



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



## ***News & Notes from the National Institute of Nursing Research: May 2011***

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### **1. For National Nurses Week at NIH! NINR – NIH Clinical Center Joint Conference on *Symptom Mechanisms, Measurement, and Management***

On May 12, 2011, NINR and the NIH Clinical Center will host a joint conference on *Symptom Mechanisms, Measurement, and Management*. Distinguished guest speakers from across the country will present lectures on a variety of symptom-related topics, including symptom self-management in oncology patients, pain management at end of life, sleep disorders, and genetic mechanisms of cancer treatment-related fatigue.

Attendees will gain a foundation in symptom mechanisms, measurement, and management, particularly those associated with chronic illnesses such as cancer and sickle cell disease. Researchers, clinicians, and the interested public are encouraged to attend.

Date and time: May 12, 2011, 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Location: Masur Auditorium on the NIH campus

This event is free, but registration is required and will take place on a first-come, first-served basis. To register, please complete the form at: <https://meetings.ninr.nih.gov/?id=1996>.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.ninr.nih.gov/SymptomConf> or email [NINRIRPtraining@mail.nih.gov](mailto:NINRIRPtraining@mail.nih.gov).

### **2. 74th Meeting of the National Advisory Council for Nursing Research**

The open session of the 74th meeting of the National Advisory Council for Nursing Research (NACNR) will take place on May 17, 2011, from 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. in Conference Room 6C6, Building 31, C wing, on the campus of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Visitors are welcome to attend.

The meeting will include:

- The NINR Director's Report
- Update on the genetic technology research portfolio
- Advances in research on the genetics of symptoms, from both intramural and extramural programs
- Overview of the Scientific Review Panel.

For more information, please review the full [agenda](#).

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>.

### **3. NACNR member Dr. Jean McSweeney named to NIH Council of Councils**

Dr. Jean McSweeney, a member of the NACNR, was recently named to the NIH Council of Councils. This Council is made up of approximately 30 members selected from NIH Institute and Center Advisory Councils and other NIH committees, and advises the NIH Director on matters related to the policies and activities of the Division of Program Coordination, Planning, and Strategic Initiatives (DPCPSI).

Dr. McSweeney is a professor in the Department of Nursing Science, Associate Dean for Research, and director of the Tailored Biobehavioral Interventions Research Center at the University of Arkansas Medical Sciences College of Nursing. Her research focuses on women and cardiovascular disease, health disparities, and biobehavioral interventions.

The NIH news release is available at: <http://www.nih.gov/news/health/apr2011/od-26.htm>.

### **4. New Deadline for Poster Abstracts! NINR Summit: *The Science of Compassion: Future Directions in End-of-Life and Palliative Care***

As part of the ongoing NINR 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary commemoration, NINR is pleased to announce a summit on *The Science of Compassion: Future Directions in End-of-Life and Palliative Care*. This three-day event will bring together scientists, researchers, health professionals, educators, policy makers, members of professional organizations, and individuals with life-limiting illnesses as well as their caregivers. It provides an opportunity for an interdisciplinary examination of end-of-life and palliative care research, practice, and policy.

Please mark your calendars for this special event to be held August 10 – 12, 2011, at the Hyatt Regency Bethesda in Bethesda, Md.

NINR invites the submission of poster abstracts relevant to the theme of the Summit. You may submit your abstract online when registering. If already registered, please use the link in your confirmation email to modify your registration and add your abstract information. All abstracts will be peer reviewed, and submitters will be notified starting June 15. Accepted abstracts will be presented at a poster session to be held in conjunction with the Summit's Evening Reception on August 11, from 5:30 p.m. – 7 p.m.

**The deadline for poster abstract submission has been extended to May 23, 2011.**

More information is available at <http://guest.cvent.com/d/ddq6tg>, under the "Call for Abstracts – Poster Session" tab. Please direct any questions regarding abstract content to Summit Co-Chair:

Noreen M. Aziz, MD, PhD, MPH  
(301) 594-2542  
[azizn@mail.nih.gov](mailto:azizn@mail.nih.gov)

For more information on the Summit, to view the agenda, or to register online, please visit:  
<http://www.ninr.nih.gov/scienceofcompassion>.

This event is co-sponsored by the NIH Office of Rare Diseases Research, the NIH Office of Research on Women's Health, the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine, and the National Institute on Aging. Portions of this event have also been made possible by the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health, with generous support by Pfizer Inc.

For a complete list of 25th Anniversary events, please visit: [www.ninr.nih.gov/25years](http://www.ninr.nih.gov/25years).

## **5. NINR to participate in 2011 NIH Science in the Cinema event: “Supersize Me”**

This July, NINR will participate in one of the 2011 NIH Science in the Cinema events with a showing of the movie “Supersize Me.” This movie explores the impact of fast-food on American nutrition, health, and culture.

After the showing, Dr. Carol Pullen, a professor from the University of Nebraska School of Nursing, will discuss her NINR-supported research into the promotion of healthy lifestyle changes. Her current research involves interventions to help pre-hypertensive older rural women lose weight and lower their blood pressure.

Date and time: July 27, 2011, at 7 p.m.

Location: AFI Silver Spring Theatre and Cultural Center

8633 Colesville Road

Silver Spring, Md. 20910

Tickets are free and available on a first-come, first-served basis on the day of the show.

NIH Science in the Cinema is a free summer film festival designed to promote public understanding of science, health, and medicine. All films will be shown with captions. American Sign Language interpreters and real-time captioning will also be provided for the post-film discussions. More information on this series is available at: <http://science.education.nih.gov/cinema>.

## **6. NINR Director Dr. Grady gives closing remarks at NIH Women’s History Month event**

On March 16, NINR Director Dr. Patricia A. Grady joined NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins and NIH Deputy Director for Extramural Research Dr. Sally Rockey for an NIH event in observance of Women’s History Month.

Dr. Rockey shared the story of her pioneering career in science, and Dr. Collins noted that, while six directors of NIH Institutes or Centers are women, and women comprise more than 59 percent of the NIH workforce, “there is still work to do” in encouraging the path to senior leadership for women at NIH.

Dr. Grady concluded the event by encouraging women to emulate Dr. Rockey and share their career success stories. “We salute all women who have excelled in science and other professions,” Dr. Grady said, “and we look forward to a new generation of trailblazers.”

Coverage of this event appears in the April 15 issue of the *NIH Record*:

[http://nihrecord.od.nih.gov/newsletters/2011/%2004\\_15\\_2011/story1.htm](http://nihrecord.od.nih.gov/newsletters/2011/%2004_15_2011/story1.htm)

## **7. New Research Highlight on the NINR web site: *Patients in the ICU may experience a range of unrelieved and distressing symptoms***

A new Research Highlight, *Patients in the ICU may experience a range of unrelieved and distressing symptoms*, has been posted on the NINR web site. This Highlight features the work of Dr. Kathleen Puntillo, of the University of California, San Francisco. Dr. Puntillo has an extensive program of research on pain and symptom management in critically ill patients. The Highlight summarizes her recent findings indicating that ICU patients frequently report distressing symptoms such as tiredness, thirst, and anxiety. In addition, up to one third of patients who were able to complete a neurological assessment had experienced an episode of delirium. Greater attention to symptom assessment by clinicians may help to improve treatment and avoid unnecessary suffering.

The full Highlight is available at:

<http://www.ninr.nih.gov/ResearchAndFunding/ResearchHighlights/#FEATURE>

Reference:

Puntillo, K. A., Arai, S., Cohen, N. H., Gropper, M. A., Neuhaus, J., Paul, S. M., Miaskowski, C. (2010). Symptoms experienced by intensive care unit patients at high risk of dying. *Critical Care Medicine*, 38, 2155-60.

### **8. *Bringing Science to Life: A Healthier Tomorrow* – NINR’s 25th Anniversary Concluding Scientific Symposium on October 13, 2011**

Mark your calendars for *Bringing Science to Life: A Healthier Tomorrow*, NINR’s 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concluding Scientific Symposium. The Symposium will be held on October 13, 2011, from 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., at the Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC. The day will include presentations, a panel discussion, and a poster session. This event is free, but registration is required.

NINR continues to seek abstracts for the poster session. These can be from completed work, work in progress, or work previously presented or published. We invite submissions on:

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

For submission guidelines, please visit:

[http://www.ninr.nih.gov/ResearchAndFunding/DEA/OEP/2011\\_Symposium\\_CallForAbstracts.htm](http://www.ninr.nih.gov/ResearchAndFunding/DEA/OEP/2011_Symposium_CallForAbstracts.htm)

**The abstract submission deadline is May 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](mailto:banksdh@mail.nih.gov)

Please check NINR’s Anniversary website for information on speakers and registration for the Symposium, as it becomes available: [www.ninr.nih.gov/25years](http://www.ninr.nih.gov/25years).

Please note that NINR’s concluding symposium falls in between the Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science’s (CANS) 2011 Special Topics Conference and Poster Session and the American Academy of Nursing’s (AAN) 38th Annual Meeting and Conference. Both events are also being held at the Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill.

The CANS Special Topics Conference, “Comparative Effectiveness and Patient-Centered Outcomes Research: The Intersection of Nursing Science and Health Care Delivery,” will be held on October 12, 2011. For more information and to register, please visit the CANS web site at: [www.nursingscience.org](http://www.nursingscience.org).

The AAN Annual Meeting and Conference, “Health Promotion Across the Lifespan: Focus on Evidence,” will take place October 13 – 15, 2011. Please visit the Academy’s web site, [www.aanet.org](http://www.aanet.org), for more information or to register.

### **9. The 2011 NINR Pain Methodologies Boot Camp**

NINR is pleased to offer its second Pain Methodologies Boot Camp this summer. This Boot Camp is a one-week intensive research training course held on the NIH campus, sponsored by NINR and administered by the Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences (FAES) as one of the Bio-Trac programs. It is intended to provide a foundation in pain research methodology for graduate students and faculty. The course will feature lectures by distinguished guest speakers, classroom discussion, and laboratory training. Course topics will include the measurement, treatment, and genetics of pain.

The course is provided by NINR at no cost. However, attendees are required to pay for housing, food, and transportation expenses incurred during program participation.

Graduate students and faculty who are citizens or permanent U.S. residents may apply. Applicants should demonstrate potential for productive research careers.

The Pain Methodologies Boot Camp will take place from Monday, July 25 to Friday, July 29, 2011, at Building 60 (The Cloisters) on the NIH campus. Classes will begin daily at 8:30 a.m. and adjourn at or before 5:30 p.m.

### **Online registration for the Pain Methodologies Boot Camp will close on May 25.**

To register, please visit:

<https://meetings.ninr.nih.gov/meetings/painbootcamp>.

Registration will be on a first come, first served basis with a class limit size of 70 participants.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.ninr.nih.gov/Training/TrainingOpportunitiesIntramural/painbootcamp> or contact:

Dr. Natalie A. Rasmussen  
Intramural Research Training Director  
Assistant Clinical Investigator  
Email: [rasmussenna@mail.nih.gov](mailto:rasmussenna@mail.nih.gov)

### **10. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announces two plans to reduce health disparities**

In April, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) launched two strategic plans aimed at reducing health disparities.

1. The *HHS Action Plan to Reduce Health Disparities* outlines goals and actions HHS will take to reduce health disparities among racial and ethnic minorities.

Goals of this Plan include:

- Transforming health care and expanding access,
- Building on the provisions of the Affordable Care Act related to expanded insurance coverage,
- Providing more opportunities to increase the number of students from populations underrepresented in the health professions,
- Training more people in medical interpretation to help serve patients with a limited command of English, and
- Training community workers to help people navigate the system.

2. The *National Stakeholder Strategy for Achieving Health Equity* provides a common set of goals and objectives for public and private sector initiatives and partnerships to help underserved groups reach their full health potential. Local groups can use the National Stakeholder Strategy to identify which goals are most important for their communities and adopt the most effective strategies.

Both plans call for federal agencies and their partners to work together on social, economic and environmental factors that contribute to health disparities.

More information is available at: <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2011pres/04/20110408a.html>

### **11. HHS announces Partnership for Patients to improve care and lower costs for Americans**

In April, HHS announced the Partnership for Patients, a new national partnership that will help save 60,000 lives by stopping millions of preventable injuries and complications in patient care over the next three years. The Partnership for Patients will focus on two main goals:

- **Keep hospital patients from getting injured or sicker:** The plan aims to reduce preventable hospital-acquired conditions by 40 percent over the next three years, which would mean approximately 1.8 million fewer injuries to patients, with more than 60,000 lives saved.
- **Help patients heal without complication:** The partnership will work to reduce preventable complications so that all hospital readmissions would be reduced by 20 percent over the next three years.

Already, more than 500 hospitals, as well as physicians and nurses groups, consumer groups, and employers have pledged their commitment to the new initiative. HHS has announced it will invest up to \$1 billion in federal funding, made available under the Affordable Care Act.

For more information, visit [www.HealthCare.gov/center/programs/partnership](http://www.HealthCare.gov/center/programs/partnership).

### **12. 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>.