

## **Interview: Claudia Hauri EdD, FNP, FAANP**

### **Introduction**

Dr Hauri was an early nurse practitioner with an international perspective. Living in many nations and being fluent in multiple languages she has been instrumental in developing the role, educating and advocating for nurse practitioners and patients. She has been politically active since the 1980's and supported nurse practitioner prescribing by providing testimony and educating legislators. She is known for innovative teaching strategies and founded a company to advocate for disabled and retarded citizens. She provided assistance and education for community groups on healthcare issues.



### **Abstract**

In this interview Dr Hauri describes her career trajectory from her MSN at the University of Colorado to the certificate program to become a family nurse practitioner. She developed a program to prepare BSN nurses to care for children and adults with disabilities. This was the beginning of her personal lifetime commitment to those with disabilities. She discussed how the new role of nurse practitioner was often not well received by other nurses and physicians but found it particularly hurtful when other faculty members were not supportive. She suggests that all nurse practitioners need tenacity, resilience and persistence when confronted by adversity. Her advice to new nurse practitioners is to know the role and be prepared for a lifetime commitment and lifelong learning. As a new nurse practitioner it is important to realize that you are a nurse first, and being experience to the role. It is important to know what you know and what you do not know. Do not be afraid to seek help and consultation when needed.

### **Short Bio:**

Dr. Hauri is currently retired from academia yet still maintains a part time practice, teaching and consulting. She was Director of NP Program at Barry University, Miami, Florida, for 21 years, previously 8 years at the University of Miami, FL. She is known for her innovative teaching strategies and mentoring. Through her company Educated HealthCare Choices she advocates for Retarded Citizens and continues to educate individuals and groups regarding the need for advanced directives and health care issues.

She has been active in supporting prescriptive authority in Florida since the 1980's and has contacted legislators' numerous times seeking support for important health care bills. She has been past President of District 21 in south Florida & facilitated the merger of 21 with District 5

so nursing would speak with a united voice. She has been a member of Florida Nurses Association (FNA) since 1975.

In addition, Dr. Hauri has presented extensively both nationally and internationally in the Netherlands, Switzerland, Australia, Columbia, Peru, and Chile and is committed to advanced practice nursing globally. She is fluent in German and Spanish.

### **Keywords**

Nurse practitioner, advanced practice nurse, nurse education, patient advocacy, leadership

### **Transcript**

**Claudia Hauri**

**AANP Oral History Project**

**Interview: Claudia Hauri EdD, FNP, FAANP**

**01/06/2020**

**Interviewer: Name: Barbara Sheer**

**Place for Interview: In person in Florida**

**Education:**

1964 BS Barry University, Miami, FL

1974 MS(N) University of Colorado, Denver CO;

1976 FNP certificate University of Miami, FL;

1989 EdD University of Gainesville, FL

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**When did you become an NP & what was the motivation?**

I became an NP in 1976 from a continuing education program at the University of Miami. Dr. Luisa Murray received a HRSA grant in 1974 for 3 + 2 years to educate RNs in the correctional clinics to become NPs and get their BSN at the same time. There was a paucity of applicants, at the time so program was opened to RNs with a BSN. After the 5 year grant it was expected the NP program would be transitioned into the master's program.

During this year I was encouraged by Luisa to write a grant with Dr. Wm. Caldwell, MD, Pediatric Neurologist, to prepare nurses with BSNs to provide healthcare to children & adults with developmental disabilities/challenges ( DPNP) as the federal law of '...live in the least restrictive environment....' was enacted. Group homes & schools were being planned in & near



residential areas. The grant graduated 32 NPs but was not renewed. I continued as faculty for the FNP program for the remaining grant years & then taught in the RN to BSN program.

I loved the NP role from the moment I knew about the role when I attended the University of Colorado, School of Nursing for the MS(N). I wanted to do the PNP major but was too late to enroll since the cohort was full. I became an NP and taught upcoming FNP's.

I met Dr. Loretta Ford in Santiago, Chile in 1983 when both of us were presenting Primary Health Care for the future to diverse populations. I have enjoyed our friendship ever since.

At my first meeting FAANP I remember meeting Margaret Fitzgerald, Charon Pierson, Delia O Hara, Barbara Resnick and Judith Dempster. I was thinking 'Am I part of this group?' Not only were these women leaders within the but also business owners and above all caring individuals.

### **What experiences did you bring to the role?**

As an NP I brought the wonderful world of different cultures beyond that of America. Since my mother was from Munich & father from St. Gallen Switzerland, I grew up with a love of global travel with respect for the various cultures in Europe, South Africa & South America. I attended the last 3 years of High School at St. George's School in Harpenden, Hertfordshire (NE of London) and came home with another 'language'. I learned German & Spanish by spending summers in Germany, going to school and working as a nurse. My older brother and I also spent summers in Spain buying groceries from a list in Spanish from my mother, going to Spanish class at the University of Barcelona, and one summer I shadowed a nurse in an adult hospital from 4-8pm to increase my health care vocabulary. The experiences seeing Margot Fontaine in Giselle at Covent Gardens in London, hearing Brigitte Nielson sing opera Tristan and Isolde in Vienna, watching the opera Aida in the ancient amphitheater in Rome, museums everywhere, let alone churches & cathedrals from Spain to Norway was truly amazing. I return to England to see classmates, Germany to see friends, and Switzerland to see cousins every 2-3 years. The traditions, languages, culture have become part of my life.

I hosted an NP from Australia (1980) and England (1995) to stay with me for 2 weeks to experience/learn about the NP role in Miami in a variety of clinics, offices, and hospitals. Views of cultural differences and similarities were shared by everyone. I also shared my practice with the Arc of South Florida monitoring the health care of children and adults who were developmentally challenged. I also hosted a nurse from Australia for 2 weeks as she was returning home from a conference.

In 1993 I was granted a sabbatical, planning to be a Visiting Professor at the University of Hawaii (Oahu) and University of New South Wales in Liscombe. When I met Judith Dempster at an AANP conference she graciously invited me to spend a week in Oahu speaking to students about the Nurse Practitioner (NP) role and the future of NPs. From Hawaii I flew to Sydney and then to Liscombe. I spoke with students about the NP role in America and the expanding areas in which the NP can be employed. I also spoke to the lack of independent practice in Florida.

My love of teaching and passion for nursing has led to my participation on the education committee and the international committees of AANP. I plan to do more hosting of international NP's.

### **Is there anything you would change?**

Yes. My lack of planning for my professional future. Like many others at that time I did not have a clearly defined goal. I began my career working as a staff pediatric nurse 2 days after receiving a BSN and passing the RN NCLEX exam. I then became an Associate Head Nurse 3-11- shift. Then off to work in Germany from 05/1965, to 12/1966 and was offered Head Nurse Pediatric position. I began teaching in Diploma program in 1971 and received my MS(N) in 1974. I began teaching in FNP program and received an HRS grant to educate NPs to provide primary health care to developmentally challenged children/adults. As I moved up the career ladder and started my EdD, I was politically clueless. I published, presented in Bogota, Colombia and in Santiago, Chile, (where I met Loretta Ford) as well as another presentation in Bogota. I was happy in my dual Director of NP Majors and being an Associate Professor, guiding thesis and dissertations, being on and leading College of Nursing Committees as well as University Committees, unaware and totally oblivious to political games. As my position at the university became less secure I seriously thought about leaving nursing for architecture (designing hospitals), psychology (my second love), and a JD to represent nurses in trouble.

### **What was most challenging in your career?**

Throughout my teaching career there were times I was not supported by faculty colleagues. As nurse practitioners (NPs) we were not always accepted by other nurses and physicians but to find that we not always supported by faculty colleagues was hurtful. My mentor Loretta Ford said, "Don't let the ...get you down". I learned to gain support from other colleagues in similar positions across the nation. As a group we have become resilient. I developed a feeling of hardiness and joked about becoming Hardi Hauri. Nurses and NPs can learn the traits of tenacity, resilience, persistence and hardiness which will serve them well in their career and in the workplace. This is something we need to continue to address in the future. If nurses are caring why is it difficult to care for each other?

### **What do you see as pivotal moments in the past years?**

Changes in scope of practice in each state. After fighting for Controlled Substances (CS) since the early 1980s, Florida NPs have finally achieved this prescriptive right by law. NP's are becoming more independent in all states and are moving to full scope of practice and prescribing in all the states. Education has also changed from certificate programs in 1975-80s in Florida to the MSN and now to the DNP or PhD today. Seamless degree learning and on-line programs are now in place all over the US. My hope is that now the profession of nursing will speak with one voice and repeat the words of the Institute of Medicine (IOM) report '...allow nurses to practice to the full scope of practice as their education has provided....'. We cannot, as Dr. Ford says '.... continue to change the laws task after task after task as this will take forever'.

### **What advise would you give to new nurse practitioners?**

I would advise new NPs to become critically involved in their career choice. The NP role is NOT a junior doc role, NOT a hamburger helper to the docs, NOT a midlevel practitioner. Know what the role is by reading articles by Dr. Ford and many others who believe in the role as begun by co-founders Dr. Ford and Dr. Silver; to provide primary health care thru' education and prevention to those in need. You may be a new NP when you graduate but many of you have years of valuable experience as an RN. Don't ever negate that experience. Speak clearly and firmly from knowledge within. Own your knowledge and the ability to think critically. If not taught in school, then take a course and get prepared.

Nursing is not like any other profession: not only is it an art and a science, it also requires lifelong learning. Invest in your retirement from the day you start working. Know what you know and don't know. Don't be afraid to ask a question or directions! My practice was part time and I limited the medications I would prescribe and medical acts I would perform on the protocol because I could not keep up with the ever-changing new drugs and technology, research and equipment. Know what you know and know when to consult. Don't let criticism get you down. Remember tenacity, hardiness, resiliency and persistence (THRP) will help achieve nursing as an independent profession. You don't have to become a Senator, but you can achieve much by writing to, talking with, going to your state Capital to meet with the legislator in your District. Become politically involved at ANY level, just become involved. Remember if you are a 'good' NP the patients/clients/consumers will come to see you and return as well as spread the word to their family, friends and community. Utilize the expertise of others and gain support from state and national professional organizations. It is important to keep moving forward.

### **What do you see as the role of Nurse Practitioners in the next 25 years?**

It is my hope that we continue to be advocates for mental health and special populations: homeless, immigrants, those with PTSD and victims of sexual abuse. We need to take a stronger stand in addressing these issues in our educational programs. Think space health care at the intergalactic space station. Think prevention (handwashing) as the microbes, bacteria, & cockroaches mutate.

### **What do you plan in your retirement?**

I will probably never 'retire'. I have to many places yet to see, teach people to stay out of hospitals if possible, by preventing illness, keeping active, have a natural/palliative/hospice death. My interests are in volunteering with veterans and working with parents of developmentally challenged individuals.

I have planted another herb garden in my new residence, the bike is ready to be used, continue to travel, sitting on the lanai and reading journals, newspapers, books, and magazines.