The Future for Nursing – Innovative Opportunities

The Institute of Medicine (IOM) 2011 report on the Future of Nursing reinforces health care changes embodied in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Articulated is the need to shift away from acute/specialty, i.e., hospital-centric toward community-centric care, i.e., comprehensive primary care with greater emphasis on disease prevention and wellness and much better coordination across venues. In the report it is stated “… to the extent that the nursing profession envisions its future as confined to acute care settings, such as inpatient hospitals, its ability to help shape the future U.S. health care system will be greatly limited.” A plea is made to reconceptualize nursing roles. “More (nurses) must become health coaches, care coordinators, informaticians, primary care providers, health team leaders in a greater variety of settings, including primary care medical homes and accountable care organizations.” Indeed UA nursing faculty scholars have long recognized and focused much of their scholarship on community – home-based care, health promotion and disease prevention – making us well prepared to contribute to healthcare re-design.

In this newsletter, you will see highlighted some examples of our community-based innovations in the context of cancer, its prevention and support for survivors and their networks. One is LinkIN!, where we are evolving resources for cancer survivors, their families and health professionals to heal and promote use of therapies that will integrate with biomedical treatments. An accomplished investigator in childhood cancer, Dr. Ki Moore is helping children with leukemia preserve or gain cognitive function after potentially damaging medical treatments. And Virginia LeBaron, a faculty nurse practitioner who has been seeing patients at the Arizona Cancer Center in hospice stage, is launching a study of cancer pain management with a unique global twist. Not mentioned in this issue but relevant are Dr. Terry Badger’s telephone intervention study to alleviate depressed mood in people undergoing medical treatment for cancer (e.g., breast, prostate) and Dr. Lois Loescher’s work to educate high risk people (e.g., organ transplant patients) to prevent skin cancer.

The thrust to advance toward a ‘community-centric’ healthcare delivery with comprehensive primary and coordinated care innovations, especially for chronic conditions, are highly matched to the nursing world view and skills. They are predicated on patient self-management support and education, often with structured clinical follow-up and case management over time, plus the use of evidence-based disease management/prevention protocols and/or personal health plans. Success will require creativity and superb communications, be it virtual or en face, with patients and families and with teams of multiple professionals. Who better to lead, co-lead and model the next wave of health care innovations than nurses – especially ‘Wildcat Nurses’!

New Scholarship Endowment Creates Full Tuition Support

Meet Walter Reis, our newest benefactor, who established the June and Walter Reis Scholarship Endowment in memory of his wife, June, who died in 2010. June Reis came from humble roots that prevented her from attending college until age 40. With her dream always in sight, in mid-life she earned both Bachelor and Master degrees and proudly graduated with ‘Highest Distinction.’

Walter decided to provide financial support for students showing June’s determination as they follow their dreams to become nurses. Full tuition costs every year, in perpetuity, will be underwritten by the June and Walter Reis Endowment. Thank you Walter for caring so much about our nursing students and honoring June’s memory in such a meaningful way!

Want more information on how you can help provide scholarship support? Call or e-mail Judith Brown, director, Development and Community Affairs at (520) 626-6233; jbrown@nursing.arizona.edu
ENVISION

Nurse Faculty Pursues Cancer Pain Studies in India as Fulbright Scholar

Virginia LeBaron, MS, ACNP-BC, AOCN, clinical associate professor, UA College of Nursing has been selected as a Fulbright Student Scholar to collect dissertation data at the Mehdi Nawaj Jung (MNJ) Institute of Oncology, Regional Cancer Institute in Hyderabad, India (2011 – 2012). Her project is entitled: Exploring The Relationship Between Nurse Moral Distress and Cancer Pain Management: A Critical Ethnography of Palliative Care Nurses in India. Virginia is passionate about understanding the delivery of oncology palliative care in low and middle income countries, specifically related to issues of opioid availability and nurse moral distress.

As a volunteer member of the International Network for Cancer Treatment and Research (INCTR), Virginia first traveled to Nepal to help conduct educational workshops related to symptom management for cancer patients. A life-changing experience, she saw the unique challenges and barriers that clinicians and patients face at the end of life; especially the suffering due to erratic access to inexpensive and effective medications to manage pain. Virginia’s desire is that her work will facilitate education and policy to increase access to morphine for patients with cancer pain, lessen nurse moral distress, and overall improve delivery of palliative care in intensively resource-constrained settings.

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LinkIN! – Becoming a Cancer Resource

LinkIN! – Community Cancer Connections – building upon the Sunstone Legacy grant, is evolving as a resource for cancer survivors, families and healthcare professionals. With a focus on health and healing using therapies integrative with biomedical ones, please visit our website http://linkin.nursing.arizona.edu to engage and follow. Click the iLink tab to see two directories; 1. Community Resources and 2. Integrative Therapy Providers; the iLearn tab to link into other information about cancer therapies; or the iShare tab to be inspired by the pearls of wisdom about surviving cancer, gathered in Tucson at the 2011 Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure.

In July, led by UA Oncology-Certified, nurse faculty, Joy Kiviat, PhD, RN, a new iParticipate initiative will commence with a comfortably-paced ‘survivor-cise’ program. It is designed to build endurance and reduce fatigue through exercise for survivors of any cancer type, particularly for those after completing chemotherapy and/or radiation.

LinkIN! leaders include UA nursing faculty Mary Koithan, PhD, RN, director, and Cathy Michaels, PhD, RN, FAAN, co-director. They are joined by: Cheryl Bakke, MS, RN, outreach coordinator; Kathy Ben, integrative therapy consultant; and Steven Mitts, applications programmer.

Contact us at linkin@nursing.arizona.edu or 626-6151 for further information.

‘WILDCAT’ News Flash!

SAVE THE DATE!

Become a RN Patient Advocate

September 7 – 13, 2011

RN Patient Advocate PLLC in association with the UA College of Nursing is offering a 7-day immersion course to become an independent RN Patient Advocate. This offer is exclusively for experienced clinical RNs.

For further information, please go to: http://patientadvocates.com/

Arizona Health Care Leadership Academy

• Tier II: September 29, October 13 & 27, and November 10, 2011

Please go to http://www.azhcleadership.org for further details.
CELEBRATING ‘WILDCAT’ NURSING LEADERSHIP

Honorary Society Beta Mu Chapter 2011 Awards of Distinction

Leadership
Elizabeth (Betty) Falter, MS, RN, NEA-BC, adjunct faculty, UA College of Nursing, received the Excellence in Leadership award. In 1990, Betty developed a consulting practice, Falter & Associates, Inc. She serves as executive director of the Arizona Healthcare Leadership Academy, a not-for-profit leadership development entity for healthcare frontline and middle managers.

Research
The Excellence in Research award went to Elaine G. Jones, PhD, RN, FAANP, (Class of 1974 & 1986), associate professor, UA College of Nursing. Elaine is a passionate advocate for the deaf community and for over 25 years, has maintained a program of research with a focus on improving quality of life for deaf individuals; publishing extensively in this area.

Education
Roxanne A. Moutafis, MS, RN, BC, (Class of 1981 & 1989), clinical associate professor, UA College of Nursing, received the Excellence in Education award. In 1998, she created the University Medical Center (UMC) Summer Student Nurse Externship program for senior students. Roxanne is a national site evaluator for the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) and currently appointed to the AZ State Board of Nursing Education Committee.

Clinical Practice
Honored for Excellence in Clinical Practice is Mary Anne Kinne, MSN, RN, APRN, (Class of 1984 & 2004), adjunct faculty, UA College of Nursing. She is an integral member of the Critical Care Team at Tucson Medical Center (TMC). A most competent and compassionate nurse, Mary was the primary clinician for developing and implementing the Acute Care Nurse Practitioner practice in the 40-bed Intensive Care Unit at TMC.

Ethical Behavior & Professional Commitment
Mary Steele, MSN, RN, director, TMC Hospice Palliative Care Services, received the Exceptional Ethical Behavior and Professional Commitment award. Mary has been a long term member of the American Heart Association, served as a team leader for fund raising at Tucson Medical Center (TMC), and as a Board member for the Direct Caregivers Association.

Graduate Student Award
Melanie Logue, PhD, DNP, APRN, CFNP, (Class of 2011), assistant professor, Grand Canyon U. College of Nursing and Health Sciences, received the Graduate Student award. At the May 2011 commencement, she became the first graduate to earn dual doctoral degrees from the UA College of Nursing. Melanie is president elect of Arizona Nurses’ Association Chapter 6.

UA Healthcare UMC Staff Receive Journal Clinical Writers Award

Congratulations to UA Healthcare UMC leaders: Ellice Mellinger, MS, RN, CNOR, (Class of 1976 & 1997), clinical nurse educator (CNE), Perioperative Services; Linda Skinker, RPh, staff pharmacist, Pharmacy Services; Diane Sears, BSN, RN, CNOR, (Class of 1992), perioperative clinical coordinator (CC), Gynecology and Surgical Oncology Service Group; Diane Gardner, RN, CNOR, CURN, (Class of 1995), perioperative CC, Genitourinary Service Group; and Piya Shultz MS, RN, (Class of 1989 & 1996), CNE, Medical Surgical Nursing, Psychiatry, Oncology, and Bone Marrow Transplant. Their article Safe Handling of Chemotherapy Agents in the Perioperative Setting was published in the April 2010 Association of Perioperative Registered Nurses (AORN) Journal. The award was accepted by Ellice Mellinger in Philadelphia, PA during the 58th annual AORN Congress in March 2011.

Welcome Michelle Mixer!

On May 16, 2011 Michelle Mixer joined the College team as Human Resources Program Coordinator. She was Human Resources Supervisor for Training at Enterprise Rent-a-Car, holds a Bachelor of Business Administration from the UA Eller College and is certified as a Professional in Human Resources (PHR). 626-1911 or mmixer@nursing.arizona.edu

‘WILDCAT’ NEWS FLASH!

Marylyn Morris McEwen, PhD, PhCNS-BC, FAAN, associate professor, (Class of 2003, PhD, 1987, MSN, 1976, BSN), was awarded a $1.8m, five year grant from the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities, National Institutes of Health to fund her research: Decreasing Diabetes Disparities: Building Mexican American Family Social Capital. Ya-Chuan Hsu, PhD, RN, (Class of 2009), assistant professor, Taiwan Chang Jung Christian University, Department of Nursing, was awarded $1,200,000 (Taiwan dollars equal to US $42,000) in a three year grant (2010 – 2012) from the Taiwan National Science Council, for her research related to depression and socially supportive activity.

Pamela Cherry, PhD, RN, CMSRN, clinical professor, Carol Mangold, MSN, RN, coordinator, Clinical Affairs, and Angie Muzzy, MSN, RN, CCRN, adjunct clinical assistant professor, were among those honored at the 2011 Tucson Fabulous 50 Nurses gala on Saturday, May 7, 2011.

Ted Rigney PhD, ACNP-BC, FAANP, (Class of 2009), clinical associate professor and director, DNP Program, has been appointed to the AZ Board of Nursing Advanced Practice Advisory Committee for a two year term starting June 2011.
The Spring 2011 UA College of Nursing Convocation was held Friday, May 13th at Centennial Hall. Recognized were 56 BSN, one MS, three PhD, and four DNP graduates as well as the first dual PhD/DNP graduate.

Student Awards:
• Outstanding Dissertation Award
  Cindy Rishel
• College Alumni Council Award
  Jason Timothy Shuffitt
  Brittany L. Buster
• Gladys E. Sorensen Award for Academic Excellence
  Stephanie Lynn Gasser
• Pearl Parvin Coulter Award for Excellence
  Amanda Kai-Lai Tong
• UA Foundation Award
  David Alan Eisenbise
• Julia Hubley Award for Clinical Excellence
  Megan McGowan Jirele
• Katherine A. Mason Memorial Award
  Megan L. Linahan
• AZ Nurses Association Chapter Two Award
  Erica R. Hall
• Mary E. Jeffries Achievement Award
  Mei So
• Student Nurses at the University of Arizona Award
  Carli A. Viola

Faculty Awards:
• College Excellence in Teaching Awards
  Cheryl Lacasse, MS, RN, OCN
  clinical professor
  Pamela Reed, PhD, RN, FAAN
  professor
• McGaffic, Monroe, Rogers Memorial Award for Clinical Teaching
  Melissa Goldsmith, PhD, RNC
  clinical associate professor

Kenneth Wysocki (PhD candidate) and Melissa Lea Schwark (BSN candidate) provided remarks, available at: www.nursing.arizona.edu

Additional photos available at: http://www.nursing.arizona.edu/photogallery.asp