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Hendricks-Ferguson Receives 2015 HPNF PDIA Nursing Leadership Award In Palliative Care

Verna Hendricks-Ferguson, an associate professor in the School of Nursing at Saint Louis University, 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) – Verna Hendricks-Ferguson, PhD, RN, CHPPN®, an associate professor in the School of Nursing at Saint Louis University, is the recipient of the 2015 Project on Death in America (PDIA) Nursing Leadership Award in Palliative Care, the Hospice and Palliative Nurses Foundation announced today. Hendricks-Ferguson was selected for her accomplishments in advancing the field of palliative care through nursing education, training, research, development of model service delivery programs, and/or policy development. She was recognized as an individual who has emerged as a nurse leader in transforming the culture and experience of dying and bereavement.

For more than 20 years, Hendricks-Ferguson’s career has focused on educating and mentoring nursing students in the care of oncology patients, to develop compassion during palliative and end-of-life care of dying patients, and to gain an understanding of the palliative and end-of-life needs of oncology patients. She has over two decades of experience in caring for children with cancer in addition to teaching undergraduate and graduate nursing students.

Hendricks-Ferguson has served as the principal investigator on a number of research grants funded by the National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Nursing Research, other national organizations such as the Oncology Nursing Society and Alex Lemonade Foundation for Children with Cancer, and local nursing research departments. She completed a three-year T32 post-doctoral fellowship funded by the National Institutes of Health that focused on grant writing in palliative and end-of-life care. To date, Hendricks-Ferguson has published 28 articles in peer-reviewed nursing journals. She actively presents the findings of her research at national and international palliative care and end-of-life research conferences.

(MORE)

Hendricks-Ferguson served as a member of the St. Louis Children's Hospital Palliative Care Task Force Planning Committee, charged with developing the first pediatric palliative care program in 2009. She is the Recipient of the 2013 Hospice and Palliative Care Nurse of the Year Award from the March of Dimes Missouri Chapter. She earned her specialty certification as a CHPPN® from HPCC in 2014.

Hendricks-Ferguson is the editor of the 2014 HPNA book, *"Palliative Care for Pediatric Life-Limiting Conditions."* She has been dedicated to improving palliative and end-of-life care for children with a poor prognosis in order to better equip parents to understand and make informed decisions about their child's cancer care, as well as to further the science regarding healthcare providers' approach to engage in clear and timely palliative care and end-of-life discussions with parents of children with cancer.

About HPNF

The Hospice and Palliative Nurses Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to advance expert care in serious illness. HPNF provides professional development opportunities to HPNA members and HPCC certificants with scholarships for education, conferences and specialty certification along with nursing research grants and leadership awards. In 2015, HPNF will offer 45 opportunities with a goal to increase this commitment. HPNF depends on the generous spirit of donors to financially support its mission and program of scholarships, grants and awards. To learn more or to make a gift, visit HPNF at hpnf.advancingexpertcare.org.

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