



U.S. Department of Health
and Human Services
National Institutes of Health



News & Notes from the National Institute of Nursing Research: December 2010

1. Dr. Grady Authors *Nursing Outlook* Article Marking NINR's 25th Anniversary

NINR Director Dr. Patricia Grady authored a “News from NINR” article for the September/October 2010 issue of *Nursing Outlook*. In the article, titled “Creating a healthier tomorrow through research, practice, and policy,” Dr. Grady examined NINR’s 25-year history and the impact of its supported research in promoting and supporting improvements to health and health care at local, national, and global levels.

Quoting the article: “Over the past 25 years, NINR scientists have redressed clinical and policy deficiencies across the health and health care spectrum, improving—often transforming— practice guidelines and public policies on the basis of their research findings. NINR grantees have led the way in bringing person-centered, point-of-care translational research to the forefront of the health sciences.”

The full text of the article is online at: http://www.ninr.nih.gov/NR/rdonlyres/6E214697-86F2-4811-9A78-9A6E2987A41A/0/NOOctober2010DrGrady_ResearchPracticePolicy.pdf

2. NINR Spearheads a New End-of-Life and Palliative Care Initiative

NINR was recently awarded funds from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Office of the Director, Evaluation Set-Aside Program to conduct a needs assessment program evaluation titled End-of-Life and Palliative Care Science: A Needs Assessment of Federal and Private Research Funding Trends, Project Grants, and National Research Priorities. NINR received letters of support for this project from four Institutes/Centers (NCCAM, NCI, NIA, and NIAID).

The project will derive comprehensive analytic data that will be used to identify historical national funding trends in end-of-life and palliative care (EOL PC) research.

The evaluation will:

- Describe the nature and extent of funded EOL PC research conducted since 1997;
- Review and analyze EOL PC funding trends supported by the NIH, other Federal agencies, and philanthropic and non-profit organizations;
- Analyze factors that led to solicitations for EOL PC research in both public and private sectors;
- Identify and examine the scientific needs and interests of research funding organizations in these areas; and
- Evaluate critical issues related to EOL PC funding sustainability.

As the number of persons with life-limiting conditions in the United States increases, there is a growing need to provide patients, their loved ones, and their providers with the highest quality of evidence-based

end-of-life and palliative care. This project will serve to strengthen and stimulate research capability and scholarship in EOL PC science and permit the unique opportunity to specify benchmarks for advancing research capacity, create opportunities for future collaborations, and guide strategic planning to build a national commitment to research in this important field.

A final report summarizing the results of this project will be available in 2012. Additional information on the evaluation project as well as other EOL PC issues will be forthcoming.

3. Dr. Grady Discusses Nursing Research Careers with MedHunters.com

Dr. Grady was recently interviewed by the healthcare careers website MedHunters.com on the national need for increased numbers of nurse scientists and nursing faculty. The article, titled "A Shortage of Nurse Researchers Looms" gave a brief overview of the nursing science field and tips on getting started in a research career.

In the article, Dr. Grady urged students interested in a research career to "Talk to people who have programs, start collecting data," she said. "We encourage people who are thinking about research to jump in early."

The full text of the article is online at: <http://www.ninr.nih.gov/NR/rdonlyres/9C87CDE7-02B7-43B8-99B1-96F35E2D49A1/0/MedhuntersAShortageofNurseResearchersLooms.pdf>.

4. Dr. Bernadette Melnyk to Give First NINR Director's Lecture

Bernadette Melnyk, PhD, RN, CPNP/PMHNP, FNAP, FAAN, Dean and Distinguished Foundation Professor in Nursing at Arizona State University College of Nursing and Health Innovation, has been selected to give the first NINR Director's Lecture. The Director's Lecture was initiated as part of the year-long observation of the Institute's first 25 years at the NIH.

Melnyk will discuss her globally recognized research on January 18, 2011, from 11:00 a.m. to noon in the NIH Clinical Center's Lipsett Amphitheater on the NIH campus.

Melnyk's research focuses on improving outcomes for premature infants and their families; reducing obesity and depression in teens from culturally diverse backgrounds; and many other important contributions to physical and mental health issues.

Dr. Melnyk is an expert in theory-based intervention research and evidence-based practice as well as in child and adolescent mental health. She has worked with numerous healthcare systems throughout the nation and globe to advance and sustain evidence-based practice. Dr. Melnyk's record of extramural research and educational funding, including grants from the NIH, the Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality, and HRSA totals more than 11 million dollars. Through a series of nine randomized controlled trials, she has supported the efficacy of her COPE intervention program in improving the outcomes of critically ill/hospitalized children and premature infants and parents, which has been adopted by hospitals and insurers throughout the U.S.

Her current NIH-funded RO1 grant is a randomized controlled trial testing the efficacy of her COPE/Healthy Lifestyles TEEN program to prevent overweight/obesity and depression in 800 culturally diverse teenagers in Phoenix, Arizona. Dr. Melnyk's record of scholarship includes over 150 publications, two books, and numerous distinguished awards for her contributions to improving children's health, nursing and healthcare.

The NINR Director's Lecture will be an annual event, designed to bring the nation's top nurse scientists to the NIH campus to share their work and interests with a trans-disciplinary audience.

5. The NIH Director's Early Independence Award Program

The NIH Common Fund announces the highly selective NIH Director's Early Independence Award Program to provide a mechanism for exceptional, early career scientists who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents to omit traditional post-doctoral training and move into independent academic positions at U.S. institutions directly upon completion of their graduate degrees (PhD, MD, or equivalent). The NIH expects to issue 10 awards through this program in fall 2011.

NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins authored a commentary, "Scientists Need a Shorter Path to Research Freedom," explaining why the NIH is launching a bid to help some doctoral students dramatically reduce the time required to start an independent career, which can be read in the journal *Nature*, Vol. 467, 7 October 2010 <http://www.nature.com/news/2010/101006/full/467635a.html>.

Early Independence Awards are targeted to exceptional junior investigators with the intellect, scientific creativity, drive, and maturity to flourish independently without the need for traditional post-doctoral training. Early Independence Award projects will receive up to \$250,000 in direct costs each year for up to five years.

Junior scientists may identify a host institution and contact them directly to negotiate a position. Alternatively, institutions may actively recruit exceptional junior scientists to apply for these positions. In either case, the institution must be willing to nurture the investigator as an independent researcher including the provision of independent lab space. An institution may elect to host an applicant for this program with the commitment to a position being contingent upon receipt of the award. These awards will be very selective, and each institution may only submit two applications.

The deadline for submitting Early Independence Award applications is January 21, 2011. Letters of Intent are due December 21, 2010. See the instructions in the RFA (RFA-RM-10-19).

Additional information, including Frequently Asked Questions about the Early Independence Investigators Award Program is available at: <http://commonfund.nih.gov/earlyindependence>. Send questions to earlyindependence@mail.nih.gov.

6. NINR Invites Applications for the 2011 Graduate Partnerships Program

The NINR Graduate Partnerships Program (GPP) is a doctoral fellowship training program that coordinates training and funding for doctoral students attending a school of nursing supported by an NINR-funded Institutional Research Training (T32) grant. The program combines the academic environment of a university and the breadth and depth of research at NIH.

Please note: To be eligible for the NINR GPP, the applicant must currently attend (or be accepted to) a school of nursing supported by a T32 grant funded by NINR.

Application instructions and answers to frequently asked questions are available online at: (<https://www.training.nih.gov/programs/gpp/appinfo>).

The application period for the NINR GPP will close on January 3, 2011.

For more information, please contact:

Dr. Natalie A. Rasmussen
Intramural Research Training Director, Assistant Clinical Investigator
Email: rasmussenna@mail.nih.gov

7. NINR to Offer Grantsmanship Workshops at Nursing Research Society Regional Conferences

As part of NINR's commemoration of its 25th anniversary year, NINR staff will hold several grantsmanship workshops at upcoming Nursing Research Society regional annual conferences and scientific sessions. These small-group workshops and panel discussions will offer attendees a better understanding of the grantsmanship process and provide answers to common questions.

Topics to be covered include: The ABC's of NIH Funding: Mission, Mechanisms, and Science; Introduction to Enhanced Peer Review; Tips for Writing a Successful Grant Application; Fitting Your Science to the NIH Mission, Mechanisms and Peer Review; Planning a Research Career: Sound Bytes from the Experts; and several more.

More information on the workshops, including an application form and first-come, first-served registration, is available through the appropriate Regional Nursing Research Society. The NINR grantsmanship workshops will be held at the following events:

Southern Nursing Research Society Annual Conference

Wednesday, February 16, 2011
8:00 - 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 - 5:00 p.m.

Hyatt Regency
225 East Coastline Drive
Jacksonville, Florida 32202

Eastern Nursing Research Society Annual Scientific Sessions

Wednesday, March 23, 2011

8:00 - 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 - 5:00 p.m.

Hyatt Regency Philadelphia at Penn's Landing
201 South Columbus Boulevard
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

Midwest Nursing Research Society Annual Research Conference

Thursday March 24, 2011

8:00 - 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 - 5:00 p.m.

Hyatt Regency Columbus
350 North High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Western Institute of Nursing Annual Research Conference

Wednesday April 13, 2011

12:00 - 3:30 p.m. and 4:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Rio
3700 W. Flamingo Road
Las Vegas, Nevada 89103

8. The 2011 NINR Summer Genetics Institute

The NINR Summer Genetics Institute (SGI) is an intensive program featuring lecture and hands-on laboratory training designed to provide graduate students, nursing faculty, and advanced practice nurses with a foundation in molecular genetics for use in research and clinical practice.

The SGI is administered by the Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences at NIH as one of their Bio-Trac Courses, taught by active scientists and has been condensed from two months to one. The program will provide an eight credit-hour graduate level course in molecular genetics covering topics including genetic testing, DNA sequencing, linkage and association studies, gene expression, and epigenetics.

Applicants should have strong academic and leadership abilities, excellent writing skills, and the potential to contribute significantly to nursing research.

Please check the NINR website for more details on the 2011 SGI online application process and the Spring 2011 application deadline as they are announced.

For more information on the SGI, please email ninrsgi@mail.nih.gov or visit: <http://www.ninr.nih.gov/Training/SGI>.

9. Call for Poster Abstracts: Concluding 25th Anniversary Scientific Symposium

As part of the year long celebration marking the Institute's 25th anniversary, NINR is pleased to announce a call for poster abstracts for a poster session to be held October 13, 2011, in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area.

We invite submissions on:

- Clinical Research
- Basic Research
- Innovative programs with applications to nursing research
- Comparative Effectiveness Research

These submissions can be:

- Completed work
- Work in progress
- Work presented at other meetings
- Work previously published

Guidelines for Submission:

The first page of the abstract should include the following information:

- TITLE of the project
- AUTHOR(s) and Co-authors Name and Title
- INSTITUTIONAL AFFILIATION(s)
- Preferred Mailing Address (Primary Author)
- Daytime Phone Number (Primary Author)
- Daytime Fax Number (Primary Author)
- E-Mail Address (Primary Author)

The second page of the abstract should contain the abstract text. Begin with the title of the poster presentation. Do not put any other identifying information on page 2. Limit the abstract text to 350 words. Use a font size not less than 12 point, and use 1" margins on all four sides of the page.

- TITLE OF THE PROJECT
- OVERVIEW OF THE PROJECT. A standard format to include sections on Background, Hypothesis, Methods, Results, Discussion and Conclusions. You may alter this format to fit your project.

Instructions for Posters: Detailed instructions for preparing posters will be provided to those authors whose submitted abstracts are accepted.

Submission: Submit your abstract electronically to David Banks, Ph.D., RN at banksdh@mail.nih.gov.

The abstract submission deadline is March 15. Selections will be announced by June 1, 2011.

For more information, please contact:

Dr. David Banks
NINR Office of Extramural Activities
Phone: 301-496-9558
Email: banksdh@mail.nih.gov

10. Current Funding Opportunity Announcements and Notices

All current NINR Funding Opportunity Announcements, including Requests for Applications (RFAs) and Program Announcements (PAs), as well as Notices of interest from NIH, are available on the NINR website at <http://www.ninr.nih.gov/ResearchAndFunding/DEA/OEP/FundingOpportunities/default.htm>.

These items can also be found in the NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts:
<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/index.html>.

Recent opportunities of note include:

NIH Basic Behavioral and Social Science Opportunity Network (OppNet) Short-term Interdisciplinary Training Program for New and Early-Stage Investigators
RFA-NR-11-002

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-NR-11-002.html>

Mechanisms, Models, Measurement, & Management in Pain Research (R01, R21, R03)
PA-10-006 (PA-10-007, PA-10-008)

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-10-006.html>

Research on Clinical Decision Making in People with or at Risk for Life-Threatening Illness (R21)
PA-09-121

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-09-121.html>

11. Upcoming Meeting of the National Advisory Council for Nursing Research

The open session of the 73rd meeting of the National Advisory Council for Nursing Research (NACNR) will take place on January 18, 2011 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. in Conference Room 6C6, Building 31, C wing, on the NIH campus. Visitors are welcome to attend.

The NACNR meets three times a year to provide recommendations on the direction and support of the nursing, biomedical, social, and behavioral research that forms the evidence base for nursing practice. More information about the NACNR is available online at:

<http://www.ninr.nih.gov/AboutNINR/NACNR>.

Information on visiting the NIH campus is available online at:
<http://www.nih.gov/about/visitor/index.htm>.