



ELNEC Award Winners, 2015



Jeri L. Ashley, MSN, RN, AOCNS, ACHPN works for Baptist Memorial Health Care Corporation, a large system covering regions in Tennessee, Mississippi and Arkansas. She was responsible for assisting in the development and growth of advance care planning and palliative medicine services in 14 Baptist hospitals, educating employees in the importance of planning for health care decisions, and expanding and enhancing the clinical staff's knowledge of pain and symptom management for all patients in a variety of settings. When Jeri examined the grant's goals and noted there were 14,000 employees, ELNEC became the starting point of training. Over the course of the last three years, she, along with other experts from Baptist completed eight courses for over 150 employees plus a city-wide course for Advanced Practice Nurses (APNs) totaling 23 participants. Each course was 2 days in length, had continuing nursing education credit offered through the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS), and the attendees had an educational commitment to self and others. Jeri's all-time favorite evaluation comment was "This course makes me want to be a better nurse than I am today." That speaks to the power of education with ELNEC. JERI.ASHLEY@BMHCC.ORG



Jessica Bullington, BSN, RN, CHPN is a staff nurse in the medical intensive care unit (MICU) at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC). Jess became an ELNEC trainer in 2013 and was a founding member of her hospital's Palliative Care Training Committee, an interdisciplinary team which she has led for the past year. Since becoming a trainer, Jess has dedicated herself to ensuring that nurses in the South Carolina Low country have access to palliative care education and has partnered with community organizations to make this possible. Jess facilitated her first ELNEC-Critical Care course in 2013 and collaborated with Roper St. Francis Hospital to offer a dual ELNEC-Core and Critical Care course the following year. In June 2015, she collaborated with the MUSC College of Nursing and Hands of Hope to offer both Core and Pediatric curricula, and is currently working with her community partners to plan a January 2016 course offering Core, Critical Care, and Pediatric courses. To date, these courses have provided ELNEC training to approximately 150 healthcare professionals. Her advocacy of the ELNEC program has helped expand her committee to include 6 ELNEC trainers actively involved in course planning. bullingj@musc.edu



The ELNEC-Chinese Translation Team, led by Yuhan Lu, has been very busy over the past three years, translating ELNEC from English into Chinese and planning the first national ELNEC course in China in April, 2015. Yuhan Lu, the director of the nursing department of Peking University Cancer Hospital and associate president of the Oncology Nursing Committee of the Chinese Nursing Association has used her influence and leadership to move palliative care education forward in China. With her vision, Chinese oncology nurses have made great progress in improving the quality of life in China. In 2013, Yuhan and her outstanding team of 8 dedicated nurses began translating ELNEC into Chinese. Fourteen months later, Yuhan and the team from Peking University Cancer Hospital completed the translation of ELNEC-Core into Chinese. In April, 2015, 4 national ELNEC faculty from the US went to Beijing to witness the first course in China, which was attended by 56 oncology nurses from 29 national hospitals throughout China. In June, 2015, an ELNEC course was sponsored by the Chinese Nursing Association in Beijing with 112 participants from different provinces all over China and at the Annual Conference of National Oncology Nurses in September, 2015, with 650 in attendance. On November 6-7, a third course was held by the Chinese Nursing Association in Shantou with 281 attending. Pictured above: Cuiju Wen, Min Zhao, Hong Zhang, Yiyuan Zhao, Youhui Gu, Yuhan Lu, Hong Yang, and Liyan Zhang. lu_yuhan@sina.com



Kimberly Chow, ANP-BC, ACHPN is a nurse practitioner on the Palliative Medicine Service at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSKCC) in New York City, and has worked very closely with nursing and medical staff/leadership in the ICU to develop ways to improve care and support for patients, family, and staff. Two years ago, there had been a string of young patient deaths in the ICU. The nursing staff in particular had been extremely distressed and the nurse leader, Patricia Spellman, and Kimberly wanted to figure out a way to better support them. They applied for a nursing grant through the Geri and ME fund and identified four palliative care nurse champions who would complete the ELNEC-Critical Care train-the-trainer program and bring it back to MSK, with a goal of 100% full time ICU nurses completing the course. Today, under Kimberly and Patricia's leadership, a total of 65 nurses- which represents 95% of the full time staff have completed the ELNEC training and they plans to continue these sessions. Kimberly also hopes to move the palliative care champions program and ELNEC training to other units in the hospital so that more nurses feel empowered by knowledge and evidence to support the amazing work they are doing every day. chowk@mskcc.org



Sheri Curtis, RN, BSN, CHPN serves as the palliative care manager at St. Joseph Health, St. Mary in Apple Valley, CA. After attending her second ELNEC course, she began teaching ELNEC-Core to nurses, chaplains, social workers, respiratory and physical therapists, language interpreters at St. Mary's, as well as to those who work for local hospice agencies. She has a passion for teaching, especially as it relates to how to be with patients and families who are going through the end of life experience. She has been teaching ELNEC every quarter for the past six and a half years and over 300 participants have attended the course in the High

Desert area. Sheri worked to bring palliative care to St. Mary and their program has been in operation for five years. She credits her team with the personal and professional skills required to grow the program to what it is today. Sheri.Curtis@stjoe.org



Irena Laska is the Executive director of the Mary Potter Palliative Care Center, teacher in the nursing school, and coach for physicians and nurses in palliative care in Korca, Albania. Irena attended her first ELNEC course in 2008 in Salzburg, Austria. She has found the education “a new experience and one with great value.” Due to generous funding from the Open Society Foundation, Irena led the effort to provide two ELNEC courses in Albania. Not only was she the organizer of the course, but she also was the translator and lecturer. To date, Irena has championed this educational effort and today, over 400 doctors and nurses throughout Albania have attended ELNEC training. She also includes ELNEC-Pediatric Palliative Care in many of these courses. Irena states that the ELNEC courses are highly evaluated from the attendees and are considered as “the most successful training during their career.” Today, Irena continues to provide ELNEC training to nursing students throughout Albania, as well as to those in clinical practice. irenalaska@yahoo.com



Janice Penrod, PhD, RN, FGSA, FAAN is a professor at Penn State College of Nursing in State College, PA. Her program of research is focused on end-of-life care and she champions ELNEC curricula across all aspects of her work. In her current research, *Enhancing Care of the Aged and Dying in Prisons*, Janice and her team are translating ELNEC materials to address end-of-life care within constraints of prisons. Her team is developing a training system including interdisciplinary learning modules to establish prison-based teams to change the culture of care for dying and aged inmates. Janice also has integrated ELNEC materials into her teaching of a large undergraduate elective in dying and death and several graduate courses in nursing. She has promoted dissemination of the ELNEC curricula regionally through her work with the Geriatric Interest Network of the Blair County Region and other professional conferences. Internationally, she promoted ELNEC during a visiting professorship in Taiwan and China. jlp198@psu.edu



Amy Spence MS, RN, CPN, CPON, is an inpatient education specialist at the Cancer and Blood Disorders Institute in St. Petersburg FL. Amy, along with an interdisciplinary planning committee coordinated a meaningful educational opportunity, including sharing personal and heartfelt stories, breakout sessions, case scenarios rich in discussion and thought-provoking interactive lessons. Two workshops have been held thus far with 98 interdisciplinary colleagues attending. There is a unit-based waiting list for the workshop as there is a limit on the number of staff who can attend at a single time. Comments from workshop attendees have been overwhelmingly positive on evaluations. Pre- and post-survey questions have shown an increase in nurses’ comfort and confidence in the provision of pediatric palliative care. An increased awareness of palliative care at ACH has led to an application process for palliative care champions on every unit. Amy also wants to recognize her colleague, Michelle Cook, who is a specialist in clinical education. Together they work to provide a robust and dynamic educational experience to their colleagues. Amy.Spence@jhmi.edu