



PRESS RELEASE

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NAANA'S ANNUAL ANGEL OF MERCY EVENT GOES VIRTUAL OCTOBER 29; DR. ALLISON WEINMANN DELIVERS KEYNOTE SPEECH ON COVID-19 VACCINE DEVELOPMENT; BEAUMONT HEALTH IS NAME SPONSOR

Detroit, MI, September 29, 2020 – The National American Arab Nurses Association (NAANA) announces that its 9th Annual Angel of Mercy Banquet will be held as a virtual event via Zoom on Thursday, October 29th, at 6 p.m., honoring ALL nurses for their courage, dedication and care as frontline workers during COVID-19.

NAANA president Renée Ahee said, "The contributions of nurses often go without public acknowledgement, but not this year! We have seen the superhuman contributions of our Arab American nurses and all nurses on the front lines everyday caring for their patients with and in spite of the coronavirus! Due to COVID-19, NAANA's board wants to hold our annual event virtually especially so that we can showcase the brave nurses who have cared for us in our greatest health crisis in generations."

Dr. Allison Weinmann, MBBS, FRACP, is Henry Ford Health System Medical Director Antimicrobial Stewardship, Office of Clinical Quality and Safety; Clinical Associate Professor, Internal Medicine, Wayne State University; and Senior Staff, Division of Infectious Diseases, Henry Ford Medical Group, and Chair of the Henry Ford Health System Immunization Committee. Dr. Weinmann holds both a Bachelor of Medicine and a Bachelor of Surgery (MD equivalent) from Monash University in Victoria, Australia, and is a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians.

In this anxious time in our country, Dr. Weinmann will discuss the strides currently underway to develop a COVID-19 vaccine and talk about the impact of the pandemic on the healthcare community. Following her remarks, she will invite questions on all things COVID-related.



NAANA has recognized 17 individual Angels of Mercy since the award was conceived in 2012, nurses who positively impact the health and well-being of the Arab American community daily, whether they are Arab American themselves or unselfishly serve the community's needs for care. The board of NAANA believes that we can accomplish the dual purpose of elevating these nurses as well as showcasing nursing as a viable career choice for Arab Americans.

NAANA named this special recognition of Arab American nurses the Angel of Mercy Award because the Arabic phrase for nurse translates to "angel of mercy." NAANA also provides scholarships to Arab American nursing students who show strong academic achievement, leadership and community involvement. The shortage of nurses in our hospitals and clinics has propelled the board to give *more* than the usual four scholarships this year.

Beaumont Health is NAANA 9th Annual Angel of Mercy Virtual Event name sponsor and three nursing scholarships will be awarded in Beaumont's name. Ahee said, "We thank Beaumont for again supporting NAANA's important mission."

WXYZ-TV's anchor and reporter Ameera David will emcee this virtual event and comedian Amer Zahr, the Civil Arab, will wrap up the evening.

Individual tickets for the Angel of Mercy Banquet are \$50 and can be purchased at <http://www.n-aana.org> or by [clicking here](#). Sponsorships are available by contacting Renée Ahee at 586-484-2390 or events@n-aana.org or by visiting <http://www.n-aana.org>.

NAANA was established in 2003 as a voice, a network and a resource for men and women in their pursuit of employment and advancement within the nursing profession. NAANA focuses primarily on the Arab American nurse but it is an inclusive nursing organization fostering knowledge of cultural diversity and sensitivity between members and the community in the area of transcultural health care.

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