



## ELNEC Award Winners 2019



**Anne-Marie Barron** PhD, RN, PMHCNS-BC, FAAN, is Associate Dean for Health Sciences at Simmons University and practices as a psychiatric clinical nurse specialist on the Inpatient Oncology and Bone Marrow Transplant Unit at Massachusetts General Hospital. Dr. Barron and Simmons colleagues have been teaching a course based on the ELNEC curriculum since 2004 to more than 650 students; the online ELNEC core modules are included in the required Complex Care course. She has coordinated two Train-the-Trainer courses for 100 practicing nurses and has had the privilege of offering four ELNEC Train-the-Trainer Programs in Bangladesh with colleagues from MGH and Dhaka to 350 nurses. She has experienced the power of ELNEC, which elevates the skill, compassion, and essence of nursing practice. [annemarie.barron@simmons.edu](mailto:annemarie.barron@simmons.edu)

### Central Eastern European Nurse Leaders:



**Irena Laska**  
Albania



**Maria Aleksandrova**  
Armenia



**Miklós Lukacs**  
Hungary



**Judit Schaffer**  
Hungary



**Nicoleta Mitrea**  
Romania

In 2011, the first ELNEC train-the-trainer course was held in Salzburg, Austria, in an effort to educate Central Eastern European (CEE) nurses about palliative care. The nurses who attended that course returned to their country and began to teach others. A core group was selected to attend a 5-day annual Palliative Care Leadership Course for five years (2012 – 2016) in Brasov, Romania. Today, there are five nurse leaders who oversee palliative care education throughout CEE and cooperatively have educated over 10,000 healthcare providers in the following countries: Albania, Armenia, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Moldova, Romania, Russia, Serbia, and Russia. The five palliative care champion nurses, pictured above have not only been outstanding leaders in promoting, advancing, and sustaining palliative care in their region of the world, but they also have seen the value of mentoring up-coming nursing leaders to work with them. They have tirelessly traveled throughout CEE and have published much of their work in journals and textbooks. Their primary goal is to have palliative care available to every person living in CEE, and in order to do that, healthcare professionals must be educated in this care. Those highlighted here have led the way in promoting and advocating for

this work in their respective countries. Examples of the important work they have done and continue to do include the following:

**Irena Laska**, MSN, RN (Albania) is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Mary Potter Palliative Care Center in Korca, Albania. She translated ELNEC in Albanian and has used the ELNEC curriculum to educate over 2000 physicians and nurses throughout Albania. In her advocacy plan, she has worked hard to include palliative care in the nursing curriculum and since 2013 it is a mandatory subject in the Nursing School. In addition, in 2015, palliative care became a mandatory subject in the Professional Masters program. In the academic year, 2019-2020, the first Master Science Program was initiated in Tirana. [irenalaska@yahoo.com](mailto:irenalaska@yahoo.com)

**Maria Aleksandrova**, RN (Armenia) is an anaesthetist and a nurse at the medical intensive care unit at Kanaker-Zeytun Medical Center. For the past 15 years, her commitment has been to educate nurses in the intensive care unit (ICU). She has provided an ELNEC course for 12 ICU nurses in an effort to provide them with the resources and education needed to care for the seriously ill patients they care for. In addition, she has provided this education to 60 nurses from various units around the Medical Center and works closely with the patient advocacy group. In addition, Ms. Aleksandrova is frequently asked to speak at conferences. [maria.yury.aleksandrova@gmail.com](mailto:maria.yury.aleksandrova@gmail.com)

**Miklós Lukacs** teaches palliative care at the University of Pecs and is the president of the Hungarian Hospice-Palliative Association (HHPA), **and Judit Schaffer** (Hungary), is a physiotherapist, registered hospice nurse, health-care manager, founder and leader of Gondoskodás 2000 Home Care Service, an ELNEC trainer, and vice-president of HHPA. Together they advocated to develop a new law that would require 40 hours of basic hospice-palliative care education for all healthcare professionals in order to maintain accreditation. The HHPA has organized 25 basic hospice-palliative care courses between 2011-2018 and educated 460 healthcare professionals in an effort to improve care for all Hungarians needing palliative care. Additionally, Mr. Lukacs and Ms. Schaffer volunteered their time and talent to hold an ELNEC course in Kosovo, educating 35 health care administrators, university faculty, and practicing nurses. [lukacsmik@gmail.com](mailto:lukacsmik@gmail.com), [schaffer@hospice.hu](mailto:schaffer@hospice.hu)

**Nicoleta Mitrea**, PhD, RN (Romania) has focused much of her work in including palliative care nursing curriculum into schools of nursing at the university level. In 2017, a mandatory nursing course was added to the curriculum at the University of Transylvania, Brasov, Romania, as well as the full recognition of palliative care for nurses as a specialty program. Dr. Mitrea participated in local and national efforts to oversee these two accomplishments were activated, as well as having ELNEC translated into Romanian. She also travels throughout Eastern and Western Europe, presenting ELNEC and sharing “lessons learned” in advocating for and promoting palliative care education, practice, advocacy, and research. [nicoleta.mitrea@hospice.ro](mailto:nicoleta.mitrea@hospice.ro)



**Esther Daniel**, PhD, MSc, RN, RM is a Senior Lecturer and Coordinator of the Undergraduate Nursing Programs at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus, Trinidad and Tobago and is committed to bringing palliative care education to this part of the world. She began by organizing and hosting the first ELNEC course in Trinidad and Tobago on November 16 & 17, 2019, which was attended by 82 nurses, physicians, and patient care assistants. In addition, Dr. Daniel is hosting a monthly virtual meeting of healthcare providers entitled, "Conversations on Palliative Care."

This 1-hour forum is provided throughout the Caribbean as an extension to promote palliative care education, to hear views of how palliative care is provided, and to understand concerns and challenges in implementing this care. [Esther.Daniel@sta.uwi.edu](mailto:Esther.Daniel@sta.uwi.edu)



**Beth Delaney**, DNP, CNS, FNP-BC, OCN, ACHPN is an associate professor of nursing at Cedarville University, Cedarville, OH. She also serves as a nurse practitioner at Dayton Physicians Network and has cared for individuals and their families for over 30 years in the areas of oncology, palliative care, hospice, and survivorship. Dr. Delaney has been an ELNEC trainer since 2010. When beginning her academic career in 2012 she worked with nursing faculty to integrate the concepts of palliative care into both undergraduate and graduate learning experiences. In 2017, she and her colleagues began to research the most effective strategies for teaching undergraduate nursing

students, incorporating high fidelity simulation with the national Palliative Cares Competencies (CARES). This led to the integration of using the online ELNEC-Undergraduate curriculum in the sophomore year and providing the ELNEC-Graduate online curriculum in the Family Nurse Practitioner Program. In 2019, the School enrolled 400 new nurses into either the ELNEC-Undergraduate or Graduate modules. The research work was presented at the 2019 American Association of Colleges of Nursing national Baccalaureate Conference. [eadelaney@cedarville.edu](mailto:eadelaney@cedarville.edu)



**Kelsey Harn** MSN, RN, CPN is an Education Nurse Specialist in the Professional Development Department at Nationwide Children's Hospital (NCH) in Columbus, OH. She has been a pediatric nurse for ten years. She is also a Visiting Professor at Chamberlain University and teaches students in their pediatric and community health rotations. Kelsey works closely with the Advanced Illness Management team at NCH to bring education to clinical staff in order to improve end of life care given to children and their families. Since becoming an ELNEC Trainer in 2018, Ms. Harn alongside the Advanced Illness Management team, have completed six courses and

have educated over 130 nurses and other health care professionals. Pre and post surveys have revealed a remarkable increase in staff confidence in providing pediatric palliative care.

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**Maryann Steed, RN, MSN, CHPN** has been a member of the palliative care team at Hartford Hospital since 2005, and currently serves as the Palliative Care Educator and Quality Coordinator. She initiated ELNEC Core training in 2018, offering the modules over a two-day, 12-hour course which has been enthusiastically received. Currently, almost 200 nurses, nurse practitioners, social workers, music therapists, case coordinators, and nurse educators have received ELNEC training. Ms. Steed strives to empower nurses to find their voice in advocating for patients facing serious illness. Many participants, once they experience the quality and depth of this curriculum, quickly become advocates for spreading this content throughout the healthcare system. Two additional programs are in the planning phase to extend both the audience and the ELNEC content; one which focuses on nursing assistants, recognizing the vital contributions they bring to providing quality palliative care, and another centering on the critical imperative to improve clinical communication. [Maryann.Steed@hhchealth.org](mailto:Maryann.Steed@hhchealth.org)



**Dena Trotto, MSN, RN-BC, CMSRN** is a Nurse Educator at Long Island Jewish Forest Hills, NY, part of the Northwell Health system. She is a Nursing Professional Development Specialist with extensive experience in Medical-Surgical, Telemetry, Hospice and Palliative Care. She is currently a PhD student at Adelphi University and is a member of Sigma Theta Tau. Since becoming an ELNEC trainer in 2017, she and her team initiated a hospital-wide, semi-monthly, 2-day ELNEC core curriculum training program open to all nurses, nurse practitioners, case managers and nursing leadership. The classes are incorporated into new hire orientation and for 2020 have been expanded to include sister hospitals and skilled nursing facilities. Ms. Trotto is extremely passionate about advancing education and research in end of life care, and the early incorporation of palliative care into all specialties and at all points of entry. To help guide nurses to provide quality, compassionate care at a time so crucial to patients and their loved ones has been one of the most rewarding experiences of her life. [denatrotto@gmail.com](mailto:denatrotto@gmail.com)



**Jennifer Tschanz, MSN, FNP, AOCNP, ACHPN**, is a Nurse Practitioner at the Department of Hematology/Oncology at the Naval Medical Center, San Diego (NMCS), CA. She facilitated two ELNEC Train-the-Trainer courses reaching 60 individuals at four San Diego institutions. Ms. Tschanz is a founding member of her institution's Palliative Care Working Group that has been combining ELNEC modules with simulation-based training to practice communication skills and discussion about palliative care topics. In the last 2 years, this course has reached 100 learners who have reported they feel more comfortable discussing palliative care related topics after completing the course. [jennifer.alisangco@gmail.com](mailto:jennifer.alisangco@gmail.com)



**Denise Way**, DNP, MSN, RN, is the Chair of the Holistic Gerontological Nursing course for undergraduate students at Drexel University (DU) in the College of Nursing Health Professions (CNHP). The End-of-Life Education Consortium (ELNEC) Undergraduate curriculum has been incorporated into the Holistic Gerontological Nursing course for more than 5 years and has continued to be offered for students' palliative and hospice education. To date, over 1000 students have participated in using the ELNEC-Undergraduate online modules, thanks to Dr. Way. This curriculum has been instrumental in teaching students the importance of effectively communicating, listening, and empathizing with patients receiving palliative or hospice care. Many thanks to Dr. Margaret Harkins and Dr. Pam McGee for their vision in recognizing the extraordinary value of implementing these modules in the Holistic Gerontological Nursing course at DU. [dw486@drexel.edu](mailto:dw486@drexel.edu)