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## **ABNS Announces New Leadership in 2016**

**AURORA, OH (April 27, 2016)** – The American Board of Nursing Specialties (ABNS) announced new leadership at the organization’s Spring Assembly Meeting, held March 3, 2016 in Las Vegas. Laurie Ellefson joins the Board of Directors as a Member-at-Large and Denise Knoblauch joins Adele Foerster as she continues another term on the Nominations and Elections Committee. The new leaders will begin their terms on July 1, 2016.

“We congratulate our new volunteer leaders and look forward to the many important contributions they will bring to our organization,” Leslie Anne Patry, RN, BScN, MScN, current ABNS President, said. “Each brings a wealth of knowledge, experience and valuable perspectives that will help shape ABNS in its efforts to support the nursing community with essential specialty certification opportunities.”

Laurie Ellefson, BSN, RN, CWOCN, CFCN, elected as Member-at-Large to the ABNS Board of Directors, is currently a faculty member at the Western Technical College Nursing Assistant Program. In this role, she provides face-to-face instruction within the Nursing Assistant Program and participates in curriculum development. For the Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nursing Certification Board (WOCNCB), she has served in a number of leadership roles, including President, President Elect and Immediate Past President of the Board of Directors, Liaison to the Item Review and Foot Care Committees and Foot Care Committee Chair. In 2005, she earned the Certified Foot Care Nurse credential, followed by the Certified Wound Ostomy Continence Nurse credential in 2006, each from the WOCNCB.

The ABNS membership elected Denise Knoblauch, BSN RN COHN-S/CM to the 2016 ABNS Nominations and Elections Committee. Knoblauch is currently the Executive Director of the American Board of Occupational Health Nurses (ABOHN) where she manages the organization’s credentialing process, strategic planning and other certification and research matters. She has served in a variety of relevant leadership roles, including: Executive Secretary, Executive Vice President, President, President Emeritus and Education Committee Co-Chair, Illinois Chapter President and Vice President for Association of Occupational Health Professionals in Healthcare (AOHP); Chapter Director for American Association of Occupational Health Nurses (AAOHN); and Case Management Advisory Board chair for ABOHN.

Returning to the Nominations and Elections Committee is Adele Foerster, MSN, RN, CPNP-PC/AC. Foerster is currently the Chief Credentialing Officer for the Pediatric Nursing Certification Board (PNCB) where she manages and maintains the organization's certification exams and continuing education products, as well as other key strategic initiatives. Previously she has served with the Maryland Chesapeake Chapter of National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP) as Program Committee member, President and Legislative Chairperson. In 2001 she earned the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Primary Care (CPNP-PC) credential, followed by the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Acute Care (CPNP-AC) in 2004.

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#### **Editors Note:**

The American Board of Nursing Specialties (ABNS) is a membership organization whose mission is to promote the value of specialty nursing certification to all stakeholders. Currently 32 ABNS Regular Member organizations represent nearly 750,000 specialty certified registered nurses. Its 14 Affiliate Member organizations include providers of key certification-related testing products and services. One Public Member represents the consumer's perspectives on issues about specialty nursing certification. For further information about ABNS, visit [www.nursingcertification.org](http://www.nursingcertification.org) or email Bonnie Niebuhr, MS, RN, CAE, Chief Executive Officer, at [abns@nursingcertification.org](mailto:abns@nursingcertification.org).