



2025 AWARD WINNERS

These inspiring and distinguished End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium (ELNEC) trainers were named Excellence in ELNEC award winners for 2025:



Sanghee Kim. Since completing ELNEC in 2008, I have advanced end-of-life nursing through education, research, and policy both in Korea and globally. I have organized seven ELNEC Train-the-Trainer (ToT) programs and taught five ELNEC ToT programs, preparing over 658 trainers across core, critical care, gerontological, and pediatric curricula in Korea. My research focuses on addressing the needs of cancer and chronic illness patients at the end-of-life and contributing to Korea's Integrated Hospice and Palliative Care Policy (2024–2028). Internationally, I educate health ministry officers and faculty, advising on nursing curriculum reform to strengthen palliative care. My work aims to enhance the quality of care for patients facing life-limiting illnesses.



Raeann Genevieve LeBlanc (PhD, DNP, AGPCNP-BC, CHPN) is a Clinical Professor from the Elaine Marieb College of Nursing at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and a committed, passionate educator in palliative nursing. Raeann began their ELNEC training in 2014 with support of the National Cancer Institute. Since Fall 2018, Raeann has created and taught a Palliative Nursing Elective, resulting in 200 students completing the ELNEC Undergraduate Curriculum Certificate. Raeann is informed by the experiences of people and their caregivers living with and managing serious illness across the continuum of care and advancing community based palliative care health equity."



Arvin Mirshahi (MSc, RN; Internal Director, Life Center Cancer Clinic, Tehran, Iran) holds an MSc in Medical-Surgical Nursing from Tehran University of Medical Sciences (TUMS). Under the mentorship of Dr. Marie Bakitas (University of Alabama at Birmingham), he conducted Iran's first feasibility study of early tele-palliative care in heart failure patients. For more than five years, he has mentored students from TUMS's Student Scientific Research Center and translated the ELNEC curriculum into Persian, significantly expanding access to evidence-based palliative-care education nationwide. He now leads ongoing international research projects in direct collaboration with ELNEC faculty and other global centers, aiming to improve palliative-care quality through innovative approaches and to raise awareness of palliative care among students and

healthcare professionals across Iran.



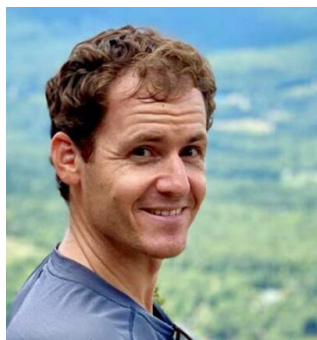
Shila Pandey, DNP, AGPCNP-BC, ACHPN. As a palliative care nurse practitioner, I have taught dozens of nurses and interprofessional clinicians using the ELNEC curriculum. My teaching has been integrated into palliative care champion programs and advanced practice provider orientation. This work has supported meaningful practice change through quality improvement initiatives, including structured goals-of-care conversations and evidence-based symptom management. I have also taught undergraduate nursing students, incorporating ELNEC principles into their curriculum. Beyond academia, I engage in state-level advocacy to advance palliative care policies that support and empower nurses.



Florence Phila Souza. I am an experienced senior nurse with a Diploma in General Nursing and a Post Diploma Certificate in Midwifery. I have worked in various departments at Good Shepherd Catholic Hospital since 1989. I currently work in the Home Based Palliative Care Department caring for patients in their homesteads in rural Eswatini. I have been privileged to attend ELNEC courses in Kenya and recently in Eswatini. I have completed most ELNEC and CAPC teaching modules which have equipped me with relevant skills to provide competent and compassionate patient care in managing symptoms and implementing good communication with patients, families and communities.

I have humbly served patients, caregivers and their families in this poor area of Eswatini with limited resources. I have provided health education and have assisted patients and their families in making informed decisions. I feel my role as a senior palliative care nurse includes meeting the social, emotional, spiritual as well as the physical needs of my patients and their families. For example, providing nutritional supplementation, praying with patients and just being present when needed is crucial in ensuring good clinical outcomes.

Working in Home Based Palliative Care has been one of the most fulfilling experiences of my professional career.



The Cunniff-Dixon Foundation (CDF) honors the extraordinary care that family physician Peter Dixon gave Carley Cunniff in the final year of her life, and the profound bond that care made possible between doctor, patient, and family. Founded by Carley's husband, Andy Baxter, the mission of CDF is to

strengthen the provider-patient relationship at the end of life through education, collaboration, and the recognition of exemplary devotion.

Since 2010, CDF has awarded over \$1.1 million to 54 physicians and 9 nurses, and remains committed to recognizing clinical excellence in the field of palliative care.

The Cunniff-Dixon Foundation generously supports the ELNEC Workshops, to advance undergraduate and graduate palliative care education.

The CDF team is pictured above from left to right: Andrew Peters, RN, Executive Director, Susan Gold, Communications Director, and Nicole D. Glover, Media Director



ELNEC International: Greece. Since attending the ELNEC Seminar in Salzburg in 2022, our team has broadened Palliative Care education throughout Greece. Our first training in Athens (2023) educated 29 fellows and honored the legacy of Spyridoula Tsaroucha+. In 2024, we organized a second three-day seminar in Nafplio for 26 fellows, followed by a third seminar in Heraklion, Crete (2025), training 33 fellows. In parallel, the ELNEC Core program was translated and adapted for Greek students, combined with three years of continuous education and presentations to hospitals and the community. These efforts strengthened clinical practice, enriched nursing curricula, and improved PC knowledge and attitudes.

Pictured above from left to right: **Elisabeth Patiraki, Spiridoula Tsaroucha⁺**, RN, MSc, PhD, **Andreas Henri Mullalli**, RN, MSc, **Maria Parara**, RN, MSc, PhD(c).

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