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Roberts Receives 2015 HPNA Distinguished Nursing Practice Award

Kate Ford Roberts, a clinical nurse specialist in palliative care at the University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics, was presented the award during the 2015 American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine (AAHPM)/HPNA Annual Assembly in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

PITTSBURGH (March 3, 2015) – Kate Ford Roberts, MA, BSN, RN, CHPN®, a clinical nurse specialist in palliative care at the University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics, is the recipient of the 2015 HPNA Distinguished Nursing Practice Award, the Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association announced today. She is the inaugural recipient of this honorary award given by the HPNA Board of Directors to an individual who has made a major contribution in the area of palliative nursing clinical practice and was selected because she has dedicated her professional life to caring for seriously ill individuals and their families near the end of life.

In 1978, as a new graduate nurse, Roberts became one of the founding members of HospiceCare, Inc., now Agrace HospiceCare, in Madison, Wis. In those early years, she worked full-time nights and volunteered her time at the hospice during the day. In 1986, she became involved in the Wisconsin Cancer Pain Initiative, and, in 1994, she became an educator for the Cancer Pain Role Model Program. In 1991, she started the Center for Life and Loss Integration, a grief counseling center, and co-founded Pathways Through Grief, an aftercare/bereavement program for Gunderson Funeral Homes in Madison, Wis.

In 1999, Roberts was involved in the initial development of the University of Wisconsin Hospital & Clinics palliative care program, where she remains an integral member of the interdisciplinary palliative care team. In 2011, Roberts received Agrace HospiceCare's Excellence in End-of-Life Care Award.

About HPNA

With more than 11,000 members, the Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association is a national non-profit organization of nursing professionals specializing in the specialty of palliative nursing across the life span continuum. With a mission to advance expert care in serious illness, it is the only nursing organization of its kind. HPNA and its two affiliated organizations, the Hospice and Palliative Nurses Foundation and the Hospice and Palliative Credentialing Center, have a vision to transform the care and culture of serious illness. To learn more, visit HPNA at hpna.advancingexpertcare.org.

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