

The Eighth Term (2021-2022)



Dr. Lydia Albuquerque served as NAINA's 8th President, leading the development of a strategic plan built on five pillars—Communication, Advocacy, Research, Education, and Storytelling (CARES). The plan included a short-term goal of increasing visibility and membership through technology-enabled platforms such as the organization's website, virtual rounds, and social media.

COMMUNICATION

NAINA enhanced communication and visibility through expanded digital engagement. Initiatives included email campaigns, active social media use, and the launch of a redesigned website in March 2021, serving as the organization's central hub. The quarterly PULSE newsletter highlighted chapter activities, scholarly work, and member achievements, while advertising opportunities supported sponsors and vendors. Three virtual listening rounds held in early 2021 gathered member feedback, which directly informed the 2021–2022 strategic plan..

ADVOCACY

During the COVID-19 pandemic, NAINA demonstrated strong advocacy through global relief, policy engagement, and community partnerships. The organization mobilized national and chapter-led fundraising for India's COVID-19 crisis, raising over \$53,000 for essential medical supplies and supporting frontline nurses through initiatives such as the Caritas Project and resilience training programs. Partnerships included collaboration with the Association of Nurse Executives of India, and the Tricouncil of nurses of America

<https://www.aacnursing.org/news-data/all-news/article/tri-council-india-covid-19>

NAINA partnered with the American Nurses Association (ANA) on the COVID-19 Facts 4 Nurses campaign, significantly improving vaccination rates among nurses and receiving national recognition for its efforts. <https://nurse.org/articles/covid-vaccine-facts-nurses/>

Additional advocacy included representation on the ANA National Commission to Address Racism, participation in ANA Hill Day, international humanitarian support

in Haiti, media engagement, and community education on vaccination, chronic disease prevention, and women's health—reinforcing NAINA's commitment to health equity, workforce support, and social justice. NAINA also partnered with ANA on virtual rounds to host "COVID in Color" conversations.

www.nursingworld.org/practice-policy/workforce/racism-in-nursing/national-commission-to-address-racism-in-nursing/

For the first time, NAINA partnered with the DAISY Foundation to recognize exceptional nursing care, establishing the Caring and Compassionate Award for one NAINA nurse and one chapter. Winners were honored at the 3rd Clinical Excellence and Leadership Conference in New York City in October 2021.

<https://www.daisyfoundation.org/about/supportive-associations/national-association-indian-nurses-america-naina>

NAINA members also attended a media summit with Sigma Theta Tau International and George Washington University, highlighting nurses' roles in national and international media. For the first time, NAINA nurses participated in the three-day Chief Nursing Officer (CNO) Academy in Spring 2022, covering leadership, diversity, resilience, and health equity. Scholarships from Johnson & Johnson supported attendees.

<https://www.thenurseslegacyinstitute.org/programs>

NAINA was invited to participate in ANA Hill Day as a guest. Following this, Dr. Albuquerque proposed registering NAINA as an ANA affiliate member with voting rights, a process initiated during her term. NAINA became a voting member at the 2023 ANA membership assembly.

<https://www.nursingworld.org/news/news-releases/2022-news-releases/2022-ana-hill-day/>

NAINA continued its partnership with the Alliance for Ethical International Recruitment Practices, a division of CGFNS International, where the NAINA President serves on the Board of Governors. Members were offered opportunities to attend the Magnet Conference, supported by Walden University and HealthLink, and participated in the Nurse Empowerment Program in partnership with Sigma Nursing and the Johnson & Johnson Foundation.

www.cgfnalliance.org

Additionally, NAINA partnered with universities—including Walden, Chamberlain, Post, Grand Canyon, Excelsior, Phoenix, and American Sentinel—to offer tuition discounts to members and spouses, with expanded opportunities for non-nursing degrees through the online platform Emeritus.

EDUCATION

NAINA hosted a Virtual Leadership Retreat in March 2021 in partnership with John Maxwell & Co., engaging 49 board members. Nurses' Month celebrations in 2021 and 2022 included cultural programs, member recognition, wellness initiatives, and educational sessions. One session provided CE credit on obesity-related chronic disease in South Asians, sponsored by Chamberlain University. During this term, NAINA achieved its first reaccreditation for Continuing Education Units (CEUs). Contact hours were offered for both the Clinical Excellence Conference and the Biennial Conference, as well as several local chapter events. For the first time, nurses could present at conferences via online abstract submission, and online poster presentations were made available through the NAINA website.

RESEARCH

NAINA actively promotes scholarship and professional development. In 2021, the organization established Research Interest Groups (RIGs) to foster collaborative research. The inaugural RIG meeting launched initiatives including a study on COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy among Asian Indian communities. Data collection was completed, and findings were published:

Albuquerque, L. H., Luckose, A. B., Joseph, M., Mathews, N., Devarayasamudram, S., & Mahon, E. (2024). Original Research: Predictors of COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy Among Asian Indians in the United States: A Cross-Sectional Descriptive Study. *The American Journal of Nursing*, 124(1), p20–27. <https://doi.org/10.1097/01.NAJ.0000998220.62535.e4>.

Recognizing nurses as the nation's first line of defense against infectious diseases, NAINA partnered with ANA and CDC to present Project First Line, an interactive series of free online tools providing training and resources in infection prevention and control (IPC). A dedicated microsite was established on the NAINA website in 2021, and NAINA received \$10,000 to implement the project. The initiative launched during the 3rd Clinical Excellence and Leadership Conference on October 30, 2021, with 31 facilitators enrolled and oriented in January 2022. Chapter Presidents nominated facilitators, and incentives were offered to promote participation. A publication based on this work is under review:

Lukose, A., Mathew, N., Albuquerque, L.H., V, Leenoe., Thoma, S., Bartsch, R. (2026). Original Research. Infection Prevention Control Content Design and Engagement on Facebook and

LinkedIn: A Mixed Methods Approach. Journal of communication in Healthcare

Project First Line:<https://www.nursingworld.org/practice-policy/project-firstline/>

Other research initiatives included All of Us Research (NIH-funded outreach and education) and the Nurse Obesity Project, which promoted well-being, advocacy, and evidence-based care among nurses.

STORYTELLING

Indian nurses from Georgia participated in storytelling sessions, sharing personal and professional experiences. These sessions provided a platform to discuss the unique challenges and opportunities faced by immigrant nurses, fostering reflection, connection, and community among participants.