

**ELNEC AWARD WINNERS  
2013**

In 2013, INTEGRIS Health's Clinical Educator, **Kacy Aderhold BSN, RN-BC and Palliative Care Coordinator, Debbi McCulloch MS, APRN-CNP, RN-BC** partnered to offer ELNEC courses to improve access to quality palliative care through nursing education. So far, they have trained 139 nurses, social workers, case managers, and chaplains using the ELNEC-Core

curriculum at their Oklahoma City, OK hospital. Their goal was to equip nurses with the skills and confidence to identify and address unmet palliative needs early in the disease trajectory. Through prompt, advanced symptom management, informed decision-making and advanced planning, they know they can reduce length of stay and readmission rates, improve health outcomes and provide better experiences for their patients and families. ELNEC has provided them with a framework of information for nurses in basic end-of-life nursing skills, and advanced palliative nursing care principles to be applied across the continuum of care. In addition, Kacy and Deb have established community partnerships to educate nurses beyond INTEGRIS Health so they are improving care throughout their entire community! "We are very thankful to have access to the ELNEC-Core curriculum and appreciate the opportunity to further this work." [Kacy.Aderhold@integrisok.com](mailto:Kacy.Aderhold@integrisok.com), [Debra.Mcculloch@integrisok.com](mailto:Debra.Mcculloch@integrisok.com)



**Debbie James, MSN, RN, CNS, CCRN** is the Lead Nursing ELNEC Instructor/ Facilitator at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas and is fortunate enough to direct ELNEC courses in additional areas throughout Texas. In 2012, Debbie envisioned collaboration among all Texas ELNEC trainers and initiated the creation of a strong connection with one another. Thus, the creation of the ELNEC-Texas Coalition was born. Debbie contacted each of the Texas trainers listed on the ELNEC website and asked for their input in organizing a collaborative effort to participate in conference calls

throughout the year, in an effort to improve palliative care throughout the state of Texas. Under Debbie's leadership, the ELNEC-Texas Coalition is busy marketing the annual ELNEC Summit, which will be held in Dallas on April 10 & 11, 2014. Debbie and

other members of the coalition invite others from Texas to join the coalition and witness a “Texas size success” at this year’s ELNEC Summit. [debbiejames53@yahoo.com](mailto:debbiejames53@yahoo.com)



**Debra Rodgers, RN, BSN, OCN, CHPN and Beth Calmes, RN, MSN**, are oncology nurses at Cottage Hospital in Santa Barbara, CA. Debra attended her first ELNEC Train-the-Trainer Course in 2006, and Debra and Beth both attended the ELNEC Train-the-Trainer Course in Anaheim in February, 2013, where they presented a qualitative research study exploring family members’ experiences of a Bathing and Honoring practice after their loved one died on the oncology unit. Following a

patient death, families were offered to participate in bathing their loved one and reciting nondenominational honoring words. Three months after the death, family participants were interviewed by telephone using a semi-structured interview script. Interview recordings were transcribed verbatim and analyzed independently by three investigators. Family members reported that the practice was positive, meaningful and made a long lasting impression. To date, Debra and Beth have trained several medical/surgical patient care units within the hospital as well as two intensive care units. Palliative Care, Spiritual Care, and Interpreter Services staff members were also trained and now participate in the practice throughout the hospital. In the community they have presented to Hospice of Santa Barbara, the Alliance of Living and Dying Well and at the local ELNEC Train-the-Trainer Course. Debra and Beth recently received a Hospital Heroes award from the Hospital Association of Southern California recognizing their outstanding research. In the January 2014 issue of *Nursing Administration Quarterly* they published an article, “Creating National Standards From the Point of Care,” describing the development of the practice beginning with problem solving at the bedside and leading through research to a new standard of care. It is Debra and Beth’s hope that this practice will become standard of care in hospitals nationwide, as they continue to promote ELNEC education throughout their hospital and community.

[Dlrogers27@gmail.com](mailto:Dlrogers27@gmail.com), [bcalmes@sbch.org](mailto:bcalmes@sbch.org)



**Kathy Davis, PhD, RN**, has had the opportunity to provide care to children and families at the University of Kansas Medical Center, Department of Pediatrics for over 30 years, first as a pediatric school teacher and more recently as the director of pediatric palliative care. Initially, she and her team reinvented the wheel with each child and family, in an effort to desperately figure out how to best do this thing called “pediatric palliative

care.” Then came ELNEC-Pediatric Palliative Care! “After my training in 2007, I was eager to share the ELNEC-Pediatric Palliative Care curriculum with my colleagues and since 2009, we have offered the curriculum 1 -2 times per year in an effort to train all nurses in our High Risk Obstetric program, the 30-bed neonatal intensive care unit, and the 30-bed pediatric palliative care unit” stated Kathy. She and her colleagues believe that caring for families who learn of their baby’s impending death while the infant is still in utero is sacred work. Today, Kathy and her team celebrate the fact that most of their nurses are ELNEC trained, and they are extremely proud of the excellent palliative care that ELNEC enables them to provide for every child and family. [KDAVIS2@kumc.edu](mailto:KDAVIS2@kumc.edu)



**Laretta Huff, RN** works at the Central Alabama Veterans HCS in Tuskegee, AL. She works tirelessly to train nurses, as in 2013, she taught 4 ELNEC-For Veterans and 2 ELNEC-For Veterans/Critical Care training courses. “The ELNEC-for-Veterans course materials have provided a standardized set of training materials with various assessment, planning, implementation, and evaluation tools; enabling our staff to provide quality, evidence-based palliative care to our Nation’s Heroes,” stated Laretta. Staff from various settings attended the ELNEC-for-Veterans and ELNEC-for Veterans: Critical Care courses; long-term care, ambulatory, mental health, critical care, chaplain service, recreation therapy. “Thank you for putting this easy-to-use curriculum in the hands of the educators and nurse trainers at our facilities.” [laretta.huff@gmail.com](mailto:laretta.huff@gmail.com)



**Sr. M. Peter Lillian Di Maria, O.Carm** is the Director of the Avila Institute of Gerontology, Inc., Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm in Germantown, NY. Sister Peter found the ELNEC-Geriatric course to be very thorough. Sr. Peter was able to integrate the philosophy of the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm in the materials and to develop a palliative care program that is specific for geriatric care. The first training she led was attended by 64 participants. This training, along with the support of her Community’s Central Ethics Committee, led to the development of a pilot program that is studying how long-term care facilities can implement policies and

procedures that will sustain Palliative Care programs. Six facilities are participating in the study. The goal of this pilot program is to have a model of a formalized program that all long-term care settings can follow throughout the country. [srpeter@avilainstitute.org](mailto:srpeter@avilainstitute.org)



**Janet Withrow, RN, BSN, CCRN** is a critical care nurse at Bon Secours Memorial Regional Medical Center in Mechanicsville, VA and she believes palliative care is vital for those patients in her units with serious, life-threatening conditions. After completing her ELNEC-Critical Care training, she was impressed with how it emulated her institution's newly adapted care delivery model of relationship-based care. "Many of the new staff coming into critical care have never had a patient die on them so there was definitely a need for end of life education," stated Janet. In collaboration with her area's college of nursing and local chapter of the American Association of Critical Care Nurses (AACN), she was able to

facilitate an ELNEC-Critical Care train-the-trainer course. From that point on, she worked with her palliative care team to set up and run training programs on a regular basis within the Virginia healthcare system. Recently a pre and post survey has been added to help quantify the educational impact of the ELNEC-Critical Care training. "To date our staff members have commented that it is the best training program they have attended and our palliative consults have increased significantly." [janet\\_withrow@bshsi.org](mailto:janet_withrow@bshsi.org)



**Ingrid Porter, RN, MS, AOCN** is a Professional Development & Training Advisor at Johns Hopkins ARAMCO Healthcare, Office of Academic Affairs, in Saudi Arabia. In Saudi Arabia, there are very few facilities that provide a semblance of palliative care. For a variety of reasons many patients seek medical care when they are in the advanced stages of various diseases. Motor vehicle accidents are also prevalent, leaving many young adults, especially men, to cope with devastating, life-changing conditions. Palliative care is central to improving the quality of life for these patients. Ingrid educates health care providers from many different

countries and stresses the importance of honoring the cultures and traditions of the patients in their care. As a result of the richness and applicability of the ELNEC-Critical Care content, all nurses in her facility are strongly supported by the Nursing Administration in ELNEC training. So far she has trained over 300 nurses in Saudi Arabia. She uses the content to introduce the concepts and benefits of palliative care to physicians and other allied health care providers through grand rounds. Two introductory sessions she presented were accredited by TUFTS University School of Medicine. The Saudi Commission for Health Specialties (SCFHS) has requested Ingrid's assistance to develop a Palliative Care Curriculum for a National post graduate nursing diploma. "That cannot be accomplished without the foundation laid by the ELNEC program. Words cannot express the privilege that the ELNEC programs have provided me in my efforts to make a difference in the education and knowledge base of health

care professionals at all levels. But by far, the most rewarding provisions by ELNEC have been the care for nurses embedded in the program content itself, which leads to improved nursing care and ultimately better quality of life for the patients we serve.”

[ingrid.porter@aramco.com](mailto:ingrid.porter@aramco.com)



**Silke Walter and Bea Werner are nurses who work in the Palliative Care Department at the University Medical Center in Freiburg, Germany. They began their work with ELNEC in the summer of 2010 when their Medical Director, Professor Gerhild Becker came to the United States and met with Dr. Betty Ferrell and Rose Virani at the City of Hope, with the intent of learning more about ELNEC and obtaining permission to have the**

curriculum translated into German. Permission was granted to translate the curriculum and funding to do the work was provided by the Dr. Wilhelm Eitel Foundation. In 2012, the translation of ELNEC-International into German was completed and the first course was held with 12 nurses. In the past two years, Silke and Bea have held four courses in which 45 nurses from all over Germany have completed the 2-day training. In 2013, they also translated the ELNEC-Geriatric curriculum into German, with the aim to begin educating nurses in 2014 who work in nursing homes. Silke and Bea have found that nurses who have completed ELNEC training are able to handle palliative care patients more appropriately and feel more comfortable in these situations. “We would like to share this honor with Professor Becker for having the vision, initiating, and encouraging this project, Dr. Wilhelm Eitel for his generous funding, Pam Malloy for her mentoring and motivation, Monika Hasemann for supporting the ELNEC project within the Internal Medicine Department at the University Medical Center Freiburg, and our many colleagues, who have helped us. Without their help, this project would not have succeeded. We would like to thank everyone who has shared in our vision of improving palliative care for all patients in Germany.” [silke.walter@uniklinik-freiburg.de](mailto:silke.walter@uniklinik-freiburg.de), [bea.werner@email.de](mailto:bea.werner@email.de)