

ELNEC Connections

End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium

Winter 2009

Welcome to the Winter 2009 Issue!

The End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium is pleased to bring you the Winter 2009 issue of *ELNEC Connections*, a quarterly newsletter to showcase efforts in end-of-life nursing education and practice. This newsletter spotlights project developments and provides resources that may be useful to you as an ELNEC trainer.

ELNEC is a national education program to improve end-of-life care by nurses. The project, which began in February 2000, was funded by a major grant from The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Additional funding has been received from the National Cancer and Open Society Institutes, and Aetna, Archstone, Oncology Nursing, and California Healthcare Foundations. ELNEC is administered through a partnership between the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) and the City of Hope (COH).

Stories Featured in This Newsletter:

Click on the titles below to view.



**Eight National ELNEC Courses
Remain for 2009**



ELNEC Trainer Updates



**ELNEC Trainers Receive
Awards**



**ELNEC-International
Opportunities
Resources**



*Check-out the new
ELNEC Trainer
Directory*

Despite Economic Woes, Two National ELNEC Courses Draw Large Number of Participants

124 Attended ELNEC-Critical Care and 90 Attended ELNEC-Pediatric Palliative Care

No matter where you live, you are probably experiencing some change due to the poor economy. Your employer may have frozen all educational travel due to lack of funds; your friends/family members may have been laid-off; or you may have been asked to take a cut in pay. We all feel it. Despite these economic woes, hospitals, clinics, skilled nursing facilities, hospices, and schools of nursing are still sending staff to ELNEC train-the-trainer courses.

Though the January 2009 ELNEC-Critical Care course was funded by the Archstone Foundation for California nurses only, over 120 nurses, physicians, social workers, and clergy attended. Likewise, 90 pediatric nurses and other members of the interdisciplinary team attended the non-grant funded ELNEC-Pediatric Palliative Care course in Sacramento. Eight more national ELNEC courses will be held in 2009.

Eight 2009 National ELNEC Train-The-Trainer Courses Remain

ELNEC-CORE

- **April 21-22, Oklahoma City, OK** (in collaboration with Mercy Health Center)
- June 25-26, Minneapolis, MN (co-sponsored by the Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association [HPNA])
- August 13-14, Orlando, FL (co-sponsored by HPNA)
- September 24-25, Boston, MA (co-sponsored by HPNA)

ELNEC-PEDIATRIC PALLIATIVE CARE

- October 16-17, Memphis, TN (in collaboration with St. Jude Children's Research Hospital)

ELNEC-CRITICAL CARE

- October 23-24, Washington, DC

ELNEC-GERIATRIC

- **March 11-12, Mechanicsville, VA** (Sponsored by Massey Cancer Center and The Virginia Association of Nonprofit Homes for the Aging)
- **May 15-16, Pasadena, CA** (FREE registration for California nurses provided by the Archstone Foundation)

Courses in **bold indicate spring train-the-trainer courses.*

For more information and to register for any of these courses, please visit www.aacn.nche.edu/ELNEC or contact Pam Malloy at pmalloy@aacn.nche.edu.

ELNEC TRAINER UPDATES

Oncology Staff at Ocean Medical Center Complete ELNEC Training



Michele E. Gaguski, MSN, RN, AOCN, CHPN, APN-C, an Oncology Clinical Nurse Specialist, attended the first national ELNEC-SuperCore course in 2007 and became instantly committed to train her colleagues at Ocean Medical Center in New Jersey. Under the leadership of Michele, the staff of the inpatient oncology unit – which includes nurses, social workers, case managers and nurse managers – completed ELNEC training over a period of ten months in 2008.

The principle goal of the training program was to provide education and information on end-of-life/palliative care and resources to integrate end-of-life/palliative care content into clinical practice to ensure best practices are provided for patients at the end of life. A celebration in recognition of the staff's effort, commitment and achievement was held on January 21, 2009 where each participant was presented with their official ELNEC training certificate. Over 70% of the oncology staff is now ELNEC trained!

For more information on Michele's efforts, contact her at MGaguski@meridianhealth.com.

Trip to Angola Prison Provides First-Hand Hospice Experience

This summer, Beth Harris, APRN, CNS, nursing faculty at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, attended the celebration of the 50th national ELNEC Course. One of the course highlights for Beth was viewing the video, *Angola*, the story of the development of hospice services at the Angola Prison. Because the prison was located about 115 miles from where Beth teaches, she decided to take her students to the prison for a visit. The students were able to spend time with the inmate volunteers, the social worker, and charge nurse of the hospice, as well as visit the palliative care patients and a patient on vigil who was actively dying.



The experience was so powerful that when the students returned to the bus, Beth asked each to quietly reflect on the experience and jot down their thoughts. One of the things that left an impression on the students was a story the hospice nurse shared about Warden Cain, whose vision promoted the prison hospice. She said there was a group that came to visit Angola from the National Hospice and Palliative Care Association. They asked the Warden where he had come up with such an idea to begin a hospice in Angola. The nurse said it seemed like they were looking for a scientific answer, however, it was quite the opposite. His response was, "From my mother, she taught me to do the right thing, and it is just the right thing to do."

For more information on this project, contact Beth at seh1716@louisiana.edu.

ELNEC TRAINER UPDATES

Pediatric Palliative Care Waiver Has Been Approved by the Federal Government



Devon Dabbs and Lori Butterworth

For the first time in California history, children diagnosed with a life-threatening condition will have access to an innovative, comprehensive model of care that addresses their unique needs and the needs of their families.

The new benefit includes a home- and community-based waiver which was approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid, the US federal agency which administers Medicare, Medicaid, and the State Children's Health Insurance Program.

The news was announced on December 5, 2008 by the Children's Hospice and Palliative Care Coalition (CHPCC), which developed the model of care and has been advocating for the passage of the waiver for the past seven years.

While expressing gratitude to the numerous people responsible for helping this benefit become a reality, Lori Butterworth and Devon Dabbs, Co-Founders and Co-Executive Directors of the Children's Hospice and Palliative Care Coalition (CHPCC) stated, "Because this Coalition has had the courage to believe in comprehensive, compassionate and cost-effective care for children with life-threatening conditions, new ground is being broken in healthcare services for children. We are deeply grateful to the staff at the California State Department of Healthcare Services Children's Medical Services and Waiver Analysis Branches, and we thank Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger for signing Nick Snow's dream into law."

For more information about CHPCC, please visit <http://www.childrenshospice.org/coalition/>.

Check-out the new ELNEC Trainer Directory at
<http://www.aacn.nche.edu/ELNEC/trainer.htm>

If you are looking for other ELNEC trainers in your state to

- assist in developing a city- or state-wide palliative care coalition,
- mentor those interested in providing excellent palliative care, or
- serve as faculty for any area-wide ELNEC training program,

Check out this site!

ELNEC AWARDS

Rose Virani Receives Oncology Nursing Society *Pearl Moore Making a Difference Award*



Rose Virani, RNC, BSN, MHA, OCN[®], senior research specialist at City of Hope in Duarte, CA, is the 2009 recipient of the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) *Pearl Moore Making a Difference Award*. The award recognizes her significant contributions to the oncology nursing profession at the local and regional levels.

“Receiving this award is a giant step forward for ELNEC in making an impact on and making a difference in oncology nursing in order to provide better care to the dying and their families,” said Rose.

Rose has been the director of various research projects focused on cancer pain, survivorship, and end-of-life/palliative care issues. She also has been an active member of ONS for more than 20 years, participating in the ONS Hospice/Palliative Care and Cancer Program/Development Special Interest Groups (SIGs), and the Greater Los Angeles and South Bay Chapters of ONS. Rose is the past president of the Inland Empire as well as a member of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing.

If you would like to send “congratulations” to Rose, you may do so at rvirani@coh.org.

ELNEC Trainers Receive State Nursing Award for Expanding Bereavement Camp for Children



Teresa Howell and Nathania Bush

Nathania Bush, MSN, RN, Assistant Professor of Nursing and Teresa Howell, MSN, RN, CNE, Associate Professor of Nursing at Morehead State University were awarded the “2008 Excellence in Nursing Education Award” from the Kentucky League of Nursing. After attending a national ELNEC-Core course in February 2007 and ELNEC-Pediatric Palliative Care in August 2007, the two Morehead State University (MSU) nursing faculty members decided they would like to start a bereavement camp and involve MSU nursing students in a service learning project within the community.

When they returned to MSU, they began exploring the possibility of partnering with Camp SMILE (Sharing Memories in a Loving Environment), which was offered to children in the community for the first time in summer of 2007. Camp SMILE was provided by St. Claire Regional Medical Center’s Hospice and Palliative Care Program (SCRMC), helping children whose parents, siblings, or other family members have died. A partnership between MSU and SCRMC was developed to further expand Camp SMILE.

In addition, a new nursing course was developed and offered to nursing students. The innovative new course involved students in research and evidence-based practice and assisted them in caring for children who had suffered a loss. Conducting Camp SMILE in Morehead will enhance access to child bereavement services in the region by providing a free health service in a convenient location where accessibility and affordability are barriers to health care.

For more information on this project, contact Teresa at t.howell@morehead-st.edu.

ELNEC-INTERNATIONAL

Two ELNEC Courses Held in India

First Opportunity to Provide ELNEC Training in this Country



In June 2008, Rev. John S. Lunn, a registered nurse and chaplain, attended the ELNEC-SuperCore course in Chicago, IL. John attended the training with the intent to take the materials with him to India, where he would be working for the next three years. John had not been in India long before he contacted the ELNEC Project Office and requested assistance in holding two ELNEC courses. He then contacted ELNEC trainers who were interested in international work.

Barbara Head, PhD, RN, CHPN, ACSW, Assistant Professor at University of Louisville (KY) and national ELNEC-Geriatric faculty, as well as Susan Meskis, RN, ELNEC-Pediatric Palliative Care trainer from the Community Health Network in Indianapolis, IN met John in India and provided training to over 50 participants. The ELNEC-SuperCore course was held over a three-day period with half of one day focused on pediatric, oncology, geriatric, and critical care-like interest groups. Courses were held in Vellore and Delhi.

For more information on this opportunity, contact Barbara Head at Barbara.Head@louisville.edu.

Cure4Kids to Include Japanese and Russian ELNEC Translation



For the past 5 years, Cure4Kids and the ELNEC Project have been in partnership, bringing the ELNEC-Pediatric Palliative Care (ELNEC-PPC) training program to thousands of nurses and other members of the interdisciplinary team in 155 countries, via the internet. Currently, the ELNEC-PPC training program is provided in both English and Spanish. However, Cure4Kids is preparing ELNEC PowerPoint slides in Japanese and Russian for dissemination on the Cure4Kids Web site.

Cure4Kids is the leading education and collaboration Web site dedicated to supporting the care of children with cancer and other catastrophic diseases worldwide. Cure4Kids provides not only high quality content for continuing education but also Web communication tools to support collaborations among pediatric oncologists and health professionals worldwide. All content and services are provided at no cost to the users.

For more information about Cure4Kids, go to www.cure4kids.org.

**REMINDER: ELNEC CDs are now available in Russian and Spanish. Need one?
Contact the ELNEC Project Office at pmalloy@aacn.nche.edu.**

OPPORTUNITIES

Spirituality and Health

With support from the Archstone Foundation, The George Washington Institute For Spirituality and Health (GWish) and the City of Hope (COH) are partnering on a project to improve the quality of spiritual care at the end of life. This project includes the development of an online resource center to disseminate educational and clinical materials about spiritual care. If you have **any spirituality resources that you are currently using or may have developed, you can submit/contribute these** by going to the Spirituality and Health Online Education and Resource Center (SOERCE) at <http://www.gwish.org/>.

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON INSTITUTE
for Spirituality & Health



In addition, to help make this resource collection as useful as possible, we are conducting a survey of potential users. We invite clinicians, educators, and professionals working or studying in healthcare, healthcare education, spiritual care, and palliative care to complete the survey. You may complete the survey by going to http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=RDDeBDk4nBn8B2MNS9aa6Q_3d_3d.

Two Projects Being Offered by City of Hope

NCI-Funded Course to be Held in July: ELNEC Trainers are Welcome to Apply



The final *Achieving Excellence in Care for Cancer Survivors* course will be held July 15-18, 2009 in Universal City, CA. This NCI-funded national project will prepare teams from leading cancer care settings to enhance the quality of care for cancer survivors. National leaders in oncology will be addressing surveillance recommendations, meeting the physical, psychosocial and spiritual needs of cancer survivors, providing model program examples, and recommending potential survivorship research. Two-member teams from various oncology settings may apply (i.e. administrators, nurses, psychologists, physicians, social workers, chaplains, etc). For more information on this project or to apply, please visit <http://www.cityofhope.org/education/health-professional-education/nursing-education/survivorship-conference> or contact Liz Gourdine at 626-256-4673, ext. 63488, mgourdine@coh.org.

The ACE Project: Advocating for Clinical Excellence—Transdisciplinary Palliative Care Education

Final Annual Course to be held October 13-16, 2009 in Pasadena, CA

The ACE Project is an NCI-funded study that seeks to enhance the advocacy and leadership skills of competitively-selected psychologists, social workers and spiritual care professionals through an innovative transdisciplinary educational experience. To date, three annual courses with 75 new participants per course have been held. A Reunion Conference in October 2010 will reunite all past 300 participants and faculty members in order to disseminate findings, share lessons learned, and strengthen participant change efforts. We invite your application to this important endeavor to improve the care of those who are seriously ill, the dying and the bereaved. **Substantial financial assistance will be provided to ACE attendees.** Information and application are located at <http://www.cityofhope.org/ACEproject>, or contact Maren Spolum at (626) 256-4673 ext. 63941, ACEproject@coh.org.

RESOURCES

8 ELNEC Modules Are Available on the Hospice Education Network



In October 2008, the ELNEC Project partnered with the Hospice Education Network (HEN) to provide the eight modules from the ELNEC-Core curriculum. National ELNEC faculty Patrick Coyne, Betty Ferrell, Pam Malloy, Polly Mazanec, and Judy Paice presented the modules and are viewed through video streaming. HEN is a comprehensive, innovative service that offers staff orientation programs, annual in-services, volunteer training and specialized learning modules addressing the education needs of hospice programs and end-of life care professionals. All courses include CEs for eligible nurses or social workers. For more information about HEN, visit www.hospiceonline.com or contact info@hospiceonline.com or call (866) 969-7124.



People Planning Ahead: Communicating Healthcare and End-of-Life Wishes is a step-by-step planning guide written by experienced gerontologist Leigh Ann Kingsbury. This guide provides the information required to put together a plan of care for healthy adults, the aging, or people with a terminal illness. You can find reviews on this book at <http://bookstore.aaid.org>.



The Association of Nurses in AIDS Care (ANAC) was founded in 1987 by a small group of nurses meeting in Princeton, NJ. Their goal was to assist other nurses in meeting the challenges of providing quality care to all persons living with HIV infection.

ANAC's first advertisement stated simply, "People who give so much to others need each other's support." From that core value of support, the association grew and expanded, as did the epidemic. The mission of ANAC evolved to *promote the individual and collective professional development of nurses involved in the delivery of health care to persons infected or affected by HIV and to promote the health and welfare of infected persons*. This is accomplished through an effective network of AIDS care nurses who come together to exchange information, ideas and experiences.

Twenty-two years after that first meeting in Princeton, ANAC has grown to over 2,500 members and 48 local chapters. ANAC is a leading voice in all areas of HIV care, prevention, education, research, and policy. ANAC is THE professional organization for HIV/AIDS nurses. For more information on this organization, please visit <http://www.nursesinaidscare.org>.