



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



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

1. NINR Welcomes Four New Members to the National Advisory Council for Nursing Research

HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius has appointed four new members to the National Advisory Council for Nursing Research (NACNR), the principal advisory board for NINR. The new members were announced and formally welcomed by NINR Director Dr. Patricia A. Grady at the May 18 meeting of the NACNR.

Members of the Council are drawn from the scientific and lay communities, embodying a diverse perspective from the fields of nursing, public and health policy, law, and economics. An important role of the council is to conduct a second level of review of grant applications that have been scored by scientific review groups. The Council meets three times a year on the NIH campus to provide recommendations on the direction and support of the nursing, biomedical, social, and behavioral research that forms the evidence base for nursing practice.

The new members are:

Glenna A. Dowling, Ph.D., R.N., a nationally recognized expert on gerontology nursing and chronic progressive neurological diseases such as Parkinson's, Alzheimer's and dementia. She is Professor and Chair of the Department of Psychological Nursing at the University of California, San Francisco's (UCSF) School of Nursing and Director of the Institute on Aging Research Center in San Francisco. Dr. Dowling also serves as Associate Director of UCSF's John A. Hartford Center of Geriatric Nursing Excellence. She received bachelor's degrees in psychology, physiology, and nursing from the University of California, Berkeley and her master's in physiological nursing and doctorate in nursing science from the University of Washington, Seattle. Dr. Dowling's research focuses on the effects of chronic progressive neurological diseases on circadian and rest-activity rhythm function in older adults. She also explores how non-drug therapies can improve rest-activity rhythms and quality of life in older adults, especially those with dementia. She recently received NIH funding to help adapt the popular Nintendo Wii platform into a therapeutic interactive game that can improve gait and balance in people with Parkinson's disease. Dr. Dowling was elected as a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing in 2006.

Everette J. Freeman, Ed.D., President of Albany State University in Albany, GA. An eminent scholar and admired strategist, he is a leader in higher education and is well-known for his commitment to equity in the academic community. Prior to coming to Albany, Dr. Freeman served four years as Senior Vice President and Provost at the University of Indianapolis. He previously served as the Executive Assistant to the President and as Interim Vice President for University Relations and Development at Tennessee State University. In addition to his

academic experience, he has held several corporate positions and has specialized interest in organizational development, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission compliance and industrial relations. Dr. Freeman serves on several community organization boards and has received many local, state, national and international awards and honors. He received his Ed.D. from Rutgers University, an M.A. in Labor and Industrial Relations from the University of Illinois, and a B.A. in Sociology/Economics from Antioch College. He has written and published a number of monographs, articles in professional journals and book chapters.

Elaine Larson, Ph.D., R.N., the Associate Dean for Research and Professor of Pharmaceutical and Therapeutic Research at the Columbia University School of Nursing. She has served as a member of an NIH Study Section on HIV Infection and nine journal editorial boards. She has served the president of the Certification Board for Infection Control, an AHC Scholar in Academic Administration and Health Policy, and director and trustee for the APIC Research Foundation. Dr. Larson received her doctorate in epidemiology, an M.A. in nursing and microbiology, and a B.S. in nursing from the University of Washington. She is a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing, Infectious Disease Society of America, New York Academy of Medicine, Institute of Medicine, and The National Academies of Practice. She has served on several Institute of Medicine committees and is currently a member of the Board of Directors of the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases and the Report Review Committee of the National Academy of Sciences. Dr. Larson has been editor of the American Journal of Infection Control since 1994. She has published more than 200 journal articles, four books, and a number of book chapters. Dr. Larson has served as a consultant in infection control and nursing across the globe.

Susan Reinhard, Ph.D., R.N., the Senior Vice President for Public Policy with AARP. In that role, she directs the AARP Public Policy Institute. She also serves as the Chief Strategist for AARP with the Center to Champion Nursing in America, a joint initiative of AARP, the AARP Foundation, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. She holds a master's degree in nursing from the University of Cincinnati, and a Ph.D. in Sociology from Rutgers University. She was formerly a faculty member at the Rutgers College of Nursing, as well as Chair of the Expert Panel on Aging at the American Academy of Nursing. She is committed to teaching nurses and other professionals how to better interact with consumers and their families. Dr. Reinhard is a nationally recognized expert in nursing and health policy, with extensive experience in translating research and developing coalitions to promote policy change.

2. Dr. Grady Profiled in *NurseConnect.com*

NINR Director Dr. Patricia Grady was among four prominent RNs profiled by *NurseConnect.com*, an online community and career networking site for nurses and other healthcare professionals. Dr. Grady was interviewed as part of the site's National Nurses Week story "A Salute to Nurses: Four RNs Who Have Made a Difference."

Dr. Grady gave an overview of the history and mission of NINR, discussed how NINR-supported research impacts public health, and examined how societal and technological changes will impact the future of nursing science.

The article is available online at:

<http://nurseconnect.com/Resources/ArticleProfile.aspx?Id=400278>.

3. May Featured Research Highlight: Impact of Mandatory Nurse Staffing Levels on Patient Outcomes

NINR-supported researchers explore and address some of the most important challenges affecting the health of the American people. Each month, the NINR web site will highlight research from the community of NINR-supported scientists across the U.S. The current featured highlight examines the impact of mandatory nurse staffing levels on patient outcomes.

The study compared patient and nurse outcomes from hospitals in California versus two states without legislatively mandated staffing ratios, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Among the study findings, the researchers reported that hospital nurses on medical and surgical units in California cared for fewer patients on average than nurses in the other two states.

These lower patient-to-nurse ratios were associated with significantly lower patient mortality. The study also found that nurses in California reported higher job satisfaction, less burnout, and better ability to care for patients.

More details on the current featured highlight and the study's lead researcher, Dr. Linda Aiken of the University of Pennsylvania, are available at:

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

Past featured research highlights are archived online at:

http://www.ninr.nih.gov/ResearchAndFunding/Featured_Research_Highlight_Archive.

4. NINR Announces “Pain Boot Camp” Training Course

This summer, NINR's Division of Intramural Research will host a unique, new training opportunity for graduate students and faculty interested in building a strong foundation in pain methodology for research. The NINR Pain Methodologies Boot Camp is a one-week intensive research training course held on the NIH campus and administered by the Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences (FAES) as one of the Bio-Trac programs.

The purpose of the course is to increase the research capability of graduate students and faculty. It will feature lectures by distinguished guest speakers, classroom discussion, and laboratory training. The Pain Boot Camp will cover a number of topics relevant to pain research including pain measurement, pain treatment, and pain genetics.

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

The Pain Boot Camp will be held Monday, July 19 to Friday, July 23, 2010 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.

For more information and to learn how to register, please visit:

<http://www.ninr.nih.gov/painbootcamp>.

5. NINR's 25th Anniversary and 2010 Science Symposium

Starting this fall, NINR will begin commemorating its 25th anniversary. NINR was founded on the belief that nursing science not only deserved a place within the National Institutes of Health (NIH), but also that it could contribute in new and distinctive ways to the health care sciences and improve the health of our nation's people.

Reaching our 25th anniversary is not simply a milestone—it signifies the progress and achievement of nursing science.

To kick off the 25th Anniversary events, NINR will hold a Scientific Symposium, “Bringing Science to Life,” on September 30, 2010, from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., in the Natcher Auditorium on the NIH Campus in Bethesda, MD. This program is free of charge.

Registration is now available on the NINR web site at: www.ninr.nih.gov/25years. This site also contains general information about the Symposium, and the agenda.

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

6. i6 Challenge to Award \$12 Million to Spark Innovation, Entrepreneurship

The i6 Challenge is a new, multi-agency innovation competition led by the U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC) and its Economic Development Administration (EDA). The DOC and EDA will coordinate this funding opportunity with the NIH, the National Science Foundation (NSF), and the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) to leverage federal resources and maximize available funding to i6 Challenge winners.

The i6 Challenge is designed to encourage and reward innovative, ground-breaking ideas that will accelerate technology commercialization and new venture formation across the United States, for the ultimate purpose of helping to drive economic growth and job creation.

EDA will award up to \$1 million to each of six winning teams with the most innovative ideas to drive technology commercialization and entrepreneurship in their regions. NIH and NSF will award a total of up to \$6 million in supplemental funding to their SBIR grantees that are associated or partnered with the winning teams.

Entrepreneurs, investors, universities, foundations, and non-profits are encouraged to participate in the i6 Challenge.

The deadline for applications is July 15, 2010.

For more information, visit: <http://www.eda.gov/i6>

7. 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 web site 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 PAs of note include:

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

PA-09-125 (126) Biobehavioral Methods to Improve Outcomes Research, R01 (R21)

PA-08-121 (122) Symptom Interactions in Cancer and Immune Disorders, R01 (R21)

8. Application Period Open for the 2010 BNC Fellowship

The Bravewell Collaborative, NINR, and the NIH Clinical Center (BNC) have come together to sponsor the joint BNC Fellowship for research in integrative medicine. This postdoctoral 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 June 1, 2010. In addition, the mailed research proposal must be postmarked no later than **June 1, 2010.**

More information is available at: www.ninr.nih.gov/Training/BNCFellowship.

For more information, please contact:

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9. 12th Annual NIH SBIR/STTR Conference: Triangulating Commercial Success: Knowledge, Partnerships, & Capital

Next month, over 600 health and science managers, entrepreneurs, small business executives, university researchers, and consulting organizations will participate in the 12th Annual NIH National SBIR/STTR Conference.

The conference will focus on key aspects of the NIH Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR)/Small Business Technology Transfer Grant (STTR) program, the funding opportunities available to small business researchers, and how the NIH SBIR/STTR program can be a valuable resource to help small business owners and entrepreneurs start and/or grow a company.

The conference will be held in Raleigh, NC on June 2 and 3. For more information or to register, please visit <http://www.sbtdec.org/nihsbir2010/index.htm>.

10. NINR Co-Sponsors NIH State-of-the-Science Conference on Preventing Alzheimer's Disease

On April 26th – 28th, NINR co-sponsored an NIH State-of-the-Science Conference on “Preventing Alzheimer’s Disease and Cognitive Decline.”

Invited speakers discussed the epidemiology and pathophysiology of the disease as well as factors that might result in decreased risk. The panel released several findings, including that there is insufficient evidence to support the use of pharmaceutical agents or dietary supplements to prevent cognitive decline or Alzheimer’s disease.

Over the next few months, the expert panel will refine their statement. The statement will then be published in a major medical journal.

Other co-sponsors of the conference included the National Institute on Aging, the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine, the National Institute of Mental Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Office of Medical Applications of Research, the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, the Office of Dietary Supplements, and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

The draft state-of-the-science statement is available online at http://consensus.nih.gov/2010/docs/alz/alz_stmt.pdf.