

Title:

SPECIAL SESSION: ELNEC: Preparing Nurses to be Palliative Care Leaders Around the World

Type:

Oral

Keywords:

Global Palliative Care Leadership, Palliative Care and Palliative Care Nursing Education

Description/Overview:

Millions of people around the world with serious illnesses are in dire need of quality palliative care. Nurses educated in the ELNEC curriculum have become international leaders, improving the way people with serious illness and their families receive care, across the illness trajectory and at end-of-life.

Abstract Text:

Every year, approximately 40 million people with serious illness are in need of palliative care and 78% of them reside in low-and middle-income countries (WHO, 2017). The World Health Organization (WHO), in partnership with the Worldwide Palliative Care Alliance (WPCA), published a report entitled *Global Atlas of Palliative Care at the End of Life*, which mapped the need for and the availability of palliative care globally (WHO & WPCA, 2014). In addition, the report highlighted barriers in providing this care (e.g. the lack of policies to promote palliative care, resources to implement necessary services, and education for both healthcare professionals and the public).

Nurses, the most prevalent healthcare professionals in the world, provide compassionate care to the most vulnerable patients and families, suffering with chronic, debilitating illnesses. Yet, nurses cannot practice what they do not know and few nursing programs, especially those in resource-poor areas, prepare nurses in palliative care.

When launched in 2000, the End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium (ELNEC) project, a partnership with City of Hope (Duarte, CA) Nursing Research and Education Department and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), was focused on providing palliative care education throughout the United States. The project began with the development and of a CORE curriculum and has expanded to include specialty curricula such as ELNEC- Pediatrics, Geriatrics, Critical Care, and Advanced Practice Nursing.

Soon after the project's launch, nurses in other parts of the world recognized the need for quality palliative care in their countries and requested this education. Nurses and health care professionals from numerous countries have attended a national/international ELNEC course and have brought the curriculum back to their country for dissemination. For those who cannot come to the U.S. for training, ELNEC faculty have provided courses internationally and travelled around the world as consultants to work with nursing faculty, health administrators, and community leaders to improve care of the seriously ill in other countries. It is estimated that over 25,000 nurses and other healthcare providers have received ELNEC training internationally. Currently, ELNEC has been presented in **96** countries, on six of the seven continents. Dedicated ELNEC- trainers, who are palliative nursing leaders in their own countries, have translated ELNEC into eight languages.

Some of these nursing leaders are working on translating ELNEC into other languages and adapting it to increase the relevance to other cultures. For example, ELNEC has already been translated into Russian, Romanian, and Albanian, where nursing administrators and faculty are using the curriculum across Eastern Europe. ELNEC has also been translated into Spanish (Core and Pediatric Palliative Care versions) and is being widely disseminated in Mexico, Central America, and parts of South America. ELNEC-Japanese, ELNEC-Korean, ELNEC-Chinese, ELNEC-Czech and ELNEC-German are also available. ELNEC-Hindi is being developed to reach nurses throughout India.

ELNEC national faculty have done six five-day intensive courses in Salzburg, Austria, bringing together nurses and physicians from countries in Eastern Europe, such as Romania, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Albania, and the Ukraine. Following their training, these nurses and physicians returned home to work

with their health ministries, leading the development of palliative care in their countries and educating other nurses and health care professionals. A number of dedicated ELNEC national faculty have held international courses in Kenya, teaching nurses and physicians from Ethiopia, Swaziland, and Uganda. Most recently, the faculty have been educating and supporting nurse leaders from Japan, South Korea, and China. These Asian nursing leaders are changing the way nurses and nursing students in their countries care for patients with serious illness.

Building palliative care leaders throughout the world has become a recent major emphasis of the national ELNEC team. To date, 50+ nurses and physicians have attended leadership courses in Romania (2014 & 2015), Kenya (2016), and Hong Kong (2016). Developing these leaders has been critical to sustaining and advancing palliative care in their countries. Nursing leaders from these countries have been given the ELNEC International Curriculum, with Power-Point slides and supplemental teaching materials in their appropriate languages, to educate health ministers, nurses and other professionals at health care institutions and schools of nursing in their regions.

Over the past 18 years of work, the ELNEC team has advanced palliative nursing care in the U.S. and internationally. The project's train-the-trainer approach to education has empowered nurses to act as change agents in their institutions and their countries, ensuring that patients with serious illnesses and those at end of life receive quality palliative care. The work being done by ELNEC trainers around the world has improved care for millions of patients and families. Efforts continue to reach nurses who have not yet had the opportunity to learn how to provide palliative care, especially in the most vulnerable and resource-poor areas of the world.

References:

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Content Outline:

1. Evidence-based need for palliative care for the seriously ill
 1. WHO statistics on global numbers of seriously ill
 2. WHO report on need for and barriers to palliative care
2. Overview of history of ELNEC
 1. ELNEC- an 18-year partnership of City of Hope and AACN

2. U.S. nursing education initiatives
 3. Global nursing education initiatives in 96 countries; 8 languages
- International palliative care leadership development initiatives
 1. Eastern Europe
 2. Africa
 3. Asia

Organizer

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Professional Experience: I have over 40 years in nursing, with 20 in palliative care. I have taught in BSN and MSN programs at Ursuline College and FPB School of Nursing in Cleveland, specifically teaching palliative care in both programs. I am a former Iota Psi president and active in Alpha Mu. Currently I am the co-investigator on the ELNEC-Undergraduate Curriculum project with Dr. Betty Ferrell. I have been a member of the ELNEC national and international faculty for more than 16 years.

Author Summary: Dr. Mazanec has more than 40 years experience in nursing, with 20 of those in palliative care. She has taught in undergraduate and graduate nursing programs and is an associate research professor at FPB School of Nursing (Cleveland OH). She has been a national and international faculty member of ELNEC for more than 16 years. Most recently she is the Co-PI on the ELNEC-Undergraduate Curriculum project.

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Professional Experience: I have been the AACN Co-Program Director for ELNEC for more than 14 years. I have lead national and international ELNEC trainings and developed the international leadership course for nurses in Asia, Africa, and Eastern Europe. I have published and presented widely on palliative nursing education and its national global implications.

Author Summary: Ms. Malloy is the Co-Director of the ELNEC project and the special advisor of the Global Initiatives at AACN. She has lead the ELNEC international work including the nursing leadership courses in Eastern Europe, Asia, and Africa. She has published and presented widely on palliative nursing education and palliative care.