

Mari Zo DeMarchi , RN, CNP, FAANP

Zo DeMarchi has been an integral part of the early nurse practitioner program since the 1970s. After her graduation from Texas Women 's University, she was a direct provider in a primary care women's OB/GYN practice in Austin, TX, from 1976-1989, while taking various courses and acting as a first surgical assistant and health educator. She became nationally certified as a nurse practitioner in 1978.

She was on the steering committee for the formation of a new nurse practitioner organization that became the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners. She became the first employee paid and unpaid in the position of executive secretary.

She was a charter fellow and continued in the position of AANP secretary until her retirement. This was one of the first interviews of the charter members of AANP beginning in 2010.



Abstract

In this interview Zo discusses the formation of a new organization for nurse practitioners. She was on the steering committee and later became the Executive Secretary of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (AANP). She discusses the formation and growth of the organization and the formation of the Fellows of the American Academy of Nurses Practitioner (FAANP). The Fellow Program was formed to recognize expertise in policy, education and clinical practice., She discusses the opportunities for the fellows to share their expertise and mentor the next generation The fellows are envisioned as being an expert resource for the parent organization, AANP.

Bio Sketch

Zo DeMarchi has been an integral part of the early nurse practitioner program since the 1970s. After her graduation from Texas Women 's University, she was a direct provider in a primary care women's OB/GYN practice in Austin, TX, from 1976-1989, while taking various courses and acting as a first surgical assistant and health educator. She became nationally certified as a nurse practitioner in 1978.

At a national conference in 1984, interest was expressed in forming a new NP organization that would focus exclusively on the needs of this rapidly growing portion of ad-vanced practice nursing. Ms. DeMarchi was a member of the 1984 steering committee formed to evaluate the need of such an organization. From the work of this steering committee, came the establishment of AANP in May 1985. As one of the founders of the *Austin Area Nurse Practitioners Alliance* and the *Texas Nurse Practitioners*, Zo holds the distinction of being involved with the development of three organizations in a twelve-month time frame.

She became the first employee of AANP in 1989 as Executive Secretary, providing both paid and volunteer hours during those early years of organizational maturity and growth.

Ms. DeMarchi is currently Director of Association Services for AANP. The increasing success of AANP's National Conferences is in large part due to Zo's continued extensive contacts within the health care industry, and her effective interactions with key industry leaders. She is a strong advocate of industry support for NPs, emphasizing their high quality of care to patients. Zo's role at AANP wholeheartedly supports the organization's mission and goals. She is intimately involved in the development of all national conferences and meetings, which are integral functions of AANP as an organization providing NPs educational and networking opportunities.

Keywords

Leadership, professional organizations, fellows of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners, Fellows of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners.

Transcript

Mari Zo DeMarchi

AANP Oral History Project

FAANP Celebration of our Charter Fellows

An interview by Judith S Lynch

10/2011

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The following interview took place at her Austin, TX, home where she has lived since 1974.

JSL: You are truly a living history of AANP. How did you manage to keep all your activities in perspective?

ZD: Those early years were so exciting and there were so many opportunities and challenges to face. I never felt tired, only wished that there were more hours in each day.

JSL: The Fellows began in 2000 after you had been with the organization for 15 years. How did you feel when you learned of your inclusion as a charter member?

ZD: I was truly honored to be included with some of my colleagues who had worked so hard to get AANP started. We all felt that AANP would bring a new and fresh approach to those members who were giving direct care and did not have an organization to look to for leadership. The same can be said about the Fellows. It is a platform for leaders to share their expertise.

JSL: What were your initial hopes for the Fellows?

ZD: I saw the Fellows as people who had already established themselves as leaders within the NP profession. It was their challenge to use those leadership capabilities to mentor the next generation and to act as role models for future NPs.

JSL: What focus would you like to see the Fellowship take in the future?

ZD: As part of AANP staff, I count on the Fellows as valuable resources for various organizational projects. As leaders in the profession, they are integral to the future of AANP conferences, health policy and health reform issues, and future leadership positions. Of course, the power of networking within the Fellowship cannot be overstated. The Fellowship is only a little over ten years old so it will continue to have challenges with priority planning. I feel strongly that the true power of FAANP lies in the strength of its mentoring program.

JSL: When do you find time for a personal life?

ZD: I acted as caretaker to family members until a few years ago and personal time was scarce. However, I have recently rediscovered my love of reading and try to spend time relaxing with a good book. I also took a vacation this year and traveled extensively through New York and New England and it was lovely. I look forward to retirement (not planned yet) when I can live in a log cabin near the water with a lovely garden.

JSL: This interview has taught me so much about the early days of the Academy. You capture the essence of the importance of leadership and mentorship to change as nurse practitioners grow in their influence in the healthcare system.