

Judith S Lynch

Charter Fellow FAANP

Judith S. Lynch, MS, MA,
APRN-BC, FAANP



Judith S. Lynch was one of the first nurse practitioners in the US. She began her nurse practitioner career at the State University of New York at Binghamton and held various positions in academia and practice. She was an early advocate of political action and was involved in the New York State legislation for NP prescriptive authority. She demonstrated her leadership in the formation of The American Academy of Nurses Practitioners, the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties and the Fellows of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners. She was one of the first nurse practitioners to develop the role in a subspecialty. She continued to practice in otolaryngology throughout her career combining teaching and practice. She was a role model and mentor.

Abstract

Judith began interviewing Fellows of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners in 2000. The interviews were published in the Fellows Newsletter called the Forum. To capture her thoughts, she was in turn interviewed by the editor of the Forum Mary Neiheisel for one of the editions. In this interview Judith discusses her contributions to the fellowship over the first 10 years. She is grateful for the response both to the fellowship and the newsletter. She also discussed the merger of the American College of Nurse Practitioners with the American Academy to form the American Association of Nurse Practitioners. The merger brings the groups together to form the largest nurse practitioner organization to speak with one voice. She further discussed the changes in healthcare and the need for continued monitoring for our future leaders.

Bio Sketch

Judith S Lynch held a clinical position as a specialist in otolaryngology and allergy and was one of the first NPs in the country to work in an ENT surgical subspecialty in private practice. She held appointments as Clinical Assistant Professor of Nursing at Yale University and Preceptor Faculty at Quinnipiac University. She was previously an Assistant Professor at SUNY Binghamton. As Associate Professor, she developed the first clinical graduate program in

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Nursing at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, CT. She also served as curriculum consultant to nurse practitioner programs on a national level.

Ms. Lynch was actively involved in New York State legislation for NP prescriptive authority as Chair of the Legislative Council. She testified before the New York State Legislature on scope of practice and prescriptive authority issues. She served on the AANP Board of Directors, was Chair of the Research Committee and the Certification Commission of the AANP National Certification Program.

Ms. Lynch continued to speak nationally and internationally on otolaryngology and allergy topics and was appointed to the Scientific Committee of the International Primary Care Respiratory Association. She authored a column in which Charter Members reflect upon the history of the Fellowship as well as their careers. She remembers proudly that, when she was asked to serve on the AANP board, the first meeting was held at Jan Tower's kitchen table.

Keywords

Advanced practice nursing, nurse practitioner, leadership, policy, subspecialty practice, ENT

Transcript

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Judith S. Lynch

AANP Oral History Project

Mary B. Neiheisel, FAANP Interviewer



Celebration of our Charter Fellows

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Judith S. Lynch currently holds a clinical position as a specialist in otolaryngology and allergy and was one of the first NPs in the country to work in an ENT surgical subspecialty in private practice. She holds appointments as Clinical Assistant Professor of Nursing at Yale University and Preceptor Faculty at Quinnipiac University. She was previously an Assistant Professor at SUNY Binghamton. As Associate Professor, she developed the first clinical graduate program in Nursing at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, CT. She also served as curriculum consultant to nurse practitioner programs on a national level.

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Ms. Lynch continues to speak nationally and internationally on otolaryngology and allergy topics and has been appointed to the Scientific Committee of the International Primary Care Respiratory Association. She authors a column in which Charter Members reflect upon the history of the Fellowship as well as their careers, but in this issue she is the interviewee. She remembers proudly that, when she was asked to serve on the AANP board, the first meeting was held at Jan Tower's kitchen table.

It was a good time to interview the Forum Membership columnist who is a charter member of FAANP. Judith Lynch was interviewed by telephone as she viewed the snow through the windows at her home in Milford, Connecticut, and I watched it rain through my windows at about 70 degrees.

MBN: Thank you, Judith, for talking to me today. Your columns have been an engaging addition to the Forum and as a Charter member we are proud to include you as a featured member. What was your reaction to being chosen as a charter member of the Fellows?

JSL: It was a complete surprise and an unexpected honor. I consider it one of the great accomplishments of my professional life. I felt the beginnings of a new force ready to take on some of the critical issues facing nurse practitioners. It was time to think "outside the box"

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and the Fellowship would take on that responsibility.

MBN: What contributions have you made to the Fellows over the past 12 years?

JSL: I have participated in winter and annual meetings and was on the original selection committee for 3 years. I also served as a mentor which was a wonderful experience. We have so many bright young NPs that mentoring must be a cornerstone of FAANP. As you mentioned, I have been a member of the FAANP Forum Newsletter Team. The growth of the Fellows has been more than I ever expected and it is such positive growth.

MBN: Any thoughts you want to share on the Merger with ACNP?

JSL: I was in London last summer when I first heard about the merger. It was a surprise, but one that will definitely allow NPs to speak with a more unified and strong voice. The merger will give power and legitimacy to the issues we face with individual states as well as the Federal government. The College brings to the Academy great leaders and great ideas.

MBN: What do you believe should be the focus of the Fellows?

JSL: In the past ten years, we have become a strong organization. As we become larger, our power will spread and we will be able to focus on more areas. Mentorship, political activism, and research on both academic and clinical issues will remain strengths of the Fellows. We face a great change in the health care system and NPs stand to gain greatly in the new arena if we speak with one voice. This should be the primary focus of the next ten years.

MBN: Please, comment on your reaction to the possibility of honorary Fellowships.

JSL: I like this idea very much as it will bring in knowledgeable people from other disciplines. We need to reach out inter- professionally to increase our visibility and market our roles to the public.

MBN: Tell us what you do in your spare time? Any hobbies?

JSL: I am currently recovering from a knee replacement so I have been home for most of the winter. This has made me contemplate retirement but I am not yet ready. I return to work April 1 three days each week. I still enjoy seeing patients. New Haven is a cultural mecca with many wonderful restaurants and theater. Yale allows access to music, lectures, grand rounds, and many other activities. I live only one and one half hours from New York and Boston and I love to go to both cities for shopping, museums, and theatre. Travel is my passion and I will be going to Prague later this year. Italy is my favorite thus far and I think often of having a winter retirement home in Tuscany – maybe. I love to read and belong to several book clubs. I have two children, four grandchildren, and four grand dogs and enjoy them as much as possible. I love doing the Fellows interviews as it keeps me in touch with my colleagues.

MBN: Well, if you retire, you'll be a very busy lady. Judith, thank you for your time today. It has been a pleasure

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to chat with you. God speed as you continue to recover. Hope to see you in June in Las Vegas.