

**MISSION**

## Nursing Leaders

*Nurses in all practice settings and roles are faced with the daily challenges of providing humane, dignified end-of-life care to patients and their families. The Project on Death in America is committed to supporting role model nursing leaders through a Nursing Leadership Consortium and Educational Initiative.*

*This initiative aims to develop a cadre of expert nursing educators, to coordinate national nursing efforts in end-of-life care, and to facilitate the dissemination of a core curriculum that provides practicing nurses with the basic knowledge and skills needed to appropriately care for dying patients.*



*Child* by Deidre Scherer

### **American Association of Critical Care Nurses**

Aliso Viejo, CA

*Cynthia Hylton Rushton, DNSc, R.N., F.A.A.N.*

**\$97,550**

#### *Nursing Leadership Consortium on End-of-Life Care*

In 1999, the Consortium brought together leading nursing organizations to develop a coordinated and collaborative agenda within the areas of practice, policy, research, and education to improve care at the end of life. The group identified the needs related to end-of-life care, chose options that should receive the most attention, and gained preliminary commitment from participants to pursue the prioritized agenda. The group summarized priorities for the profession in the following categories: issues in education, professionalism, and clinical patient care; research; patient and family advocacy; decision making; culture; systems of care; resource allocation; and policy.

### **Johns Hopkins University**

Baltimore, MD

*Cynthia Hylton Rushton, DNSc, R.N., F.A.A.N.*

*Kathleen Hartman Sabatier, M.S., R.N.*

**\$200,000**

#### *Nursing Leadership Academy in End-of-Life Care*

Leaders from 22 national nursing organizations representing 463,000 nurses attended the 2000 Nursing Leadership Academy in End-of-Life Care. The academy built on the commitment and strength demonstrated by nursing specialty organizations at the 1999 Nursing Leadership Consortium by educating, training, and organizing a network of nursing leaders to advance the priorities established by the consortium. Nomination to the academy was competitive, and designed to identify those nurses most likely to successfully implement changes to improve the care of dying patients and advance the field of palliative care. Nurse participants and the organizations that nominated them were required to commit to a minimum of two years of activity related to the improvement of palliative care. Leadership Academy participants developed specific plans for their respective organizations designed to generate the greatest impact on the field as a whole. Plans and accomplishments thus far include:

- The Oncology Nursing Society and the Oncology Nursing Society Foundation committed \$20,000 in seed money to initiate ten grassroots community projects on end-of-life issues, using the Bill Moyers PBS series *On Our Own Terms* as a model.
- The Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association is developing a network of nursing experts in end-of-life care to serve as resources to nursing leaders nationwide.
- The Association of Pediatric Oncology Nurses will conduct a pilot study to determine beliefs and attitudes that affect the ability of pediatric nurses to provide quality palliative care.

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**“Every person has the right to die with dignity in a manner he or she feels is appropriate. Nurses confront end-of-life issues every day, and understand the dire need for quality palliative care. This Nursing Academy showed us how critical it is for all nurses to stand behind this issue as a unifying force for the profession. If we speak with one voice, nurses can make a difference in the way palliative care is delivered to individuals, families, and communities.”**

Marcia Kucler, the Academy of Medical Surgical Nurses

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### **New York University**

New York, NY

*Deborab Witt Sherman, Ph.D., R.N., A.N.P., C.S.*

**\$50,000**

#### *Advance Practice Palliative Care Credentialing Examination*

Training graduate nurses as expert practitioners in palliative care is critical to improving the well-being of the seriously ill and dying in America. Most states require that a nurse practitioner be certified in order to practice in a specialty area. Furthermore, nurse practitioners will no longer be eligible for Medicare reimbursement in the year 2001 unless they have passed the certification examination in their specialty area. Currently, there is no such certification process in advanced palliative care, which constitutes a serious obstacle in recruiting nurses to pursue advanced practice in this area. This grant supports the creation of a nationally recognized nursing certification examination in advanced practice palliative care.

- The American Association of Critical Care Nurses will develop standard practice guidelines to apply to end-of-life care, identify gaps in knowledge, and propose new directions for research on topics such as patient comfort, compassionate care, symptom management, and withholding and withdrawing life sustaining treatments.
- The Institute for Johns Hopkins Nursing has created a web site hosted by Sigma Theta Tau, the nursing honor society, to centralize access to information and resources related to palliative care nursing. For more information, see [www.palliativecarenursing.net](http://www.palliativecarenursing.net).