

**Jamesetta Newland**  
**Interview**  
**AANP Oral History Project**

**Jamesetta Newland PhD, FNP-BC, DPNAP, FAANP, FAAN**

**Date: 7/15/19**



**Interviewer: Mary Koslap-Petraco**

**Place for Interview: telephone**

**Education:**

**Gustavus Adolphus College in St Peter, MN. BA in nursing 1972**

**FNP Program MS Pace University Lienhard School of Nursing**

**Pleasantville, NY. MS 1987**

**Post-Master's Certificate in Teaching 1999 and PhD Nursing Research**

**University of Pennsylvania 2002**

**Certifications; family ANCC**

**Short Bio**

Dr. Jamesetta (Jamie) Newland is a clinical professor at New York University Rory Meyers College of Nursing and a family nurse practitioner in an ambulatory care center where she practices as a primary care provider for a diverse population. She received a master's degree (FNP) from Pace University in New York and a PhD from the University of Pennsylvania. She has always been an advocate for nurse managed health centers and faculty practice, having years of experience with both. She teaches in the NP and DNP programs at NYU Meyers and enjoys mentoring students and junior faculty. She publishes and is editor-in-chief of *The Nurse Practitioner* journal and the Education column coordinator for the *FAANP Forum*. Dr. Newland consults internationally on advanced nursing practice, assisting countries interested in starting NP programs to introduce the role in their country; she is a Fulbright specialist. She has received numerous honors and is a Fellow in five nursing and other professional organizations. But she is most proud of keeping the nurse in nurse practitioner.

## **Interview**

### **When did you become an NP and what was your motivation?**

Dr Newland's first nursing position was working in intensive cardiac care and step-down units at Montefiore Medical Center, Bronx. Although a new RN, within 9 months she became head nurse in CCU; that was almost unheard of at that time. Dr. Newland was specifically recruited from the Midwest to Montefiore because she had a BA degree. She held the head nurse position either full time or temporarily as coverage for over 10 years depending on her family needs and needs of the institution. As time passed, burnout set in and she decided it was time to leave such sick patients. Dr. Newland wanted to care for patients who had more say and could be partners in their own care, so she moved out of the hospital and into the community.

Dr. Newland was ready for graduate school but there were no FNP programs around, so she enrolled at Adelphi University for three semesters in the med surg CNS master's program. During that time, an FNP program opened at Pace University but it was not accredited. As soon as Pace received its accreditation, Dr. Newland transferred. It was as a young teen that she

decided to be a nurse. Her family was very active in the Baptist church; her mother was a “nurse” in the church. Nurses wore white uniforms and nursing caps. The health care and educational systems in Minnesota were much more progressive than on the coasts, and her basic program was founded in the primary care nursing model. Her first contact with an NP was during this undergraduate education. A pediatric nurse practitioner came to the hospital to speak to her clinical group. Dr. Newland remembers the PNP discussing how she followed children in the home, school, office, and hospital, and Dr. Newland was in awe of that role. The seed was planted then, so when Dr. Newland was suffering from burnout she wanted to go back into the community.

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

Dr. Newland brought vast experience with her as she embarked on NP education. She had been head nurse in CCU and so had developed leadership skills. Additionally, she mentored numerous new nurses. Dr. Newland worked nights by choice because it gave her a greater degree of autonomy. Working nights, she was able to function much more independently with families, staff, and nursing and physician colleagues. It was on those night shifts where she honed her communication, clinical, and leadership skills, which gave her the depth and bread she needed to make decisions that resulted in quality health care for patients. Dr. Newland developed a comfort level working with all departments in the hospital and personnel on all shifts. She recalled on the first day of her BA education, the dean advised the class, “We are preparing you to be nurses but more importantly to be leaders.”

Pace University was the first FNP program in the NYC area. Pace was also the first nursing school to create a primary care NP managed clinic in an academic setting. When Dr. Newland found herself working in the NP managed health center, she provided consultation to faculty at other schools of nursing all over the country who were interested in starting a nurse managed center and/or faculty practice. She also later worked with the Institute for Nursing Centers, based in Michigan, providing similar consultation.

### **Did you experience any challenges? How were they resolved?**

Dr. Newland did encounter challenges during her career. She worked for three years at Columbia University in student health, which was physician centered but most of the patient visits were seen by NPs. Dr. Newland then went back to her alma mater Pace, where NPs managed the health center and provided services to students, faculty, alumni, staff, and immediate family members of each group, such as children, spouses, and parents. After 9 months, she found herself again in a leadership role as university director for the NP managed student health centers on all three Pace campuses. As director, she had to negotiate with physician collaborators to determine practice protocols, which could be quite restrictive. The NPs at the center developed their own clinical protocols because at the time, there were no published practice protocols for NPs. The protocols were unique and were so well suited to college health that Pace was able to sell the protocols for use in NP college practices across the country. Change in physician attitudes and the development of trust over time brought more autonomy to the center. Dr. Newland steered the implementation of HIPPA and CLIA regulations while working in the nurse managed center, writing detailed protocols for these as well. She also gained certification for all the NPs as Medicare and Medicaid providers so the center could bill for these services. She hired consultants for tasks needing specialized knowledge and skills. Administrative knowledge and training are not something Dr. Newland learned in school. She learned “on the job” with the

assistance of dedicated mentors. What made life easier were good communication and knowing how to set a culture of civility with staff. Dr. Newland had one motto for staff, “We are here together for 8 hours and everyone WILL get along.”

**Are there any experiences that you would like to talk about?**

When asked if there were any experiences she would like to talk about, Dr. Newland immediately mentioned her primary mentor, Dr. Lillie Shortridge Baggett. Early on, Dr. Shortridge Baggett told Dr. Newland, “Hold onto my apron strings and you will know when to let go.” Dr. Shortridge Baggett included Dr. Newland in many of her projects. They developed innovative models of practice in the community and taught advanced nursing research together for years. Dr. Shortridge Baggett also advised Dr. Newland to become involved with professional organizations such as NONPF where she eventually served on the Board and *The Nurse Practitioner* journal for which she is now the editor-in-chief.

**What was the most challenging experience?**

Dr. Newland notes that challenges in her career also included balancing personal and professional responsibilities. During graduate school, she had three young children, and 9 years later with two in college and one still home, she began commuting to Philadelphia for her PhD studies. She held various positions at Pace University and for 3 years was full time faculty, maintaining her administrative and practice roles with the nurse managed center. But ultimately, she went back to a full-time staff position and taught as adjunct faculty. She has continually practiced as an NP since she graduated. Dr. Newland’s challenge was to balance all her roles and advance professionally. She learned to leverage available resources and supports. Sometimes the balance was better than at other times but overall, things worked out successfully.

**Is there anything you would want to change?**

Dr. Newland felt if she could change anything, she would have devoted more time to research in sickle cell disease, the topic of her dissertation. While completing her PhD, she knew she did not want a career in research; she firmly believes that there is nothing wrong with clinicians having excellent research skills. She was at the forefront of developing transitional care models for patients with sickle cell disease. If she had continued to do research, her career path would have been different. She emphasizes that she has no regrets, and that she hopes to participate again in some way with these researchers.

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

Dr. Newland sees the adoption of the APRN consensus model as positive, defining the roles and clarifying standards for certification and accreditation. This is a major plus. She also sees the Future of Nursing recommendations with a hopeful lens and implementation slowly moving forward. The recommendations gave nursing a boost, including advanced nursing practice.

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

Dr. Newland's advice to new NPs comes from her years of experience. Everyone wants the perfect position, especially the new NP with dreams. She advises the new NP to take a position in a safe environment, perhaps not perfect but it will provide experience and opportunity for growth. NPs are valuable and have special skills; they need to learn how to leverage those skills and negotiate their worth. Ultimately, the perfect position for that individual will come along. Never forget you are a nurse. Spend time talking to patients and listen to what they are saying; do not be so caught up in procedures.

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

Dr. Newland was asked what she sees for the role of the NP in the next 25 years. She believes we must move to the DNP as entry. All RNs must transition to BSN. NPs will be leaders in bringing all types of improvements in all health care settings, especially NPs who are competent in evidence-based practice. NPs will be the change agents to improve the quality of health care for all. Dr. Newland further advises new NPs to join national organizations. Do not join just to put the membership on a CV but become active. Become involved with the local chapter first. An NP will not advance professionally unless they become involved and known by colleagues. Dr. Newland also believes that NPs must participate on institutional, corporate, state, and national boards; she serves on the New York State Board of Nursing. She also is the primary advisor for ANA to the American Medical Association's CPT Healthcare Professionals Advisory Committee that decides billing codes. Find ways to have a voice that is heard.

### **Was race an issue in your career?**

Dr. Newland was asked how race factored into her career. She related that educated faculty members had told her that she was where she was because she was African American. Nothing was ever denied to Dr. Newland due to race because she always held the necessary skills and competencies for the task. She has a way of getting along with everyone, no matter what the personality. Dr. Newland, however, did admit to having to work harder for many things. While her degree from a prestigious institution opened many opportunities, she had to have the skills to be sell herself and be successful in any position. She maintained versatility and marketability.

When asked about what got her through challenges, Dr. Newland responded, "I am a person of faith and God does not make junk. Give everyone a chance to show their goodness; I am not here to judge. God will take care in His own way. He helps those who help themselves. I have reaped the rewards of persistence and hard work."

Information was correct at the time of the interview. Dr. Newland recently retired from her full-time faculty and practice positions at NYU. She is now an adjunct clinical professor at NYU.