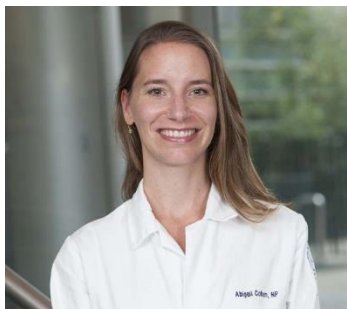




2024 AWARD WINNERS

These inspiring and distinguished End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium (ELNEC) trainers were named Excellence in ELNEC award winners for 2024:



Abigail (Abbie) Cohen, ANP-BC, AOCNP®, BMTCN® is a member of the ELNEC faculty and has taught hundreds of nurses at ELNEC courses nationally and locally at her institution. She is committed to changing the standard of care for her patients on the Bone Marrow Transplant (BMT) service to integrate early, primary palliative care for all patients receiving cellular therapy. After conducting a small feasibility pilot of an early primary palliative care intervention for BMT patients, in collaboration with Supportive care colleagues, APP leadership and BMT Service Chief, Abbie built a team of nurse practitioners to deliver this intervention for all new BMT patients.

Dr. Olga Ehrlich, PhD, RN, CHPN has applied her passion and ELNEC training to educate hospice interdisciplinary teams, develop a palliative care capacity-building research proposal for rural hospitals, piloted a palliative care curriculum for undergraduate students funded by the West Foundation, wrote and published a grant-funded manual Integrating the AACN Hospice/Palliative/Supportive Care Sphere in Undergraduate Nursing Education: A Practical Guide for Faculty (2023), and presented national webinars to teach undergraduate faculty how to incorporate competency-based primary palliative care learning activities. She has been a Certified Hospice and Palliative Nurse since 2009 and is a Co-Chair for the ELNEC Faculty Corner Northeastern Midwest Region.



Laurel Kent, FNP, MSN, RN is a Nurse Practitioner in Pediatric Stem Cell Transplant at Stanford Medicine Children's Health (SMCH). For an EBP project on her unit, Laurel collaboratively led an initiative to integrate a trigger tool to identify HSCT patients for early integration of palliative care services. The initiative was successful in increasing early integration for patients who qualified from 29% pre implementation to 80% post implementation. She was a member of the planning committee for the ELNEC course at Stanford (2024) that taught over 100 attendees, and she co-presented two modules. She is currently a Nurse Research Fellow developing a study focused on improving quality of life for Oncology and HSCT patients.



Meggan Mikal, DNP, APRN-FPA, PCNS-BC, CPNP-PC, CHPPN is the nurse practitioner of Pediatric Advance Care Team at Advocate Children's Hospitals in Oak Lawn, IL. She has hosted the first pediatric ELNEC course at her hospital that reached over 35 attendees. She plans to host this course twice per year and open it to other Chicagoland Children's hospitals. Meggan is involved in many community outreach activities and is an active member of the Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association (HPNA). Becoming a widow in 2017 after her husband Andrew died from advanced colorectal cancer has only grown her passion for delivering and advocating for nothing short of the best palliative care. Within palliative care, Meggan has a strong interest in the areas of patient-provider boundaries, patient and family advocacy, and the delivery of diverse, equitable and inclusive care.

Amy Smith, DNP, APRN, AGNP-C, CNE is a board-certified Adult Gerontology Nurse Practitioner at MUSC's College of Nursing and Palliative Care team. Passionate about transforming nursing education, Amy spearheaded a comprehensive curriculum revision to integrate palliative care education across all undergraduate courses using the ELNEC curriculum as a guide. She also created an interprofessional palliative care course designed to equip healthcare students with essential skills in palliative care, including facilitating difficult conversations, managing conflict, and navigating illness trajectories. As a compassionate provider, Amy is devoted to empowering patients to achieve their goals of care and improving their quality of life.



Pullman Regional Hospital | Anna Engle RN, MSN (Assistant Director of Same Day Services) and **Caitlin Carl RN, BSN** (Employee Health and Wellness) first attended ELNEC Core in 2015. Since then, they have attended ELNEC Pediatric in 2017 and ELNEC Core in 2022. ELNEC inspired Anna and Caitlin to bring End-Of-Life teaching to their rural hospital where they have been providing the course every year since to nurses, chaplains, social workers, pharmacists, providers, and community members. They also teach in other rural communities to provide education at hospitals where they don't have the opportunity to attend ELNEC.

University of Minnesota School of Nursing | Susan O’Conner-Von PhD, RN-BC, CNE, FNAP (Professor, School of Nursing) and **Lores Vlamincik, MA, BSN, RN, CHPN** (Lores Consulting) have presented four ELNEC courses (Geriatric and Core) with a fifth being planned for May 2025. Several of the courses were supported by the Katherine & C. Walton Lillehei Nursing Leadership fund from the University of Minnesota School of Nursing. While the audiences have been varied, the responses were extremely positive. Participants requested tools to have conversations with providers and they sought proficiency to respond to difficult questions posed by their patients. Interactive teaching strategies such as case studies were found to be useful by the participants.



University of Maryland | Ann Hoffman, DNP, RN, CPN, CNE (Retired- not pictured), **Melissa McClean, MSN, APRN, ANP-BC, ACHPN, CNE** (Clinical Instructor), **Hannah Murphy Buc, PhD, RN** (Assistant Professor), **Pamela Shumate, DNP, RN, CCRN, CNE, CHSE** (Assistant Professor), & **Janet Wulf, DNP, CRNP, ACHPN, CNE** (Assistant Professor)

Literature indicates that nursing graduates do not feel prepared to take care of seriously ill or dying patients. To address this gap, we developed a novel 16-week, in-person, stand-alone primary palliative care class. So far, more than 800 students have completed the course. The only required resource is the ELNEC Undergraduate curriculum modules. Students have opportunities to practice and demonstrate growing proficiency in communication skills, holistic assessment, symptom management, advance care planning, and self-reflection. Student feedback and anecdotal reports from faculty in subsequent semesters suggest promising improvements in student performance. More research is planned to determine the impact on care at the bedside upon transition to professional practice.



Nationwide Children's Hospital | Alice Bass, MSN, APRN-CNP, CPNP-PC, FPCN (Nursing Professional Practice Specialist) & Kelsey Harn, MSN, RN, CPN, NPD-BC (Education Nurse Specialist)

Nationwide Children's Hospital launched its first ELNEC Pediatric course in 2016. To date, we have held 34 classes and trained over 700 nurses and staff from multiple disciplines. Our outreach has included hospices in areas of rural Ohio, inviting staff to attend to promote education and foster collaborative relationships to improve care. Aaron

and Rachel Lewis are avid participants at our parent panel each course. They lost their son, Keith, in 2016. In their words, "We are so thankful that Nationwide Children's encourages the ELNEC course, and we are always so happy to see so many faces show up. The attendance to the training shows the staff's commitment to family centered care on not only the good days, but the hard days too." *A special thanks to the whole ELNEC Team at NCH.* We could not pull any of this off without the strong support of our AIM Team medical director (Dr. Lisa Humphrey, MD, FAAP, FAAHPM), the Center for Nursing Excellence (Dr. Vicki Guinther, PhD, RN, NPD-BC, FAAN), and the many palliative care team providers, psychosocial colleagues, nurses, parents, and collaborating specialties who volunteer their time, talent, and expertise to make our ELNEC program as successful as possible.



ELNEC International: Albania

Mary Potter Palliative Care Center | Prof. Dr. Donjeta ALIA (BALI) (Pediatric, Hematologist/Oncologist), Irena Laska MSC, APRN (Executive Director at Mary Potter Hospice), & Dr. Gerla Koleci (Hematologist)

"Mary Potter" Palliative Center, parallel to patient's care, has also been engaged in the continuing education of healthcare professionals about palliative care from all over the country. After the first ELNEC training in Salzburg (2008), all trainings organized in the country for palliative care have used the ELNEC materials. There have been 7,698 health professionals from all over the country who have

participated in these trainings. The curricula of ELNEC have been translated into Albanian since 2013. ELNEC trainings in Albania were offered in 2013, 2015, 2023 and 2024, in total 177 trained. In 2013, a group of palliative care lecturers was created, from all nursing faculties. Now, all the nursing faculties use ELNEC curricula, which are updated every year. Over 1,000 students per year use the ELNEC curricula.

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