

# Welcome to the 27th annual conference.

We are so fortunate to be able to host a live conference this year and so nice to be able to see everyone's faces again. - or at least your eyes! For the last two years, COVID has changed our world. As healthcare professionals, it is important to keep up with the ever-changing challenges of medicine. Thank you for all you've done and continue to do within your community during these difficult times.

We are delighted to offer some new education, camaraderie and a well-deserved night out. We have wonderful speakers this week covering a wide range of topics. We are sure you will enjoy the conference. This year's theme is "Stronger Together" which rings true, especially, for us as nurse practitioners. In spite of the pandemic, we have accomplished so much. We had two significant legislative bills that allow us to sign death certificates and provide services for home care. The future for our profession is so bright, as long as we continue to work together.

Although we have launched a new brand and website, the conference will be decorated in emerald and gold. These colors were not only chosen for their beauty, but also their meaning. Emeralds were first mined in Egypt and reported to be Cleopatra's favorite stone; and according to ancient folklore, were used to see into the future. Gold, a precious metal, is the only precious metal found on all continents. Gold will not rust or tarnish, it is forever. With this symbolism in mind, let's go into this week and the weeks ahead with thoughts toward the future of Oklahoma Nurse Practitioners and our alliances together.



Susan VanZandt  
Conference Chair & President -elect



Trish Farmer  
AONP President