

## REGISTRATION IS OPEN for the Annual Conference

Registration information for the RN-AIM Annual Conference and Assembly is available on the website under the "Events and Meetings" tab [www.RN-AIM.ORG/conference.php](http://www.RN-AIM.ORG/conference.php).

Join us on September 23-24, 2010, at the Okemos Conference Center for 1-1/2 days of "Cultivating the Culture of Safety". Advanced registration must be postmarked by September 15<sup>th</sup>, and on-site registration will be available for an additional \$10.00 for members and non-members.

| September 2010                  |    |    |    |    |    |    |
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| 26                              | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |    |    |
| <b>RN-AIM Annual Conference</b> |    |    |    |    |    |    |

Registration for students remains at \$30.00 and several scholarships have been made available by registrants who have supported a student as part of their registration fee. Join us for the chance to mingle with Michigan's nurses that have a wealth of knowledge and an exciting look at how you can assure your practice provides safety and quality to your patients and clients. We so look forward to sharing with students and experienced nurses. We all have so much in common regarding our goals and expectations! Find a mentor! Discuss your ideas!

## Poster Presentations Set

Fourteen posters have been selected to be presented at the RN-AIM Annual Conference and Assembly. Two categories of posters will be displayed representing research and evidence-based practice. There will be an award given in each of the two categories and winners will receive a one-year membership to RN-AIM. Posters will be displayed during the entire conference schedule, winners will be announced at the Awards Banquet on Thursday evening, and exhibits will remain displayed until the close of the conference. Plan to visit all of the poster presentations. A number of opportunities have been built into the conference schedule to offer time for participants to meet with and discuss the various poster presenters.

Congratulations to all the poster presenters for having their poster abstracts accepted by the Research and Evidence-Based Practice Council!

## Michigan Women's Commission Report

The latest issue of "Michigan Women," the publication of the Michigan Women's Commission headlines an article titled "Health Reform and Women. It also contains Commission news, gender equity issues and information that shows that younger women are experiencing less of a wage gap - that women

under 35 earn about 90% of what their male counterparts earn versus women over 35 who earn only 75% of what their male counterparts earn. Visit the Womens' Commission website, and subscribe to the newsletter at [www.michigan.gov/mdcr](http://www.michigan.gov/mdcr). That's the Michigan Department of Civil Rights.

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE!!**

## Recent Reports from the Michigan League of Human Services

Since April of 2010, the Michigan League for Human Services has produced a series of reports focused on health care and education. These reports are available at [www.milhs.org](http://www.milhs.org) and include several excellent views and statistics on the state of health status, funding and accessibility and educational concerns related to both children and adults. The Michigan League is a leader in addressing health and social issues in relation to current funding practices by the legislature and the state departments responsible for health and social services. The reports include:

- ✓ Silent and Stealthy: Michigan Gives Away \$35 Billion a Year (April 2010)
- ✓ Déjà vu; Michigan Struggles to Fund Medicaid Program (May 2010)
- ✓ Good Ideas Are Not Enough: Michigan's Adult Learning System Needs More State Funding (May 2010)
- ✓ Why Federal Health Care Reform is Good Medicine for Michigan (July 2010)
- ✓ Pulling the Plug on Michigan's Future: Why Draining Resources Hurts Tomorrow's Workforce (August 2010)
- ✓ Fact Sheet - Waiting for the Other Shoe to Drop: The Case Against the Looming State Income Tax Rate Cut (August 2010)
- ✓ Fact Sheet – Recovery Act Tax Credits for Families (August 2010)

And two items specific to children:

- ✓ Michigan Summary: Reading at the End of the Third Grade Matters (2010)
- ✓ Kids Count in Michigan Press Release – Michigan slips to number 30 from number 27 in child well-being. Lack of secure jobs, high infant mortality pull state down (July 2010)

I urge you to visit the League's website and read these reports. You can also receive materials regarding health care, funding issues and social concerns directly from the League by e-mailing your interest to Jackie Benson at [jbenson@michleagueforhumansvs.org](mailto:jbenson@michleagueforhumansvs.org).

## Learn How Electronic Health Information Will Enhance Your Practice

On September 16, 2010 at the Lansing Community College, West Campus, Jane Foster, MS, BSN, RN, Clinical Director of Quality Health Network in Grand Junction, Colorado will discuss electronic workflow processes which lead to practice improvements. Quality Health Network is one the nation's leading health information exchanges. As technology becomes an ever-

increasing part of the work of nurses and other health care professionals, accurate and timely health information at the point of service is key to ensuring safety and quality of care. Join colleagues and learn from national experts how the electronic exchange of health information can enhance clinical care and how it affects the roles of health care professionals.

For more information and to register online visit: [www.michigancenterfornursing.org](http://www.michigancenterfornursing.org)

## Institute for Professional Nursing Annual Nursing Leadership Conference

The Institute for Professional Nursing (IPN) has announced Thursday, January 20, 2011, as the date for the Fourth Annual Nursing Leadership Conference. Information and registration details will soon be available at the IPN website [www.ipnursing.org](http://www.ipnursing.org).

The IPN Fall Program has also been announced. "Leading from the Inside Out" is a dinner program set for October 27<sup>th</sup> at the Kensington Court in Ann Arbor. Debra Berry, MSN, RN, from the Nightingale Center, is the speaker focused on harnessing your untapped leadership skills. Eta Rho, Sigma Theta Tau, Intl. is a co-sponsor, so if you are a member of IPN or Eta Rho, there is a discount of \$10.00 from the \$30.00 registration fee. Generic student and retiree discounted prices are available as well. Registration for this event is open now. Registration materials and details soon to be found at the RN-AIM website calendar.

### Food Poisoning Outbreaks Decrease...But Watch Out for Poultry

Foodborne illnesses dropped by 8% in the United States in 2007 compared with the four previous years, but the decreases are more likely related to disease patterns rather than improvements in food safety. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said a total of 1,097 outbreaks were reported in 2007.

In addition, CDC pointed to poultry as the Number 1 food poisoning culprit. If you're cooking chicken on the grill this summer, be careful because poultry is still the leading cause of foodborne outbreaks and food poisoning. Chicken, turkey and other poultry accounted for 17% of all foodborne illness outbreaks reported to the government. Beef and leafy vegetables were close behind at 16% and 14%, respectively.

### A New Report and Podcast Discuss Motivating Communities to Improve the Health of Their Populations

The September 2010 edition of "Preventing Chronic Disease," a journal of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, features a set of essays and articles examining various means of encouraging communities to adopt policies that have been shown to improve health. The essays were commissioned by the Wisconsin Population Health Institute as part of the Mobilizing Action Toward Community Health (MATCH) initiative. A key component of MATCH is the County Health Rankings, which are available on the web for all US counties.

Each author explored a unique perspective considering how incentives might motivate community leaders to implement policies and programs shown to improve health, including the use of pay for performance, metrics and rewards and social marketing techniques to educate people about the benefits of health behavior such as exercise and healthy eating. Visit [www.rwjf.org](http://www.rwjf.org) where you can read more about the essays and listen to a podcast interview with Bridget Brooske, the MATCH Deputy Director.

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## A Few Other Websites to Visit

The League of Women Voters provides information about state budget cuts and a voter guide that includes candidate statements about a variety of issues. Their latest "Michigan Voter Power" newsletter included information about the lack of inspectors in the Department of Agriculture and how that problem affects citizens. And the 2010 MEAP Voice provided the following Michigan statistics regarding how student proficiency scoring changes when librarians are present:

- With no librarian in elementary schools, 49% of students show MEAP proficiency; with librarians, 66% of students are proficient.
- With no librarian in middle schools, 52% of students show MEAP proficiency ; with librarians, 64% of students are proficient.
- With no librarian in high schools, 71% of students show MEAP proficiency; with librarians 77% of students are proficient.

Visit the League of Women Voters website at [www.lwvmi.org](http://www.lwvmi.org)

## ....and One More

A recent issue of Health Leaders Media included an interesting article on "Culture Change Key to Safety, Quality Improvements," illustrating, again, that the theme of our upcoming conference is right on track with leading issues in health care. Read the article at [www.healthleadersmedia.com](http://www.healthleadersmedia.com).

## A New Toolkit Available from the American Public Health Association

The APHA has been examining how the availability of transportation affects the nation's health and contributes to health inequalities and has developed a toolkit to assist communities to assess how transportation systems and policies (or the lack of same) impact the public's health in a variety of ways including highway fatalities and injuries, air pollution and opportunity for preventive activity. The online toolkit is available at: [www.apha.org/advocacy/priorities/issues/transportation/toolkit.htm](http://www.apha.org/advocacy/priorities/issues/transportation/toolkit.htm).

## *And the Musing*

My State Representative, Joan Bauer, provides a monthly newsletter to all her constituents detailing what is happening (and not happening) at the Capitol, related to Departmental activity, legislation, Michigan facts, education findings and other items of interest. I bet your legislators do too. Are you on the e-or-snail mailing list? Do you know where your legislators stand on various issues that affect your professional practice and/or the needs of the patients and clients for whom you provide care?

Community events, people of interest, funding issues and the state of the budget deliberations are all part of what every nurse should know as well as how those issues impact local community safety, quality of life and health care. If you don't currently receive regular updates from your legislators, get on the phone or the internet and make a connection. All legislators have local offices and phone numbers and all can be reached by e-mail. In addition to increasing your knowledge and understanding of what is happening in Lansing that affects your community, you can become a resource for that legislator to help them understand and appreciate the importance of protecting the health of the citizens in the communities they serve.