Peggy Francis, DNP, RN, MSN ‘95, CS, CUNP, FNP-BC ‘97 received the 2012 Texas Nurse Practitioner of the Year Award at the Texas Nurse Practitioners (TNP) annual conference in September. She was recognized for the significant contributions she has made to the improvement of care for individuals, families, and communities as well as for the excellence she has demonstrated as a nurse practitioner and as a role model for other nurse practitioners and the nursing profession.

Francis currently serves as the Director of the Urology San Antonio Center for Urinary Control and the Co-Director of the Urology San Antonio Center for Female Sexual Medicine. After more than three decades of nursing, she still loves her work. “I am right where I am supposed to be,” she said.

Before assuming her current position, Francis worked in a variety of nursing fields, ranging from neonatal and intensive care to obstetrics and gynecology and school nursing. She has also fostered the growth and development of students at the UT Health Science Center’s School of Nursing, having served as a preceptor in the Nurse Practitioner and Clinical Nurse Specialist programs and more recently as an Adjunct Assistant Professor.

A member of nine local, state, and national professional organizations, Francis has made more than 50 presentations to professionals, patients, and the community, and has received numerous awards, including the 2012 Leadership Award from Medical Center Rotary Club of San Antonio, the 2010 Nurse Practitioner State Award for Excellence (TX) from the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners and the 2009 Health Care Hero Award from the San Antonio Business Journal. She is also very involved in her community, serving as president of the San Antonio Nurses in Advanced Practice (SANAP).

Francis graduated from the Health Science Center’s School of Nursing with her MSN in 1995 and her Family Nurse Practitioner certification in 1997. She went on to complete her Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP) from Case Western Reserve University in 2008.

“For me, earning my DNP was a personal goal. What I’ve learned throughout my educational and professional careers has enhanced my skills and helped me become more confident and effective in my role at my clinic,” said Francis.

Chartered in 1989, the mission of Texas Nurse Practitioners is to “promote the professional excellence of nurse practitioners, and to support quality healthcare through leadership, education and advocacy.” More than 9,100 nurse practitioners across Texas provide invaluable services including performing physical examinations and evaluations, providing health education, treating common illnesses and helping patients manage chronic illness. To learn more about the Texas Nurse Practitioners at www.texasnp.org.