

## **2021 AWARD WINNERS**

These inspiring and distinguished End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium (ELNEC) trainers were named Excellence in ELNEC award winners for 2021:



**Heather Huizinga**, MSN, RN, OCN, an Oncology Clinical Nurse Educator at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center, received feedback from many nurses regarding their lack of confidence in providing end-of-life care. In 2021, Heather facilitated ELNEC as a part of the onboarding curriculum and made it accessible to current employees. Over 120 nurses were ELNEC trained in 2021, and 3 evidence-based projects are underway through the Nurse Residency Program regarding making interdisciplinary improvements in end-of-life care. <u>heather.huizinga@roswellpark.org</u>



Leveraging COVID pandemic limitations, **Dr. Jennifer Gentry**, DNP, ANP-BC, GNP, ACHPN, FPCN, partnered with local ELNEC trainers and nurse educators to develop an asynchronous, multi-media ELNEC course available to nursing staff year- round. Nearly 60 nurses have completed the new course with excellent evaluations in the 6 months. The new format has improved access for nurses otherwise unable to attend an in-person course while promoting interaction with faculty and participants. Future plans include using this course as the foundation of a palliative care resource nurse program with the goal of embedding palliative nursing experts in each health system unit and site. jennifer.h.gentry@duke.edu



The **Baystate Children's Hospital** group facilitated a virtual ELNEC training that reached over 60 attendees, of different disciplines, across Baystate Children's Hospital, Springfield, MA. Six attendees were inspired to become ELNEC Pediatric trainers and our Oncology NP has completed the ELNEC Oncology APRN Course. Thanks to the training, Palliative Care is becoming a part of NICU nurse orientation; generalist palliative care is being provided both in NICU and at the oncology clinic; and our hospice team have started accepting infants. Emily Lajeunesse, MSW, LICSW; Mustafa S. Caylan, MD; Cynthia St. John, BSN, RN. <u>Mustafa.CaylanMD@baystatehealth.org</u>



Abigail Cohen, ANP-BC, AOCNP, BMTCN is dedicated to advancing palliative care through participating as an ELNEC educator for nurses at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. She co-leads the Goals of Care Taskforce on the Bone Marrow Transplant (BMT) service, to improve the care of critically ill patients by promoting improved communication amongst clinical staff and patients, and helping facilitate appropriate palliative care. She also partnered with Supportive Care colleagues to bring an early palliative care intervention to BMT patients. <u>cohena2@mskcc.org</u>



## Julissa Yepez, LCSW

As the Oncology Social Worker at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, I understand the importance of being compassionate and present when it comes to helping patients cope with their experience of facing cancer. The ICC curriculum and training have been a great resource and learning experience which I continue to practice on a daily basis with my patients. We held 2 training sessions at our hospital and have successfully trained 35 staff, nurses and social workers, using the ICC curriculum. The demand was so great that we plan to have 2 more sessions this year. jyepez@dhs.lacounty.gov



**Sreedevi Warrier**, DNP, MSN, MA, RN, CNS, is a Medical/Surgical/Oncology Clinical Nurse Specialist, at Harbor UCLA Medical Center. Sree started a program called "North Star" in one medical/surgical floor at the hospital to provide the best care for patients nearing end of life. As a part of the program, she trained 34 ELNEC train-the-trainer champions and over 100 nurses with a condensed education. In addition, to expand the education to other nurses, she included *Symptom Management* as a part of Chemotherapy Recertification and 66 staff completed the module. Sree volunteers to teach

ELNEC curriculum in Kerala, India. srwarrier@dhs.lacounty.gov



**Shandeigh "Nikki" Berry**, **PhD**, **RN** is an assistant professor at Saint Martin's University. Her research focuses on supporting parents experiencing perinatal loss related to a life-limiting fetal condition. She is also the founder of Project Poppyseed, a non-profit organization dedicated to breaking the silence of perinatal loss through research, education, and advocacy. Dr. Berry teaches the ELNEC curriculum to undergraduate nurses and provides perinatal loss training in the nurse residency program of a local hospital. <u>sberry@stmartin.edu</u>



## **The Perinatal Task Force**

The idea for creating Perinatal ELNEC was born from several requests from nurses working with families in maternal-fetal medicine, fetal clinics, L&D, nursery or NICU whose child may have a life-threatening condition. The care of these babies and families is unique and requires specialized palliative care training. It is our hope

that nurses feel better prepared to guide families through making potentially difficult decisions and support families with improved communication and assessment skills. Amy C. Haskamp, MSN, RN, PCNS-BC, CHPPN, CPON; Carrie L. Cormack, DNP, APRN, CPNP; Kathie Kobler, PhD, APRN, PCNS-BC, CHPPN, FPCN, FAAN; Kathy Perko, MS, FPCN, PPCN, CHPPN, CPLC, FPCN, CPON. <u>ahaskamp@iuhealth.org</u>



**Linda /Wei Dong**, Program director of Project HOPE, Wuhan Office, became an ELNEC trainer in 2016. In 2017, she applied for grants on palliative care training program by using ELNEC in Wuhan, China. To date, four Train-the-Trainer courses have been conducted. As a result, 117 nurses from 35 hospitals have been trained and have returned to their hospitals to teach 7,742 health care providers, benefitting 22,167 patients and their families. The program provided technical support and on-site coaching to the ELNEC attendees, who served patients/families with the knowledge/skills they learned to improve their quality of life. <u>linda@projecthope.org.cn</u>



Annamaria Pakai, RN, MNS, PhD, is an associate professor at the Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Pecs in Hungary. For the past 22 years, her commitment has been to educate health professionals. She is committed to teaching and researching in palliative care. Her plan is to incorporate the ELNEC material into the BSc curriculum of palliative subject in cooperation with the members of the Hungarian Hospice Association ELNEC team. For the next year, she would like to start a PhD hospice course with Miklos Lukacs, also an ELNEC Trainer. annamaria.pakai@etkpte.hu



**Gabor Benyo**, MD is the Medical director of Tabitha Pediatric Hospice House Vice-President of the Hungarian Hospice-Palliative Association (HHPA), Secretary of the National Hospice-Palliative Advisory Board of the Ministry of Health. Dr. Benyo is a Pediatric haemato-oncologist and palliative care specialist. "In addition to the development of palliative and hospice care in Hungary, my goal is to raise the level of nursing education and the esteem of nurses in care in Hungary to a European level. During my work I educated more than 1,000 healthcare professionals and volunteers for palliative care in the last 10 years. I took part translating ELNEC pediatric palliative course material into Hungarian. In 2020 I volunteered in Kosovo to hold an ELNEC course with my colleagues, educating 35 health care workers." <u>drbenyo@gmail.com</u>



Judit Hegedus is a pediatric nurse with 26 years of experience and since 2017 has held the position of Head of Nursing at Tabitha Children's Hospice House, Hungary. Judit completed ELNEC Core and Pediatric course in 2018 and 2021. "Our team is determined to improve the national Pediatric Palliative Care. We organized a hospice-palliative symposium for various professionals and taught more than 120 nurses, psychologists, and social workers. We completed a National PPC Guideline and continuously run palliative research projects and trainings for nurses and volunteers." mrshege77@gmail.com



**The Home Based Care Team (HBC)** at Good Shepherd Mission Hospital in Eswatini, Africa was started in 2001 in response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic. A Palliative Care Initiative was added in 2012 under the direction of Dr Alfred and Kathleen Hartmann in response to the intensity of symptom management needed due to an increase in cancer patients. The HBC/PC Team provides outreach care to patients in rural areas who are homebound or unable to access medical care due to poverty, lack of transport, or advanced disease.

ELNEC and CAPC (Center for the Advancement of Palliative Care) have been sources of education for the team for several years. As a result of this, the team has been able to access up to date standard of care protocols. Patients living in extreme poverty, with life threatening illnesses, are receiving state of the art symptom management even in a resource poor setting. The team visits patients daily in very rural areas providing hands on care, medications, food, teaching and support resulting in an increased quality of life for both them and their families.

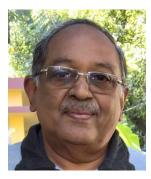
Presently, the team consists of Matron Ntombefuthi Ndzinisa, Team Leaders, Sr. Andrew Jele and Sr. Phila Langwenya, RN's Lunga Shongwe, Simanga Nhlabatsi and QNA Victoria Zwane, all dedicated to the mission of palliative care. <u>kathleenahartmann@gmail.com</u>



**Lieutenant Mrs. Alice Stella Verginia**, with over 35 years in nursing and 15 years focused in palliative care, worked in military hospitals in India: Ministry of Health Sultante of Oman and Libya, Government Medical College, Calicut. In May 2020, she retired from Calicut Medical College, Government of Kerala. Since then she has been delivering online/offline sessions in palliative care. stellatimung@yahoo.in



**Dr. I. Clement**, MA, MSc (N), PhD (N), is a professor & Head of Department of Research and Development at RV College of Nursing, in Bengaluru, India. "Thank you so much for choosing me as an ELNEC award winner for 2021 and recognizing the contribution in service, education and organization of various webinars in palliative care. Surly I will continue to promote this work to improve the care of those who are seriously ill in the community. I also extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to Dr. Esther S. Daniel." clement.rvcn@rvei.edu.in



**Dr. Stanley C. Macaden** is involved with ELNEC in the recent 'National Training Workshop on Palliative Care Nursing: A New Frontier'. Dr. Macaden has been involved in training of nurses through the one-year fellowship in Palliative Nursing, a joint program by CMAI and the IPM, Calicut (WHO Collaborating Centre). Dr. Macaden initiated a fully integrated palliative care program (cancer and non-cancer) at BBH in 1995 with in-patient, out-patient care, home care and bereavement support. The nurses have been the backbone of this care over all these years. <a href="mailto:stancmac@gmail.com">stancmac@gmail.com</a>

Congratulations and thank you all for your support and dissemination of ELNEC!