

# GETTING STARTED WITH

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 **GAPNA**

Gerontological Advanced  
Practice Nurses Association

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**A NEW MEMBER'S GUIDE TO MAXIMIZING  
YOUR MEMBERSHIP**



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# CHAPTER 1

## Discovering Your GAPNA Membership Benefits

Your GAPNA membership opens the doors to numerous opportunities, resources, and support systems to advance your career. Here's what you can expect:

- Free or discounted education sessions on gerontological nursing topics.
- Online Library with MP3s for on-the-go learning.
- Networking opportunities with like-minded professionals.
- Advocacy updates to stay informed on policies affecting gerontological care.
- Exclusive discounts on certification and conference attendance.



**"SINCE JOINING GAPNA IN 2013, I HAVE NEVER DOUBTED THAT I BELONG HERE."**

*-Tamatha Arms, PhD, DNP, PMHNP-BC, NP-C*

# YOUR GAPNA MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS AT A GLANCE



Networking  
and Community



Advocacy and  
Leadership



Exclusive Member  
Discounts



Professional  
Development

## Networking and Community

- GAPNA Exchange: Our exclusive online community connects you with peers and mentors to share ideas and solutions.
- Regional Chapters: Build local connections and participate in hands-on events.

## Advocacy and Leadership

- Stay informed with regular updates on legislation and policies affecting gerontological nursing.
- Access tools to become an advocate for older adult care in your community.

## Member Discounts

- Reduced rates for conferences, certification programs, and GAPNA's extensive library of resources.
- Take advantage of scholarships for advanced certifications like the Gerontological Specialist Certification (GS-C).

## Get Started Today

- Log in to your GAPNA profile and explore these benefits. Remember, the more you engage, the more you'll gain from your membership.



**"I HAD MISSED ATTENDING GAPNA FOR THE PAST FEW YEARS BUT WAS SO EXCITED TO RECONNECT (THIS YEAR). MEETING FELLOW COLLEAGUES FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY IS TRULY PRICELESS."**

*-Dr. Ethlyn McQueen-Gibson, DNP, MSN, RN-BC*

# CHAPTER 2

## Networking Opportunities: Building Connections That Last

### We Are Your People

**GAPNA offers a variety of ways to connect with your peers and build a strong professional network. Whether you're looking for mentorship, collaboration, or connection, GAPNA provides the platform to help you achieve your goals.**



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**We Are Your People**  
Share your story!

# Key Networking Options

- **The GAPNA Exchange:**
  - **What It Is:** An online forum exclusively for members to share advice, discuss clinical challenges, and celebrate successes.
  - **Why It Matters:** Quickly tap into a supportive community to get answers to questions or share your expertise.
- **Regional Chapters:**
  - **What It Is:** Local groups that host events and meetings to connect members in your area.
  - **Why It Matters:** Engage with professionals who understand the unique challenges of your region.
- **Annual Conference:**
  - **What It Is:** GAPNA's premier event featuring workshops, seminars, and social gatherings.
  - **Why It Matters:** Meet thought leaders, participate in hands-on learning, and enjoy networking with like-minded peers.



**"THE PRESENTATIONS WERE INFORMATIVE AND ENGAGING, AND I LEARNED SO MUCH NEW INFORMATION. I ALSO HAD A CHANCE TO NETWORK WITH MANY OTHER ADVANCED PRACTICE PROVIDERS. I CAN'T WAIT UNTIL NEXT YEAR!"**

*-Shirl Hartzog-Hargrove, CRNP*

# WHERE WE ARE FROM



**"GETTING INVOLVED IN MY LOCAL GAPNA CHAPTER HAS HELPED ME BECOME A BETTER NURSE AND MENTOR. IT HAS BROUGHT TONS OF OPPORTUNITIES IN NETWORKING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT."**

*- Brette Svensson, MSN, AGPCNP-BC*





# CHAPTER 3

## Educational Resources to Elevate Your Expertise



Stay informed about best practices, clinical innovations, and emerging trends in gerontological nursing through GAPNA's robust educational offerings.

## Highlights of Educational Resources

- **Live and On-Demand Learning Opportunities:**
  - **What It Is:** Live and recorded sessions on essential topics in gerontological care.
  - **Why It Matters:** Earn NCPD contact hours while expanding your skills.
- **Online Library:**
  - **What It Is:** A digital repository of MP3s, recorded presentations, handouts, and NCPD contact hours.
  - **Why It Matters:** Convenient access to learning materials - anywhere , any time.

Visit the GAPNA Online Library from the Education tab on the GAPNA website for all of your continuing education needs.



# CHAPTER 4

## Certification: Showcasing Your Expertise



### GERONTOLOGICAL SPECIALIST CERTIFICATION

Review the exam application qualifications, including professional practice hours, continuing education, and licensure requirements.



Qualify

Prepare for the exam with curated study materials, such as the Certification Review Course, Study Guide, and A Practical Guide for the Gerontological Specialist.



Prepare

Submit your application to GNCC. Your application will be reviewed within 3-4 weeks of being received. Once approved, you have 90 days to schedule your exam.



Test

Display your credentials to show your expertise! Your certification is valid for 5 years. Submit your recertification application to maintain your GS-C.




Maintain

# Your Path to Lifelong Learning

Stay informed about best practices, clinical innovations, and emerging trends in gerontological nursing through GAPNA's robust educational offerings.

- **Study Materials:**
  - *What It Is:* Comprehensive guides and resources tailored for the GS-C exam.
  - *Why It Matters:* Prepares you thoroughly to succeed on the first try.

Visit the Certification tab on the GAPNA website for more information on the GS-C.

A hand wearing a yellow sweater sleeve holds a silver and black microphone. The background is a solid yellow color.

"The GS-C benefits both of my advanced practice roles as a CNS and an NP. When the gerontology-specific APRN certifications were retired, I wanted to continue to validate my specialty knowledge in gerontological nursing through the GS-C.

There is a lot of respect that comes with being certified in the gerontology specialty."

*-Lynda Mackin, PhD, AGPCNP-BC, CCNS, GS-C*

# CHAPTER 5

## Getting Involved: Finding Your Home In GAPNA



# Be Part of the Change

Joining a committee or Special Interest Group (SIG) is a great way to influence GAPNA's direction and connect with others who share your passion.

## Ways to Get Involved

- **Committees:**
  - **What It Is:** Groups that help shape GAPNA's programs and initiatives.
  - **Why It Matters:** Contribute to meaningful changes in the field.
- **Special Interest Groups (SIGs):**
  - **What It Is:** Focused groups on topics like Post Acute/Long Term Care and Home and Community Based Care.
  - **Why It Matters:** Collaborate with peers who share your specific interests.

Learn more about GAPNA's Committees and SIGs on the Volunteer Opportunities page under the Membership tab on the GAPNA website.

**"THE WIDE NET OF GAPNA SIGS AND COMMITTEES HAS CONTRIBUTED TO MY GROWTH (KNOWLEDGE, LEADERSHIP AND ADVOCACY) AS A NURSE PRACTITIONER AND A COMMUNITY LEADER."**

*- Joan Michelle Moccia, DNP, ANP-BC, GS-C*



# CHAPTER 6

## Planning Your Membership Journey

Set achievable goals to maximize your membership benefits and advance your career.

### Setting Your Membership Goals

- **Short-Term Goals:**
  - Join a Committee meeting.
  - Connect on the The GAPNA Exchange with a peer.
  - Explore educational content in the GAPNA Online Library.
- **Long-Term Goals:**
  - Submit an abstract to present at the annual conference.
  - Chair a committee or lead a SIG.
  - Earn the GS-C certification.

**Bright Idea**



Get Inspired the next few pages and create your own personal GAPNA member pathway.

# GAPNA Early Career Member Pathway

Mohini Patel, AGPCNP-BC | Early Career



→ **2012**  
ACLS/BLS  
Certified

↓ **2015**  
BSN, Drexel  
University

↓ **2019**  
MSN, Walden University  
AGPCNP-BC  
Joined GAPNA

↓ **2022**  
Attended GAPNA  
Annual Conference virtually

**2023**  
Plan to attend GAPNA Annual  
Conference in-person  
Pursuing chapter involvement


Which path is yours?  
Let GAPNA help  
you find it...


I chose to join GAPNA for the amazing network of Nurse Practitioners specializing in gerontology. I am passionate about caring for this especially vulnerable population and it is inspiring to surround myself with individuals feeling the same. I hope to continue to use GAPNA as a networking resource and begin working more closely with my local GAPNA Chapter.

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 [www.gapna.org](http://www.gapna.org)

 [gapna@gapna.org](mailto:gapna@gapna.org)

 866-355-1392

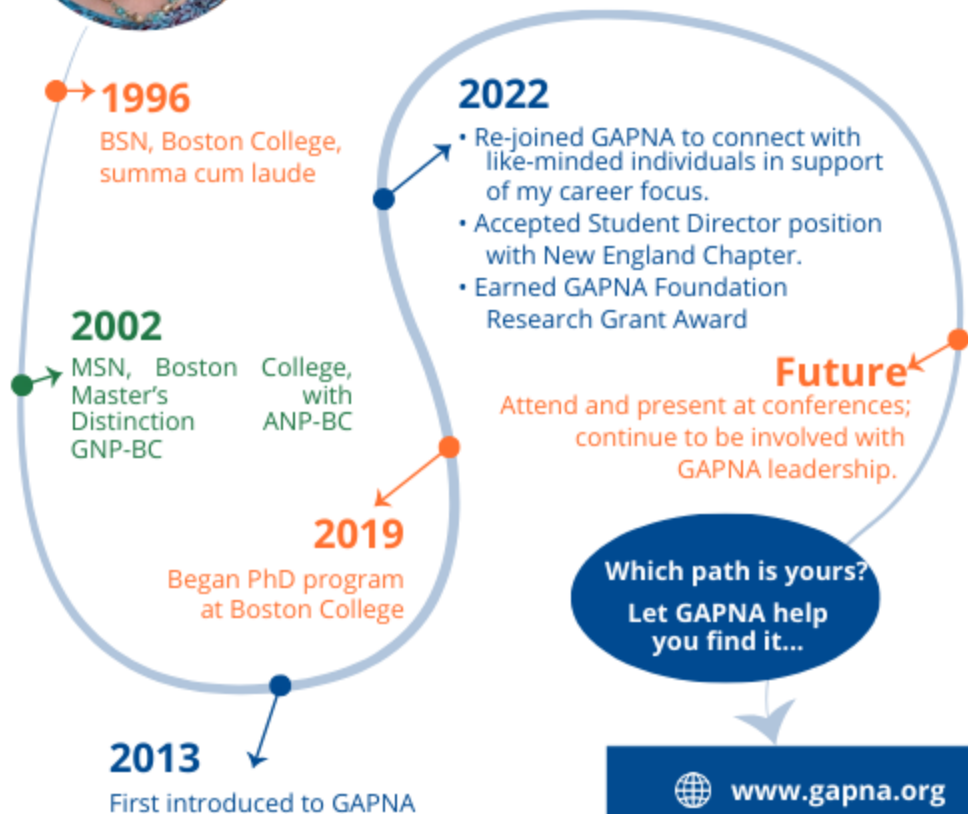
  GAPNA

  GAPNA\_HQ



# GAPNA Student Member Pathway

Katherine Ladetto, MSN, RN, ANP-BC, GNP-BC, PhD(c)



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 [www.gapna.org](http://www.gapna.org)

 [gapna@gapna.org](mailto:gapna@gapna.org)

 866-355-1392

  GAPNA

  GAPNA\_HQ

# GAPNA Retired Member Pathway

MJ Henderson, MS, RN, GNP-BC



GAPNA is a very welcoming organization, and it is easy to make friends. I made contacts that advanced my career and was able to add to my resume with GAPNA leadership.



[www.gapna.org](http://www.gapna.org)

[gapna@gapna.org](mailto:gapna@gapna.org)

866-355-1392

GAPNA

GAPNA\_HQ

# CHAPTER 7

**Your GAPNA membership is what you make of it. Dive in, explore, and take advantage of the resources and connections available to you. We're excited to see you thrive!**



**Pro Tip: Bookmark GAPNA's website and log in regularly to stay updated on new opportunities.**

## **Let's Get Started!**

**Ready to take the next step? Log in to your member profile today and begin exploring all GAPNA has to offer.**

**Visit GAPNA Online**

[www.gapna.org](http://www.gapna.org)