



Dr. Mary Jo Goolsby EdD, MSN, NP-C, FAANP has been an adult NP since 1982 and her clinical experience has included adult primary care, as well as specialty practice in both endocrinology and pulmonology. Dr. Goolsby's doctorate is in higher education. She has over 29 years of experience in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of NP education, including NP academic training and NP accredited continuing education. She has conducted extensive research on NP practice and the NP workforce which has been broadly used to inform policy makers, workforce researchers, and other stakeholders. Dr. Goolsby has published three textbooks, one recognized as a 2006 AJN Book of the Year is now in its 5th edition, as well as numerous chapters and articles. She presents internationally and nationally on NPs and their practice and she has participated in panels and programs sponsored by organizations such as IOM, AHRQ, NIH, and CDC. She created the Institute for NP Excellence (INPE) in 2013. At INPE, she focuses on providing evidence-based education and resources for NPs, with an emphasis on leadership development. Dr. Goolsby has held a number of leadership positions and has created successful, sustained entrepreneurial and entrepreneurial programs. Prior to her interim at INPE, Dr. Goolsby led the Research, Education, and Professional Practice division of AANP for approximately 12 years.

Dr. Goolsby was inducted into the AANP Fellows (FAANP) in 2002. She served as the FAANP Executive Committee Chair July 2016-18. In June 2013, Dr. Goolsby's contributions were recognized with the 2013 recipient of the Loretta C. Ford Award for Advancement of the Nurse Practitioner Role in Health Care. In 2020, she received AANP's Sharp Cutting Edge Award. She was inducted into and maintained membership in the American Academy of Nursing 2014-2017.

## Education:

### **EdD, Higher Education**

**2000**

The Florida State University, College of Education, Department of Educational Leadership  
Dissertation: *The Prevalence of Attributes of Quality in U.S. Master's Nurse Practitioner Programs: Administrators' Perspective*  
Major Professor: Dr. Joseph Beckham

### **MSN, Acute Care Nursing, Administration Focus**

**1987**

University of Alabama in Huntsville, School of Nursing,  
Administration Program Thesis: *Factors Influencing Nurses' Attitudes Towards Providing Care to Patients Diagnosed with AIDS*  
Major Professor: Dr. Joyce Shoemaker

### **Adult Nurse Practitioner** (post-baccalaureate certificate)

**1982**

U. S. Army Academy of Health Sciences, Adult Medical-Surgical Ambulatory Care Nurse Practitioner Program

BSN, General nursing studies

Emory University, Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing

## Interview Abstract

Dr. Goolsby is passionate about nurse practitioners and believes in the great potential of nurse practitioners increasing their contribution to health care. She began her nursing career when she had young children and after her basic nursing education, joined the Army Nurse Corps and worked with patients diagnosed with diabetes. She participated in the army's post bachelor's education program and when she left the Army Nurse Corps, she taught at Florida State University and received her EdD from Florida State. Within a year of completing her doctorate, she applied and was hired by the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (now American Association of Nurse Practitioners) and became the Vice President of research, education and professional practice. She was instrumental in developing and growing the Fellows of AANP. She continued her writing and presentations. She has many articles and text books. In 2013 she left AANP and became founder of Institute for NP Excellence (INPE). She promotes evidence based education and resources, emphasizing NP leadership development.

## Bio Sketch:

Dr. Mary Jo Goolsby, after almost twelve years with AANP, founded the Institute for Nurse Practitioner Excellence to promote excellence in NP practice/outcomes. She previously was AANP VP of research, education, and professional practice, providing FAANP program coordination as membership more than doubled. She has extensive experience in NP

academic/continuing education and research on NP practice/workforce. Prior to receiving her doctorate at Florida State University, she served in the Army Nurse Corps for eleven years. Professional activities include three textbooks (*Advanced Assessment: Interpreting findings and formulating differential diagnoses*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed; *NP Secrets*; *Quick E: Assessment*), numerous chapters/articles, and national/international presentations on NP practice. She has served on national/global initiatives and maintains membership in AANP, ANA, AONE, STTI, ASAE, and ACEHP. Dr. Goolsby received the 2013 Loretta C. Ford Award for Advancement of the Nurse Practitioner Role in Health Care. She has been an active Fellow since 2002 and was responsible for FAANP during half of her time at AANP. Dr. Goolsby and her husband have three children and six grandchildren.

Keywords: nurse practitioner, leadership, entrepreneurship, assessment, competencies

Mary Jo Goolsby

Interview

AANP Oral History Project



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Mary Jo and her husband have three children and six grandchildren.

Mary Jo was interviewed during her writing time. Thank you, Mary Jo, for this time. Interview was conducted by Dr. Mary Neiheisel, Editor of *FAANP Forum*.

MBN: Would you briefly summarize your Nursing career and talk about your connection with AANP and then FAANP?

MJG: I began my Nursing career as a mother with a child in the first grade and two pre-schoolers. In the Pediatrician's office for a child visit I read an article about Nurse Practitioners and the Pediatrician was horrified when I mentioned to her. Following the completion of my basic nursing education, I joined the Army Nurse corps and worked with an ANP with diabetic patients. I liked the long-term relationship she had with her patients and improving long term health and was soon accepted into the Army's post baccalaureate NP program. After eleven years in the Army, I mustered out as it was difficult to have a clinical position in the higher ranks. I joined the Faculty at Florida State University and was involved in the Graduate Program. I also started my doctoral studies and earned the EdD from FSU. I was certified by AANC but joined AANP and became certified through AANP while at FSU. A year after I completed my doctorate, the position at AANP was advertised.

MBN: As a key person in FAANP for many years, how did you become involved?

MJG: Paying attention to progress at AANP, knew when the research/education position became available and applied. It was a great opportunity and I loved the position. I was involved in the FAANP mentorship program but then assumed the broader staff responsibilities for FAANP in 2008 as Judith Dempster, AANP's executive director began her transition to retirement.

MBN: What are your hopes and dreams for FAANP?

MJG: 1.The untapped potential of FAANP will be recognized as the

Fellows work collectively, demonstrating the potential of FAANP as a dynamic and transformational program. 2. Convening and utilizing vast expertise of the Fellows to explore critical issues and make recommendations. 3. Fellows will take advantage of the huge opportunities and become even more self-directed, within the AANP structure.

MBN: Any comments on the merger of AANP and ACNP?

MJG: It was accomplished with good speed and pretty smoothly. I am sure there is ongoing evolution.

MBN: What is your present business and in what kind of activities are you involved?

MJG: My idea was to create a self-sustaining business. I am involved in many of the same activities but out- side of AANP now. My current work through INPE includes: Research, Continuing Education, writing, networking, think tanks, and funding research. I am collaborating with some of the state groups. I believe my model avoids competition with others and makes opportunities for collaboration. I am ending my first year and have ideas to implement.

MBN: Are you conducting any research at the present time and are you writing a book or articles?

MJG: I am examining a large national dataset, looking for possibilities for meaningful secondary analysis. I am revising my Assessment book, am active with Alliance for CE in the Health Professions and serve on that membership committee. I will also present at the International Council of Nurses in Finland and some state level meetings.

MBN: What other personal, professional plans might you share with us?

MJG: I am passionate about the NP role and want to work for the advancement. My new social enterprise business will hopefully support opportunities to continue contributing where needed. I am definitely still in the early years with INPE.

MBN: Other than professional travel this summer, do you have personal travel planned?

MJG: I'll take short trips to see children and grandchildren and travel to Finland.

MBN: How do you take care of YOU and how do you relax?

MJG: My job, writing, and mentorship are my passions, therefore are relaxing. I find time for yard work and pottery, have three active bee hives. I have enjoyed being home and avoiding airports most of the time and am working on more time with grandchildren.

MBN: What else would you like to see printed in the Forum about you?

MJG: I am passionate about Nurse Practitioners and what they shall accomplish. FAANP is a great program and has many associations and great potential.

MBN: What is your WHY?

MJG: Using Sinek's "Start with Why", my Why is that I believe in the great potential for NPs to continue increasing their contributions in health care, making a difference in the health outcomes of many more as they expand their reach. I believe this continued success will depend, in part, on the availability and ability of leaders to inspire, guide, and mentor others, supporting their efforts and achievements. This "why" prompted me to form INPE with its mission to promote excellence in NP practice and outcomes by providing superior, evidence-based education, research and resources". It gives me a venue to operationalize my 'how' and "what".

MBN: Mary Jo, Thank you for sharing and our very best wishes as you continue with your WHY and IPNE. For more information about IPNE see the website at <http://future.npexcellence.com/>