetings and conferences. She currently serves as a speaker for healthcare leadership, healthful work environments and sanity management within the State.

*Lateral Accountability: Bullying ... Everyone Has the Power to Make a Difference.* In this session, attendees will learn the definition of bullying in the workplace and its impact on patient care quality, safety and work environments. It provides strategies to address bullying and create a strong culture of respect.

### **Samuel Miranda, Jr., MS, RN, NEA-BC**

Samuel Miranada is senior vice president, CNO, and ethics and compliance officer with Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Care Network. He is responsible for leading the organization by directing nursing operations and the operational, financial, regulatory and business activities associated with an active and collaborative matrix of nursing and clinical teams. In addition, he coordinates academic and clinical expertise among various constituencies, both internal and external. Miranda is involved in performance improvement, patient satisfaction, clinical quality, clinical practice guidelines and competency assessment. His professional experience includes positions held as staff nurse, nursing supervisor, nursing educator, patient education coordinator, assistant vice president and CNO in the acute care and rehabilitation care healthcare delivery systems. He serves on various national, regional and local nursing committees and organizations, and is recognized nationally as a legal nursing expert.

*Safety Behaviors to Decrease Medication Errors.* This session focuses on nurses placing an appropriate emphasis on “system” solutions for the reduction of medication errors, which includes the recognition and responsibilities of each caregiver in healthcare delivery. Emphasis will be placed on “system-based” safety processes which are designed to consistently and appropriately be applied in various clinical settings. Information technology support will be discussed with regard to the application of clinical systems noting when the overriding of systems may be appropriate. The session is designed to recognize individual fallibility in an effort to alter error-prone activities, thus reducing the potential of medication errors.

### **Rachel M. Conant**

Rachel Conant brings nine years of legislative, policy and political experience to her job as associate director in the Government Affairs Department of the American Nurses Association (ANA). Conant joined ANA in 2005, and currently lobbies members and staff of the U.S. Congress on behalf of ANA. She works to engage ANA members and nurses across the country in the advancement of nursing issues through political and grassroots advocacy. Her past professional background includes grassroots advocacy, lobbying and political action. She also served as a staff member for the U.S. House of Representatives’ Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

*ANA: Moving Nursing’s Agenda in Healthcare Reform ... and Beyond.* Learn about the work ANA embarked on leading up to the passage of the Affordable Act, including nursing specific provisions that were included within ACA, and those that ANA is working on now. The session highlights provisions that will be rolling out over the next few years and what to expect in Congress.

### **Karen Carman, RN, MSN**

Karen Carman has been a practicing nurse for 32 years. Her nursing career includes multiple fields — med surg, LTC, school health, home health, drug & alcohol and certification in oncology nursing. She has been both an HIV and TB consultant for the PA Dept of Health (DOH) and currently works as a community health nurse with the PA DOH, Northumberland County.

*Improving Outcomes with Compassion.* Carman shares her story of what she learned from her 100-day in-patient experience aftering her near-fatal motor vehicle accident. This session validates the impact that compassion has on healing and improved outcomes.