



**National Board for Certification of Hospice and Palliative Nurses**  
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**For Immediate Release**

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**NBCHPN<sup>®</sup> Announces**  
**2014 ACHPN<sup>®</sup> of the Year Award Recipient**

**PITTSBURGH, PA, MARCH 13, 2014**— The National Board for Certification of Hospice and Palliative Nurses (NBCHPN<sup>®</sup>) has announced that **Kerstin L. McSteen, RN, MS, ACNS-BC, ACHPN<sup>®</sup>, FPCN**, is the 2014 recipient of the Advanced Certified Hospice and Palliative Nurse of the Year Award (ACHPN<sup>®</sup>). The honor was presented on Thursday, March 13, 2014 at the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine (AAHPM)/ Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association (HPNA) Annual Assembly in San Diego, California. The ACHPN<sup>®</sup> of the Year Award recognizes the work of an advanced certified hospice and palliative nurse who personifies excellence in advancing expert care in serious illness.

Ms. McSteen, a graduate of the University of Minnesota's School of Nursing and Harvard Medical School's Program in Palliative Care Education and Practice, is a Clinical Nurse Specialist serving the Palliative Care Consult Service at Abbott Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis, MN. A frequent conference presenter, she has been the recipient of several local and national awards. Her innovative development of professional licensing exams has focused on continuing competence. A past president of NBCHPN<sup>®</sup>, Kerstin is the current Co-Chair of HPNA's Annual Assembly Planning Committee.

Certification in hospice and palliative care for Advanced Practice Nurses (Clinical Nurse Specialists and Nurse Practitioners) had its first national testing in May 2003 as a partnership with the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC). In December 2004, NBCHPN<sup>®</sup> acquired the hospice and palliative Advanced Practice Exam, and successful candidates are now awarded the credential ACHPN<sup>®</sup> (Advanced Certified Hospice and Palliative Nurse). There are currently over 900 nurses who hold the ACHPN<sup>®</sup> credential.

“We are honored to recognize Kerstin McSteen with the 2014 ACHPN<sup>®</sup> of the Year Award,” said **Sally Welsh, MSN, RN, NEA-BC, Chief Executive Officer of NBCHPN<sup>®</sup>**. “Her expert clinical practice, her talent as an educator and presenter, her mentorship of others, her publication record, and her efforts on numerous boards and committees truly define excellence as a certified advanced practice registered nurse. It is a pleasure to recognize her passion and leadership.”

**About NBCHPN®**

The National Board for Certification of Hospice and Palliative Nurses (NBCHPN®) is the only organization that offers specialty certification for all levels of the hospice and palliative nursing care team, including administrators and perinatal loss care professionals. Over 18,000 health professionals hold NBCHPN® credentials that establish professional commitment to safe, ethical, and evidence-based care. Preferred as a current measure of continuing competence in the dynamic and evolving health care professional role, NBCHPN® certification is valid for four years and can be renewed. Together with the Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association and the Hospice and Palliative Nurses Foundation, NBCHPN® works to advance expert care in serious illness. To learn more, visit NBCHPN® at [www.nbchpn.org](http://www.nbchpn.org), call 412.787.1057, or email [nbchpn@nbchpn.org](mailto:nbchpn@nbchpn.org).

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