

NVA UPDATE

October 2007

www.nva.org

The following e-newsletter is adapted from the summer/fall 2007 issue of the NVA News, published by the National Vulvodynia Association. It includes just a few of several important articles from the printed newsletter; a complete table of contents can be found on the bottom of this page. If you are not a current NVA donor, you can subscribe to the full printed version of this newsletter online: <http://www.nva.org/join-splash.htm>

Please direct any comments, including a desire to unsubscribe, to chris@nva.org.

NVA Exhibits at National Nurse Practitioner Meeting

NVA's associate executive director, Christin Veasley, traveled to Indianapolis in June to staff our first exhibit booth at the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners' (AANP's) 22nd annual meeting. The AANP is the largest professional organization for nurse practitioners in all specialties, with 95,000 members across the U.S. This year's meeting was attended by over 4,000 practitioners, an all-time record, as well as hundreds of corporate and nonprofit exhibitors.

Local volunteers Kate Chopin, Laurie Legocki, Nicole Piazza and Erica Hungerford set aside time out of their busy schedules to help out at the booth. (Thank you, ladies!) They answered questions about vulvodynia and disseminated complimentary educational materials for both health care providers and vulvodynia patients to the hundreds of nurse practitioners who visited our booth to learn more about vulvodynia.

In early 2007, NVA also staffed an exhibit booth at the American Pain Society's 26th annual scientific meeting in Washington, D.C. More than 2,000 health care professionals and researchers specializing in the treatment of chronic pain attended the meeting. Chris Veasley and NVA administrative assistant, Gigi Brecheen, coordinated this effort with the help of two local volunteers, northern Virginia support leader Kathy Harrison and executive board member Kathy Polletto.

Exhibiting and organizing presentations on vulvodynia at national women's health and chronic pain medical conferences is an ongoing part of NVA's effort to raise awareness of vulvodynia in the medical community. It's an opportunity to encourage health care providers to learn how to diagnose and treat vulvodynia, and inform them about NVA's many services.

Associate Executive Director Named

The NVA Executive Board is proud to announce that our director of research and professional programs, Christin Veasley, has been named associate executive director. She will remain in charge of research and medical projects, but will also take on other executive decision-making responsibilities. NVA executive director Phyllis Mate describes her experience working with Christin, "Nine years ago, when we hired Chris in her mid-twenties, she proved herself quickly and focused on enhancing patient services and developing programs for the medical community. In recent years, Chris has played a key role in developing and implementing our Congressional awareness campaign, as well as other major initiatives, and it is my pleasure to name her associate executive director."

Help Raise Awareness of Vulvodynia by Sharing Your Story

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) will launch a *national vulvodynia awareness campaign* on October 24th. A recent NIH-funded study confirmed that women of all ethnic backgrounds suffer from vulvodynia and is asking women of all ethnicities to share their stories with the media. (From a previous publicity outreach, NVA already has enough stories from Caucasian women.)

If you are willing to tell your story, please send an email to chris@nva.org with the following information: Name, Age, Occupation, Ethnicity and a Brief Summary of your journey with vulvodynia (no more than one paragraph), including how long you have had the condition and how it impacts your personal and professional life. A photo to accompany your story is also required. Your information will not be disseminated without your prior approval.

Help Women with Vulvodynia

Private donations play a critical role in helping NVA staff and volunteers fulfill our mission. These donations enable us to create valuable resources for women suffering from vulvodynia, improve our support network, organize campaigns to increase federal research funding, open vulvar clinics and award pilot research grants. Over the past 10 years, NVA has awarded more than \$200,000 in research grants, enabling many recipients to obtain substantial, long-term NIH funding.

Ways you can give:

- **Credit Card Donation** on NVA's secure website, www.nva.org.
- **Monthly Giving** – If you bank online, you can set up an automatic monthly donation.
- **Workplace Giving** – Some employers will match all or part of a charitable contribution. Check with your employer's human resources or benefits office. You may also be able to give through payroll deductions.
- **Honor an Occasion** – If you make a gift in honor of a birthday or anniversary, NVA will acknowledge the gift to both you and the honoree. You may also choose to make a gift in honor or in memory of a loved one.
- **Online Shopping** – Before visiting Amazon.com, go to our home page, www.nva.org, and click on the Amazon link. NVA will receive 5% of your total purchase amount.
- **Appreciated Securities Donation** – You will receive a tax benefit by making a gift of appreciated securities. Contact Chris Veasley at chris@nva.org or 401-398-0830 for more information.
- **Bequest** – To help ensure that our services continue in the future, please consider making a charitable bequest to the NVA in your will.

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Founded in 1994, the NVA is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of women who suffer from chronic vulvar pain. The NVA is one of the only organizations in the world that provides educational and supportive services to women suffering from vulvodynia as well as health care providers who treat vulvar disorders. The overwhelming majority of NVA's financial support comes from women who suffer from vulvodynia as well as their family members and friends. We need your support! Please consider joining the NVA or making a donation today! For more information, please visit: <http://www.nva.org/join-splash.htm>