HPNA Announces 2012 Leading the Way Award Recipient

PITTSBURGH, PA, MARCH 15, 2012—The Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association (HPNA) has announced Virginia Tilden, DNSc RN FAAN, as the recipient of the 2012 HPNA Leading the Way Award. Regarded as one of HPNA’s highest honors, the HPNA Leading the Way Award recognizes a nursing leader who has been consistent in “leading the way” in hospice and palliative nursing, demonstrating a deep and abiding commitment to furthering the philosophy, mission, and quality of palliative care. This year’s award was presented at the March 9th at the AAHPM/HPNA Annual Assembly in Denver, Colorado.

Virginia Tilden is Dean Emerita, University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Nursing; Professor Emerita, Oregon Health & Science University; and currently serves as Chairperson on the American Academy of Nursing Task Force on Policy and End-of-Life Care. She was previously Director of the Program of Research on End of Life Care, Center for Ethics in Health Care, at Oregon Health & Science University (1990-2003).

Dr. Tilden has received continuous National Institutes of Health funding over the past 20 years for research on improving care at the end of life, focused especially in three areas: advance care planning; the impact on families of making decisions to withhold or withdraw life-sustaining treatment; and palliative end-of-life care in nursing homes. She has over 50 data-based publications on care at the end of life in high impact journals, including The New England Journal of Medicine, Journal of the American Geriatric Society and Journal of Palliative Medicine.

Dr. Tilden has received numerous honors and awards, including the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Midwest Nursing Research Society, the Pathfinder Distinguished Researcher Award from the Friends of the National Institute of Nursing Research, a Distinguished Faculty Award for Research from...
the Oregon Health & Science University; the Helen Nahm Distinguished Research Award from the University of California San Francisco; and the Youmans Spaulding Distinguished Professorship Award from the Oregon Health & Science University. She was also inducted as a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing in 1988.

“Dr. Virginia Tilden’s visionary work truly embodies the true essence of the HPNA Leading the Way Award,” said Judy Lentz, RN MSN NHA, Chief Executive Officer of HPNA. “Through skill and steadfast commitment, Dr. Tilden has improved palliative care nursing; and HPNA is proud to recognize her extraordinary efforts.

About HPNA

Celebrating its 26th anniversary in 2012, with nearly 11,000 members, the Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association (HPNA) is a national non-profit organization of nursing professionals specializing in end-of life care and pain management. Its mission is to lead the way to promote excellence in the provision of palliative nursing care through leadership development, education and the support of research in the field. Established in 1986, HPNA is the only nursing organization of its kind. It is part of the Alliance for Excellence in Hospice and Palliative Nursing which includes the Hospice and Palliative Nurses Foundation and the National Board for Certification of Hospice and Palliative Nurses. Together, the organizations are working to lead the way in the advancement of the rapidly growing and increasingly important hospice and palliative care nursing specialty. To learn more, visit HPNA at www.hpna.org, call 412.787.9301, or email hpna@hpna.org.

The Hospice and Palliative Nurses Foundation supports research and education for nurses and healthcare team members working in end-of-life care and serves as the fundraising arm of HPNA. Please visit, www.hpnf.org, for contribution and donation information.

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