



## 2020 AWARD WINNERS

Nine inspiring and distinguished End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium (ELNEC) trainers were named Excellence in ELNEC award winners for 2020:



**Chiquessa "Keisha" Davis, DNP, MSN, CMSRN, RN-BC** is Department Head of Post Licensure Nursing Programs at Tarleton State University. For the past 17 years, her commitment has been to educate nurses and student nurses. In 2019, Dr. Davis disseminated her DNP final project at a proprietary university where the ELNEC Undergraduate online core modules were included in the curriculum. The Undergraduate curriculum has prepared many students for the pandemic by decreasing stress, anxiety, and improving their attitude toward caring for the EOL patient. [CLDAVIS@tarleton.edu](mailto:CLDAVIS@tarleton.edu)



**Yvonne Joy, DNP, MBA, FNP-C, ACHPN, APRN** is an Assistant Professor of Nursing in the School of Interdisciplinary Health and Science at the University of Saint Joseph in West Hartford, CT. Clinically, she works as a family nurse practitioner in her own private practice and with a home health and hospice company, caring for hospice patients. She is committed to ensuring students graduate with the AACN-endorsed *Competencies and Recommendations for Educating Nursing Students (CARES)*. She enjoys teaching the ELNEC curriculum to nurses and students in her local area and in Guyana, South America, where she travels as part of the University's Mercy Mission. [yjoy@usj.edu](mailto:yjoy@usj.edu)



**Amanda "Mandy" J. Kirkpatrick, PhD, RN** is an associate professor at Creighton University College of Nursing (CUCON) and Macy Faculty Scholar (2019-2021). Her research centers around the development and facilitation of interprofessional palliative care (PC) simulations that integrate ELNEC content and promote primary PC competence among health professional learners. Dr. Kirkpatrick co-chairs a PC interest group at CUCON that recently championed the adoption of the ELNEC Undergraduate and Graduate curricula into all BSN, MSN, and DNP programs at Creighton – becoming the first school in Nebraska to adopt these online programs. [MandyKirkpatrick@creighton.edu](mailto:MandyKirkpatrick@creighton.edu)

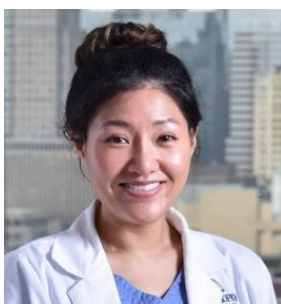


**Nancy Stock, DNP, FNP-BC, ENP-BC, PHN, RN** is an associate professor of nursing at Minnesota State University-Moorhead, MN. She also serves as a nurse practitioner in the Sanford Health network caring for patients in the clinic and ED settings on the White Earth Indian Reservation. Dr. Stock has been an ELNEC trainer since 2016. She has taught the ELNEC train-the-trainer course to over 100 students in the RN to BSN program. Students have overwhelmingly reported feeling more confident providing palliative care upon completion of the course. More recently, she integrated the ELNEC Graduate online modules into the Nurse Educator program. [nancy.stock@mnstate.edu](mailto:nancy.stock@mnstate.edu)

The next two awardees, Katherine Arensmeyer and Julie Reback, attended an ELNEC Oncology APRN grant-funded course and returned to their institution, University of Maryland Medical Center, to open an oncology urgent care for symptom management. It is an interdisciplinary outpatient palliative care clinic to provide symptom management to patients so that they need not be admitted or go to the ER for treatment.



**Katherine Arensmeyer, MSN, ANP-BC, AOCNP, ACHPN** is a Senior Oncology Nurse Practitioner at the University of Maryland Medical Center (UMMC), Marlene and Stewart Greenbaum Comprehensive Cancer Center. Since participating in the ELNEC training program in 2019, she helped form an outpatient oncology "Supportive and Palliative Care Program" (SPCP) with almost 250 oncology patients referred to SPCP in the first year. She has given several educational presentations on oncology-based palliative care topics to nurses and colleagues. [Katherine.Arensmeyer@umm.edu](mailto:Katherine.Arensmeyer@umm.edu)



**Julie Reback, MSN, CRNP, AGPCNP-BC** is an oncology nurse practitioner at the University of Maryland Medical Center (UMMC), Marlene and Stewart Greenbaum Comprehensive Cancer Center. When revamping the Evaluation Treatment Center (ETC) at UMMC Stoler Infusion Center, the focus needed to shift from an urgent care focus to a comprehensive wellness visit. The oncology population requires more than just a symptom management approach and ELNEC has been instrumental in improving communication skills and teaching professionals how to recognize when patients are nearing end of life. In collaboration with the palliative care consult team, medical practitioners have been able to have meaningful conversations about palliative and hospice care that have helped transition patients from the outpatient setting to their desired hospice location, whether it be home or inpatient. [Julie.Reback@umm.edu](mailto:Julie.Reback@umm.edu)

In addition to using ELNEC within their own practices, the following three ELNEC trainers: Dr. Judith Barberio, Dr. Katie DeMarco, and Dr. Gillian McKie, were able to develop and deliver an

ELNEC program for the Out-of-Hospital [OOH] Residency Program at Rutgers University, led by Dr. Judith Barberio. The OOH Residency program is a 12-month program for new baccalaureate nurses throughout New Jersey. The program is designed to promote nursing careers in non-hospital settings by combining transition to practice and clinical education, peer support, and precepted full time employment. The ELNEC program has been part of the OOH program at Rutgers University for the past few years and in 2020, this in-person program was redesigned by the trainers to be delivered virtually due to COVID-19 restrictions.



**Judith A. Barberio, PhD, ANP-BC, GNP-BC, RN-BC** is Clinical Associate Professor at Rutgers University (RU), New Jersey (NJ) teaching in graduate/undergraduate nursing programs on palliative care (PC) hospice, pain management, and substance use disorder. Following graduate PC education, Dr. Barberio incorporated the ELNEC key components into her clinical practice with chronically ill patients and in teaching PC education to nursing students. As an ELNEC Trainer and board member/Treasurer of the NJ Palliative Care APN Consortium (NJ PCAPNC), she has taught ELNEC courses to nursing students, RNs and APNs throughout NJ. Dr. Barberio has been instrumental in introducing the ELNEC content through the RU Nursing Program and Continuing Education (CE) Division and recently

presented ELNEC to RNs from China who were visiting scholars at RU. A global initiative with physicians in NJ and The Dean Foundation in Chennai, India introduced ELNEC as part of a training program for hospice and PC in India. Dr. Barberio frequently works with colleagues in the NJ PCAPNC at hospital sites in NJ teaching ELNEC curriculum and is developing a PC Certificate program through RU CE Division. The impact of ELNEC has guided her philosophy and treatment approach in a pain and symptom management clinic in an urban HIV Center by incorporating goals of care meetings and frequent interaction with members of the interdisciplinary team. [barberio@sn.rutgers.edu](mailto:barberio@sn.rutgers.edu)



**Katherine DeMarco, DNP, MSHS, FNP-BC, APN, ACHPN**, is the Clinical Supervisor at Hackensack Meridian Health Network – Hackensack UMC Pain & Palliative Medicine Institute. Dr. DeMarco practices as a Palliative Advanced Practice Nurse in the acute/hospital setting, skilled nursing facilities, and in the ambulatory ALS clinic. She completed her first ELNEC training in 2009 and has been teaching courses based on the ELNEC curriculum since 2010. Dr. DeMarco has had the privilege to teach ELNEC alongside amazing palliative colleagues, within Rutgers University and more recently, during the COVID pandemic, she co-taught the ELNEC curriculum virtually. She is a proud member and Board Member (Vice

President of Health Policy/Legislation and Community) of the New Jersey Palliative Care APN Consortium. [Katherine.DeMarco@hmn.org](mailto:Katherine.DeMarco@hmn.org)



**Gillian McKie, DNP, APN, ACHPN** is an Advanced Practice Nurse at Morristown Medical Center, NJ where she is part of the inpatient palliative team and has an integrated outpatient palliative practice. Dr. McKie has provided ELNEC education to nurses in diverse settings since becoming an instructor in 2010. This year it has been a joy to collaborate with Rutgers University along with colleagues to provide a virtual format for ELNEC education, as we strive to teach, mentor and support our nurse colleagues.  
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*Congratulations and thank you all for your support and dissemination of ELNEC!*