

American Academy of Nursing Announces Ashley Darcy-Mahoney as the National Academy of Medicine Distinguished Nurse Scholar-in-Residence

Washington, D.C. (April 27, 2020)— [Ashley Darcy-Mahoney](#), PhD, NNP, FAAN, has been selected as the [National Academy of Medicine](#) (NAM) Distinguished Nurse Scholar-in-Residence. Supported for nearly 30 years by the American Academy of Nursing (Academy), the American Nurses Association (ANA), and the American Nurses Foundation (Foundation), the Distinguished Nurse Scholar-in-Residence is a year-long opportunity for a Fellow of the Academy to engage with scholars at NAM while helping to develop health policy at the federal level.

Operating under a Congressional charter, the National Academy of Medicine is a premier institution that provides evidence-based solutions and offers national as well as global comprehensive policies to address social determinants of health and advance public health. NAM is essential in catalyzing critical health issues to the forefront of the public eye as well as to policymakers' agendas. Through extensive interprofessional collaboration and engagement, the Distinguished Nurse Scholar-in-Residence position provides nursing perspectives to better support the public's health.



Dr. Darcy-Mahoney is a tenured Associate Professor at the George Washington University (GWU) School of Nursing and the Interim Director of the Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders Institute at GWU. She also continues to practice as a neonatal nurse practitioner with Mednax. As a neonatal nurse practitioner and researcher, she has incorporated a neonatology, infant health, and developmental pediatrics lens throughout her career to promote optimal outcomes for infants and children. This includes working closely with parents, teachers, nurses, other clinical colleagues, and government officials to bring both sound science and the reality of family lives in the development of new models, which ultimately influence health policy. Dr. Darcy-Mahoney was a lead member of the team that conceptualized and launched the "Talk with me Baby" and Háblame Bebé program that uses nurses as a workforce to teach parents about how

early language exposure is an important predictor of future academic achievement beyond a variety of socioeconomic indicators such as parental income, level of parental education, or ethnicity. This program has proven how science can inform both policy and system-level changes to reduce health disparities in young children.

"I am honored to be selected as the Distinguished Nurse Scholar-in-Residence at NAM as this role will provide an opportunity to use my skills in a way that will have a profound impact on health policy, nursing's role for the next generation of children, and the future well-being of our nation," said Dr. Darcy-Mahoney. During her time as the NAM Distinguished Nurse Scholar-in-Residence, Dr. Darcy-Mahoney will utilize her research experience and developmental background to maximize interprofessional collaboration and generate innovative ideas to construct new social norms that promote equity and health improvement.

"Collaboration with NAM, especially in regard to selecting a Distinguished Nurse Scholar-in-Residence, helps to reinforce the Academy's mission to widely disseminate nursing knowledge. Selection to this

post enables our Fellows to use their nursing background and training to chart a course for improved health outcomes through policy,” said Academy President Eileen Sullivan-Marx, PhD, RN, FAAN.

“Congratulations to Dr. Ashley Darcy-Mahoney. Recognizing and celebrating the exemplary work of my fellow nurses is a privilege and an honor. I look forward to following Dr. Darcy-Mahoney’s journey as a NAM scholar,” said ANA President Ernest Grant, PhD, RN, FAAN. “ANA’s partnership with the Academy and support of NAM is shining example of nurse excellence that continues to bridge the intersection of nursing practice and health policy.”

“We are beyond proud and excited for Dr. Ashley Darcy-Mahoney to begin her term as the latest Distinguished Nurse Scholar-in-Residence. I believe she will bring a wealth of knowledge and innovative concepts to the table that will help address social determinants of health, which contribute to the health disparities that are so very prevalent in our society. Given the current international pandemic and nation-wide crisis, we need more creative solutions to advance public health now more than ever,” said the Foundation Board of Trustees Chair Tim Porter-O’Grady, DM, EdD, ScD(h), APRN, FAAN, FACCWS.

The review committee responsible for selecting this year’s Distinguished Nurse Scholar-in-Residence included Academy Board member Debra Barksdale, PhD, FNP-BC, ANP-BC, FAANP, FAAN; ANA President Ernest Grant, PhD, RN, FAAN; Foundation Executive Director Kate Judge; and NAM Director of Health Policy Fellowships and Leadership Programs Gregg Margolis, PhD. To learn more about application process and the NAM Distinguished Nurse Scholar-in-Residence program, visit www.aannet.org.

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About the American Academy of Nursing

The [American Academy of Nursing](http://www.aannet.org) serves the public by advancing health policy and practice through the generation, synthesis, and dissemination of nursing knowledge. Academy Fellows are inducted into the organization for their extraordinary contributions to improve health locally and globally. With more than 2,800 Fellows, the Academy represents nursing’s most accomplished leaders in policy, research, administration, practice, and academia.

About the American Nurses Association

The [American Nurses Association](http://nurses.org) (ANA) is the premier organization representing the interests of the nation’s 4 million registered nurses. ANA advances the nursing profession by fostering high standards of nursing practice, promoting a safe and ethical work environment, bolstering the health and wellness of nurses, and advocating on health care issues that affect nurses and the public. ANA is at the forefront of improving the quality of health care for all.

About the American Nurses Foundation

The [American Nurses Foundation](http://nurses.org/foundation) is the charitable and philanthropic arm of the American Nurses Association, with the mission to transform the nation’s health through the power of nursing. The Foundation supports research, education, and scholarships, which improve health, wellness, and patient care.