



NATIONAL  
ASTHMA EDUCATOR  
CERTIFICATION BOARD

AE-C

February 2018

**In this issue...**

- **Meet the recently elected 2018-2020 Board Members**
- **Upcoming Events**
- **2018 Request for Proposals**
- **NAECB Participates in Skills Certification Fair**
- **Asthma in the News**

---

**Welcome New and Returning Board Members for 2018-2020!**

**Kimberly Byrne, DNP, CPNP, AE-C**

Kimberly Byrne has been the Pediatric Asthma Educator and Co-lead for the Pediatric Asthma Strategic Initiative for Banner Health for the past six years. She received her doctorate degree as a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner at Arizona State University and Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Grand Canyon University. She obtained her AE-C in 2011. Her honors include nomination for Distinguished Nurse of the Year from March of Dimes and Paul L. Singer Award for her community service. The result of her assistance with creation of the interactive asthma care plan resulted in her being a recipient of the Employee Engagement Award from Get Well Network.

Kimberly created the Banner Children's Pediatric Asthma Support Group for previous patients and for any child in the community in 2011. They meet quarterly for free fun & learning experiences with certified asthma educators on how to control asthma together with their family members.

Kimberly also created a new asthma camp program with Camp Soaring Eagle for which she is responsible for recruiting medical staff volunteers; having the role of lead medical staff; providing asthma education to campers; and assures safety/medical protocols are followed during the camp by RN and RT staff who care for the children with asthma who attend.

Kimberly especially enjoys being the Arizona Region Director for Asthma Athletics, a non-profit that encourages children with asthma to play sports and teaches asthma education to parents while children learn how to exercise via swimming lessons. Kimberly is vice chair for the Arizona Asthma Coalition.

Kimberly is now in her first term on the board of directors for the National Asthma Education Certification Board. She is on the executive committee, serving as secretary, and serves on by-laws and public relations/marketing committees. As chair of the PR/marketing committee she has been influential in increasing the presence of the NAECB and bringing awareness of resources and updates on asthma and asthma education for both professionals and people with asthma through NAECB Facebook page and other outreach initiatives.

Her passion for asthma education comes from her daughter being diagnosed with asthma at age 2 years old.

### **Gary A. Falcetano, PA-C, AE-C**

Gary Falcetano, PA-C is a seasoned clinician, medical publisher, and medical communications professional. Gary has been involved in healthcare all of his adult life, first as an EMS professional, paramedic and then hospital department administrator and educator.

Returning to PA school he graduated with high honors from the Medical College of Pennsylvania/Hahnemann University in Philadelphia and fulfilled a lifelong ambition to practice emergency medicine and primary care in rural and remote areas of our country. After graduation he lived in both urban and remote areas from Northern Maine to Southern Georgia. Gary practiced in rural ERs as the sole provider and also in inner city ERs in Philadelphia and New Jersey. Gary also served as a Captain in US Army Reserve, where he practiced in the ER/Urgent Care Center at Ft.

Wainwright Alaska as the medical provider in charge.

He has been in the medical publishing/education arena for over 15 years fulfilling various positions from account manager to group publisher. He is also an entrepreneur who has founded several medical communications companies. He still practices clinically, currently concentrating on medical bariatrics and urgent care medicine, as well as providing occasional occupational health services for the military. In addition, he is an intermittent federal employee for the department of Health and Human Services serving with the NJ Disaster Medical Assistance Team(NJ-1 DMAT).

Gary has been a Clinical Educator with the Immunodiagnostics Division of Thermo Fisher Scientific since April 2012. He provides educational programs on Allergy, Asthma and Autoimmune diseases for both primary care and specialty clinicians across the country. In 2016 he delivered over 110 such programs. Additionally, he is involved in supporting the training department of Thermo Fisher by providing ongoing education for employee development programs.

Gary provides education to health care professionals to improve asthma care for their patients. He consults with healthcare leaders to discuss opportunities to improve asthma care on a population basis. Asthma Educators play a key part in these initiatives and he would like to offer his clinical and managerial expertise to assure the continued success and relevance of the organization that certifies these individuals.

### **Lisa Monchil, RRT-NPS, AE-C, CPFT, CCRC, CCM**

I have been a Registered Respiratory Therapist for over 30 years. I am also a certified Neonatal Pediatric Specialist and Pulmonary Function Technologist. I received my AE-C originally in 2002.

As a Certified Case Manager I have obtained experience managing my patients and attained tremendous insight into a truly holistic approach for my patients. As a Certified Clinical Research Coordinator, I have participated in exciting trials exploring new concepts in asthma being conducted at New York Medical Center.

For several years I have developed programs for the inpatient, emergency room, and outpatient area which involved design using Quality Initiatives based on the NHLBI guidelines. A unique program targeted to emergency room patients in a rural area involved evaluation of physician knowledge and use of guidelines, education and management in the emergency room, and finally evaluation.

The results were presented to AAAAI national conference. Education was provided to all clinicians

caring for these patients and the outcomes; which included decreased readmission to ER, decreased urgent physician visits, and decreased sentinel events in this population.

Patient advocacy includes working with grassroots efforts to educate families and patients to begin demanding a higher expectation of care. We participate in Dr. Graham's Not One More Life (NOML) program as a faith based screening for asthma and lung disease.

In my current position with Boston Children's Health Physicians I am the only AE-C for our practice, located in New York seeing over 8000 asthmatics. I participated in developing our asthma action plan for the recently established EMR. My next project is to begin to see patients referred from the hospital on their visits. I am able to see patients independently of our physicians. I am also beginning to work with the state to establish my own billing practice to see patients from other offices.

I have had a life-long commitment to patient education and been a long-time advocate of certification and exactly what that means to us as a profession and a standard of practice. The opportunity to participate on the Board of Directors would be an exciting challenge I would look forward to.

### **William C. Pruitt, RRT, AE-C, CPFT, FAARC**

I have been a respiratory therapist for over 35 years and teaching in a bachelor degree RT program at the University of South Alabama since 1999. I have also been a PRN therapist at Springhill Medical Center since 2002 and a volunteer therapist at Victory Health Partners (VHP) Pulmonary Clinic since 2003. I received my AE-C in 2003, retested in 2010, and renewed with continuing education hours in 2017.

In my work as a therapist I have provided asthma education and care to many patients and their families and I have worked with various advocacy groups to advance the education and care for those with asthma. I am familiar with the high standards required for the national credentialing process through my personal experience with the NBRC and the NAECB in obtaining my status as an RRT, CPFT and AE-C. In addition, I have given presentations on the importance of obtaining and maintaining the AE-C certification and given presentations on the testing process that occurs with PSI/AMP (the testing agency for NAECB and NBRC).

My time with the Association of Asthma Educators as board member, treasurer, and President of the association has shown me the value of the interprofessional teamwork. I have worked closely with

many people (including MDs, NPs, PAs, nurses, respiratory therapists, pharmaceutical professionals and with community health and social workers) to improve patient care, provide, quality asthma care/education, and strengthen the standing of those holding the AE-C in the rules and regulations that govern asthma and guide the distribution of healthcare dollars. I also value and support the work of the American Association of Respiratory Care and their continuing efforts to support and promote excellent asthma care/education.

I have been a strong advocate for people working in healthcare to encourage them to achieve the AE-C certification. I have a passion about asthma and feel strongly that the AE-C certification is one of the most valuable tools to have in working with patients, families, and other healthcare professionals to care for those with this disease.

---

## **Upcoming Events**

### **Nationwide Children's Hospital 9th Annual Pediatric Asthma Conference**

May 11, 2018  
Nationwide Hotel and Conference Center  
Columbus, Ohio

The Conference is designed for pediatricians, asthma specialists, family practitioners, nurses, respiratory therapists, social workers, pharmacists and clinical staff from hospital, urgent care and primary care facilities with pediatric asthma patients and school facilities with pediatric asthma student/patients.

Keynote Speaker: Rob Lemanske Jr., MD  
Professor of Pediatrics and Medicine  
Associate Dean for Clinical & Translational Research  
University of Wisconsin School of Medicine & Public Health

Topic: "Causes, Natural History & Possibilities for Prevention of Asthma"

## Featured Topics

- Phenotype Targeted Biologic Therapies
- Delivering Asthma Care Remotely
- Rethinking Our Approach to Nonadherence
- Nuts & Bolts of Medicine

## Early Bird Registration Ends March 2, 2018

[Click here for more information](#)

---

## 2018 Request for Proposals

The NAECB research committee has an exciting and novel opportunity for all AE-C's. As a part of our charge, we have designed and funded a research grant opportunity for 2018 that proposes to validate the role of AE-Cs. We can agree that quality research is the cornerstone of evidence-based medicine and that evidence-based asthma education optimizes patient outcomes. The mission of the NAECB is to promote optimal asthma management and quality of life among individuals with asthma by advancing excellence in asthma education through the certified asthma educator (AE-C) process. There exists a great need for validating the beneficial role of AE-Cs within asthma education programs through the research process and this grant opportunity focuses on that validation role.

We invite you to apply for the 2018 AE-C Research Grant Award (see online application). The award recipient(s) will be granted up to \$10,000 to conduct their project. Facilities and Administration rates (indirect costs) are capped at 10%. The grant application is due by April 24, 2018 at 11:59pm. The research committee will then review applications and the award recipient(s) will be announced no later than July 1, 2018.

We welcome your questions and appreciate your partnership in advancing our collective goals.

**Eligibility:** Projects in basic social, biomedical, and behavioral sciences with a focus on validating the role of the AE-C are eligible. The PI or Co-Investigator must hold a current designation of Asthma Educator Certified (AE-C). Other than trainees, PIs must have a terminal degree in their field of practice (MD, PhD, PharmD, DNP, etc.).

**Reporting Requirements:** All award recipients are required to report project outcomes on a

quarterly basis to NAECB and remain engaged with NAECB for the duration of the award. This is a cost reimbursement award that is dependent upon meeting proposed project deliverables.

Please feel free to email Rory Johnson Research Committee Chair with any questions at [rory.johnson@mso.umt.edu](mailto:rory.johnson@mso.umt.edu).

---

## NAECB Participates in Skills Certification Fair

Board of Directors member Randy Rife, RRT-NPS, AE-C, recently participated in a skills certification fair in Temple, Texas. The purpose of the fair at McLane Children's Hospital was to promote advanced certifications among staff members. Randy shared information on the examination process and benefits of becoming a Certified Asthma Educator.

Members of the Board of Directors are located throughout the country and come from a variety of professional backgrounds including Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Respiratory Care, and more!

Would you like us involved with your next event?  
Contact us for more information!



---

## Asthma in the News

### New Aerosol Therapy Delivery Guides

This set of updated comprehensive aerosol delivery device guidelines can help improve understanding of the science of aerosol therapy, the nuances of the different delivery devices, and the ability to provide accurate and reliable education to patients. [Guides are available here for health professionals and patients.](#)

## **Long-Acting Beta agonists (LABAs) and Inhaled Corticosteroids (ICS): Boxed Warning About Asthma-Related Death Removed**

FDA's most prominent warning, the Boxed Warning, about asthma-related death has been removed from the drug labels of medicines that contain both an ICS and LABA. A FDA review of four large clinical safety trials shows that treating asthma with long-acting beta agonists (LABAs) in combination with inhaled corticosteroids (ICS) does not result in significantly more serious asthma-related side effects than treatment with ICS alone. A description of the four trials is now also included in the Warnings and Precautions section of the drug labels. These trials showed that LABAs, when used with ICS, did not significantly increase the risk of asthma-related hospitalizations, the need to insert a breathing tube known as intubation, or asthma-related deaths, compared to ICS alone. [Click here to read the full FDA Safety Alert.](#)

## **Guidelines Support Telemedicine as Effective Tool for Allergists**

A new position paper in Annals of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology, the scientific publication of the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (ACAAI), recognizes that allergy is one of the top conditions patients seek care for using telemedicine. ACAAI supports the use of telemedicine for allergy patients and hopes the new guidelines encourage more allergists to use the technology in their practices. [Click here to read more and to view the position paper.](#)

---

***Please send potential article submissions or upcoming related events via e-mail to [info@naecb.org](mailto:info@naecb.org). The editors reserve the right to decline submissions for any reason.***

### **NAECB Newsletter Editors:**

**Kimberly Byrne, DNP, CPNP-PC, AE-C**  
**Samantha Davis, MS, RRT-NPS, AE-C**

## **Helpful Links**

- ➡ [Exam Info And Registration](#)
- ➡ [Review Classes](#)



- ➔ [Candidate Handbook](#)
- ➔ [Recertification Handbook](#)
- ➔ [FAQ's](#)
- ➔ [Code of Conduct](#)

BEGIN YOUR ONLINE  
SEARCH FOR A  
**CERTIFIED**  
ASTHMA EDUCATOR



**SCHOLARSHIPS**  
AVAILABLE



**APPLY  
TODAY**

[National Asthma Educator Certification Board Linda B. Ford, MD Scholarship Application](#)

[Association of Asthma Educators \(AAE\) E. Ellis Scholarship Application](#)

## NAECB Members

Visit the [NAECB Certificant Corner](#) to access newsletters, obtain forms for replacement pins and certificates, and to update your contact information.



**CONNECT WITH US**



***Promoting Excellence in Asthma Education***



NATIONAL  
ASTHMA EDUCATOR  
CERTIFICATION BOARD

© Copyright 2013. National Asthma Educator Certification Board  
4001 E. Baseline Suite 206, Gilbert AZ 85234  
Telephone No: 877.408.0072 | Email Address: [info@naecb.org](mailto:info@naecb.org)