Diane T. Pace, PhD, FNP, FAANP, NCMP
2012-2013 NAMS President

Dr. Diane Pace was elected President of The North American Menopause Society (NAMS) for 2012-2013 during the Society’s 23rd Annual Meeting on October 3, 2012, in Orlando, FL. She succeeds Dr. JoAnn Manson and will serve a 1-year term.

Dr. Pace is Assistant Professor at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC) College of Nursing in Memphis and has served as Assistant Dean for Practice in the college. She maintains a private clinical practice, providing women’s health and primary care at the Methodist Teaching Practice in Memphis. She will be the fourth nurse and first nurse practitioner to serve as President of NAMS.

“I am honored to have been elected President of an organization dedicated to the health and quality of life of all women during midlife and beyond. I am committed to our framework of a multiprofessional membership that includes clinicians, researchers, and educators engaging in generating evidence-based data regarding menopause and healthy aging for both professionals and the public,” she says. “As I have done since 1996, I will work with our outstanding members to build on this long-standing mission and increase opportunities for our members to ensure that this mission is achieved. Additionally, I value my certification as a NAMS Certified Menopause Practitioner (NCMP) and would like to increase initiatives to promote this designation of expertise,” says Dr. Pace.

Dr. Margery Gass, NAMS Executive Director, states, “I am delighted to welcome Dr. Pace as President of the NAMS Board of Trustees. Dr. Pace has been an active member of NAMS for 16 years, and her commitment to women’s health is unwavering. She has contributed to the organization in many ways and yet always has enthusiasm for new initiatives. I look forward to a year of inspiring leadership.”

Dr. Pace received her diploma in nursing from the Methodist Hospital School of Nursing in Memphis and her master of science and PhD in nursing from the University of Tennessee in Memphis. In addition, she holds bachelor’s degrees in healthcare administration and nursing and a master’s degree in education. She is a board-certified family nurse practitioner. She is an NCMP and maintains certifications in clinical densitometry and health information technology.

“Over the course of 41 years in nursing, there have been so many different opportunities to use my nursing knowledge to make positive impacts on patient and community health outcomes,” she says. “I also love the role I chose as a nurse practitioner. My many years as a clinician have helped to form my philosophy about collaborative care. I tell my patients that they have a personal responsibility for their health behaviors. My role is to give them information about health promotion and options for reducing risks of disease, and together we develop a plan of care to achieve their health goals. Being an educator and working at the UTHSC College of Nursing help me model this integrative philosophy and mentor individuals who are developing their own practice philosophy.”

Healthcare informatics and electronic medical records are other areas in which Dr. Pace has passion and interest. She is involved with Tennessee eHealth initiatives and has served on a state board and on committees helping to create a statewide health information exchange. She also participated in the development of the MidSouth eHealth Alliance in Memphis, which helps transfer healthcare information electronically across regional hospitals and ambulatory care facilities to improve the safety, quality, and efficiency of health care. “We still have a great deal of work to do across the country, but as exchanges grow to include more healthcare providers and more personal health information, we can ultimately ensure continuity of care for all individuals,” says Dr. Pace.

Dr. Pace has been a member of NAMS since 1996 and has served on many NAMS committees, including the Scientific Program Committee (2004-2005, 2008-2012), Professional Education Committee (2005, 2007-2009), Consumer Education Committee (2000-2002, 2007-2011), Finance Committee (2010-2012), Abstract Review Committee (2003-2004), Poster Judging Committee (2006), Website Review Committee (Chair, 2012), and Membership Committee (2005-2010; Chair, 2008-2010). She has served on the Board of Trustees since 2008, including terms as Treasurer and President-Elect.

It was during her doctoral program that she became interested in menopause. “My research mentor was a NAMS member who invited me to attend the scientific conference in 1996. The scientific program, as always, was phenomenal, and I decided that I wanted to devote my research, clinical, and educational focus to this area. The increasing research and scholarly interest in the physiological and psychological changes related to menopause and midlife were fascinating. My mother had never discussed her menopause, so I thought this would be an
ideal opportunity to learn about this area of life that I was approaching. I have always been very passionate about individuals having accurate information to make quality, informed decisions about their health care,” Dr. Pace says.

In 2007, Dr. Pace was inducted as a Fellow of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners. She is a member of the International Society for Clinical Densitometry, the National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women’s Health, the American Nurses Association, and the Tennessee Nurses Association. She has been honored by the Tennessee Nurses Association for her outstanding efforts in clinical practice, patient advocacy, and professional and political leadership. She has served as chair of the Advanced Practice Nurses Council for the Tennessee Nurses Association, as president of the Greater Memphis Area Advanced Practice Nurses, and as a member of the American Nurses Association International Bank of Experts on Women’s Health and the American Nurses Association Congress for Nursing Practice Committee on Information Infrastructure. Her passion for collaborative health care extends to her service in the community, where she volunteers as a member of the Methodist University Hospital Family Partners Council focused on the development of family-centered care.

She is on the Editorial Board of Menopause and has served as guest editor for the Journal of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners. She has given numerous presentations, published on topics related to menopause, served as investigator for several studies, contributed to NAMS’s Menopause Practice: A Clinician’s Guide, and served on the faculty of the menopause curriculum, a joint project of NAMS and the Association of Professors of Gynecology and Obstetrics.

Over the course of her career, Dr. Pace has seen societal response to menopause shift from embarrassment and ignorance to frank discussions in the media, conferences, and providers’ offices about menopausal symptoms and sexual, bone, breast, and vaginal health. Still, she knows there is much work to be done.

“Women are seeking information about midlife health and menopause, but they are often confused about the varying data from multiple resources. NAMS is key in this educational effort to promote and provide accurate and unbiased information,” Dr. Pace says. She believes that this endeavor has been very effective because of its diverse, multinational, active membership.

Dr. Pace has been married to her husband, Jim, for 40 years. “He is my best friend and an incredible husband and father. Since joining NAMS in 1996, I have missed only one Annual Meeting, when I celebrated my 35th wedding anniversary in 2007 out of the country. My anniversary is always around meeting time, and my husband has spent many a celebration with me at the NAMS conference,” she says. They have two daughters and sons-in-law, and five grandchildren. Dr. Pace loves spending time with her grandchildren: Austin and Alex, 7-year-old twins living in Nashville; and Kayla, age 6, Connor, age 4, and Joshua, age 3, who live in Memphis. Dr. Pace’s parents, who live in Arkansas, are also an important part of her life.

The Editors