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**For Immediate Release**

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## **2013 Leading the Way Award Recipient Announced By HPNA**

**PITTSBURGH, PA, MARCH 18, 2013**—The Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association (HPNA) has announced **Jane Marie Kirschling, DNS RN FAAN**, as the recipient of the **2013 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 palliative nursing, demonstrating a deep and abiding commitment to furthering the philosophy, mission, and quality of palliative care. This year’s award was presented on March 14th at the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine (AAHPM) / HPNA Annual Assembly in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Dr. Kirschling serves as Dean and Professor, School of Nursing and University Director of Interprofessional Education at the University of Maryland in Baltimore. She is past president of HPNA and served on numerous committees specific to governance, education, and research during her tenure. Additionally, she was board representative to the Coalition for Hospice and Palliative Care and the Alliance for Excellence in Hospice and Palliative Nursing. A major re-structuring of board and committee processes, designed to increase participation of HPNA members in the work of the association, occurred during her board tenure as Co-Chairperson of the Transitions Task Force. As a result of this re-design, HPNA now realizes over 300 member volunteers annually who contribute thousands of hours to the association’s work products.

Early in her career, Dr. Kirschling became involved in hospice care as a staff nurse in a newly opened in-patient hospice unit and home care program. As a psychiatric nurse, she published numerous academic research papers on the experience of terminal illness among patients and caregivers and the grief process, among other topics. More recently, she has focused on workforce issues. Previous academic positions included: Dean of the University of Kentucky School of Nursing and Dean of the University of Southern Maine College of Nursing and Health Professions; the Ruth Miller Brody and

Bernard B. Brody Professor and Associate Dean for academic affairs at the University of Rochester School of Nursing; and a variety of teaching and leadership roles at the Oregon Health and Sciences University School of Nursing. Dr Kirschling has served on the Board of Directors of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing since 2003 and currently is serving a two-year term as President. She is a fellow in the American Academy of Nursing.

“Dr. Kirschling’s leadership and extensive work in nursing academia unquestionably demonstrates the spirit of the HPNA Leading the Way Award,” said **Sally Welsh, MSN RN NEA-BC, Chief Executive Officer of HPNA**. “HPNA is proud to recognize her career in nursing and impact she has had on our entire nursing association.”

### **About HPNA**

Celebrating its 27<sup>th</sup> anniversary, with nearly 11,000 members, the Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association (HPNA) is a national non-profit organization of nursing professionals specializing in the specialty of palliative nursing across the life span continuum. 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 palliative care nursing specialty. To learn more, visit HPNA at [www.hpna.org](http://www.hpna.org), call 412.787.9301, or email [hpna@hpna.org](mailto:hpna@hpna.org).

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