



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



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

1. July Featured Research Highlight: Improving Communication of End-of-Life Treatment Preferences

NINR-supported researchers explore and address some of the most important challenges affecting the health of the American people. Each month, the NINR website will highlight research from the community of NINR-supported scientists across the U.S.

The current featured highlight focuses on the Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST) program. POLST helps individuals and their families who struggle with a lack of continuity of care and poor communication with health care practitioners about their treatment wishes, especially at the end-of-life.

POLST consists of a standardized, automatically transferred form on which patient preferences are listed as physician orders for cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR); medical interventions such as comfort measures (non-life-sustaining measures to relieve pain and suffering), limited intervention or full treatment; use of antibiotics; and tube feeding.

Using data from over 1,700 living and deceased long-stay nursing facility residents in Oregon, Wisconsin, and West Virginia, this study examined the effectiveness of the POLST program compared with traditional practices such as Do-Not-Resuscitate (DNR) orders. The study, led by Dr. Susan Hickman of the schools of nursing at Indiana University and Oregon Health & Science University, was the first to directly compare the use of POLST to traditional practices.

The study found that those residents with POLST forms were less likely to receive unwanted life sustaining treatment when compared with those with traditional DNR orders.

This study underscores the importance of identifying effective ways to communicate individual preferences for life-sustaining care. Health care professionals can use a program such as POLST to help individuals make more informed choices about the type and level of end-of-life care they receive.

More details on the current featured highlight and the study's lead researcher are available at: <http://www.ninr.nih.gov/ResearchAndFunding/ResearchHighlights/#FEATURE>.

An NIH news release on the POLST study is online at: <http://www.nih.gov/news/health/jul2010/ninr-08.htm>.

Past featured research highlights are archived online at: http://www.ninr.nih.gov/ResearchAndFunding/Featured_Research_Highlight_Archive.

2. NINR Summer Genetics Institute Trains 24 Graduate Students and Faculty

NINR's 2010 Summer Genetics Institute (SGI) hosted 24 faculty and graduate student trainees from across the U.S. from June 7 through July 2.

The intensive, month-long training course combined lecture and hands-on lab exercises to give participants a foundation in molecular genetics for use in research and clinical practice.

The SGI is presented annually by NINR's Division of Intramural Research, and administered by the Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences (FAES) as one of the Bio-Trac programs. After completing the program, participants receive eight hours of graduate-level college credits from FAES.

For more information on the SGI, please visit:

<http://www.ninr.nih.gov/Training/TrainingOpportunitiesIntramural/SummerGeneticsInstitute/>.

3. Epigenomics of Human Health and Disease (RFA-ES-10-002)

This NIH Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) invites applications to address the Epigenomics of Human Health and Disease.

These studies will discover and define epigenetic marks or features and their possible interactions in cells and tissues that are representative of various human disease states, conditions or processes. Studies may also investigate the mechanism by which epigenetic changes occur in diseased or otherwise compromised states, and how these changes result in phenotypic differences. The deadline for applications is September 29, 2010.

Complete details on this FOA are available at: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-ES-10-002.html>.

For more information, please contact:

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4. NIH Director Collins and AHRQ Director Clancy Co-Author *Science Translational Medicine* Commentary

National Institutes of Health Director Dr. Francis S. Collins and Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) director Dr. Carolyn M. Clancy partnered for a commentary in the June 23, 2010 issue of the journal *Science Translational Medicine*. In this commentary, Drs. Collins and Clancy discussed the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI), a nonprofit corporation created by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

The commentary outlined PCORI's mission of providing evidence-based approaches to medical care that can improve patient outcomes. The article detailed NIH and AHRQ's historic complementary roles in such endeavors, and the future opportunities for both organizations to contribute to a robust portfolio of scientific inquiry in partnership with PCORI.

Both Drs. Collins and Clancy will serve as advisory board and committee members for PCORI.

The AHRQ is the lead Federal agency charged with improving the quality, safety, efficiency, and effectiveness of health care for all Americans. As one of 12 agencies within the Department of Health and Human Services, AHRQ supports health services research that will improve the quality of health care and promote evidence-based decision-making.

The full article is available online at:

<http://stm.sciencemag.org/content/2/37/37cm18.full?ijkey=7BM/5iv6VRVzg&keytype=ref&siteid=scitransmed>.

5. Application Period Extended for the 2010 BNC Fellowship

The application deadline for the BNC Fellowship for research in integrative medicine has been extended to **September 15, 2010**. Jointly sponsored by the Bravewell Collaborative, NINR, and the NIH Clinical Center (BNC), the BNC Fellowship provides a unique opportunity that combines the academic environment of a university with the breadth and depth of the intramural research program at the NIH.

The full-time, two-year program includes participation in clinical and research experiences with a clinical integrative health focus, and encourages interdisciplinary collaboration to optimize health and healing for individuals, families, and communities. To be eligible, an applicant must be a U.S. citizen and have successfully completed a PhD or equivalent research-based doctoral degree within the past five years.

Please note: The BNC application must be completed online. In addition, all applicants must submit by mail a hardcopy, 3-page biobehavioral research proposal on a topic relevant to integrative medicine.

The online application is due September 15, 2010. In addition, the mailed research proposal must be postmarked no later than **September 10, 2010**. Only complete applications will be reviewed.

More information is available at: www.ninr.nih.gov/Training/BNCFellowship. The BNC Fellowship begins on November 1, 2010.

For more information, please contact:

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6. NINR-Supported Scientist to Speak at Science in the Cinema

Please join NINR at Science in the Cinema for the screening of “My Sister’s Keeper,” a powerful drama that addresses bioethics and end-of-life issues. This event will take place at the American Film Institute Silver Theater and Cultural Center in Silver Spring, Maryland on August 4, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

NINR-funded scientist Dr. Pamela Hinds, Director of the Department of Nursing Research and Quality Outcomes at the Children’s National Medical Center, will provide remarks and lead a question and answer discussion to analyze issues raised by the film.

Tickets are free and available on a first-come, first-serve basis on the day of the show. For more information about “My Sister’s Keeper” and the Science in the Cinema series, please visit: <http://science.education.nih.gov/home2.nsf/DC+Area+Programs/++Science+in+the+Cinema/336217666421519E852575C4004EF7BF>.

7. Scientific Panelists Announced for NINR’s 2010 Science Symposium

Several speakers and panelists have been announced for *Bringing Science to Life*, the scientific symposium which will kick off the commemoration of NINR’s 25th Anniversary on September 30, 2010.

- **David Dinges, PhD**, Professor of Psychology in Psychiatry at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, will discuss “The Critical Role Sleep Need Has in Health and Safety.”
- **Susan G. Dorsey, PhD, RN**, Associate Professor at the University of Maryland School of Nursing, will present “Molecular, Cellular and Genetic Mechanisms of Chronic Pain Persistence.”
- **Jillian Inouye, PhD, APRN**, Professor and Associate Dean for Research at the University of Hawaii at Manoa School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene, will speak on “Management of Chronic Illnesses in a Diverse Population.”
- **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, will discuss “Reducing Length Of NICU Stay and Improving Outcomes in Premature Infants and Parents With COPE.”

A panel discussion featuring audience questions will follow, moderated by **Ann Cashion, PhD, RN, FAAN**, Professor and Chair of the Department of Acute and Chronic Care in the College of Nursing at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis, Tennessee.

More details on the scientific speakers and moderator for *Bringing Science to Life* are available online at: <http://www.ninr.nih.gov/NewsAndInformation/25years/ScientificSpeakers.htm>.

Bringing Science to Life will be held from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 30, in the Natcher Auditorium on the NIH Campus in Bethesda, Maryland. The program is free of charge.

Free, online registration is available on the NINR website at: www.ninr.nih.gov/25years. Please stay tuned to this site for news about additional Symposium speakers and events as they are announced.

To receive notification as updates are posted, a Really Simple Syndication (RSS) feed for the NINR 25th Anniversary webpage is available at: <http://www.ninr.nih.gov/Rss>.

8. 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:

Informed Decision-Making in Young Adolescents at Risk for HIV/AIDS (R01)

(RFA-NR-10-008)

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-NR-10-008.html>

Mechanisms, Models, Measurement, and 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-10-007.html>

Biobehavioral Methods to Improve Outcomes Research (R01, R21)

PA-09-125 (PA-09-126)

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/pa-09-126.html>

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

The open session of the 72nd meeting of the National Advisory Council for Nursing Research (NACNR) will take place on September 14, 2010 in Building 31 C Wing, Conference Room 6C6, 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>.