News & Notes from the National Institute of Nursing Research: October 2012

1. Collaboration on Future NIH News Releases and Other Media

In collaboration with your institution, NINR seeks to promote and disseminate published results of NINR-funded research through the publication of press releases and other media. Should you have an accepted research article (page proof) that you wish to share with NINR, please send an email to info@ninr.nih.gov.

2. 2013 Graduate Partnerships Program Open for Applications

The application period for the 2013 NINR Graduate Partnerships Program (GPP) is now open.

The NINR GPP combines the academic environment of a university and the breadth and depth of research at NIH. The program is open to any doctoral (PhD) student currently enrolled in a school of nursing. Preference is given to applicants with a commitment to a career as an innovative and creative leader in the nursing and scientific research community and a research interest that is congruent with focused research areas in the NIH Intramural Research Programs.

For more information on the 2013 GPP, visit www.ninr.nih.gov/gpp or send an email with “NINR GPP” in the subject line to NINRIRPTraining@mail.nih.gov.

The application deadline is January 3, 2013 at 5:00 p.m.

3. Dr. Grady Featured in Q&A by AACN Syllabus on the Role and Impact of Nursing Research

NINR Director Dr. Patricia A. Grady was featured in a recent issue of the AACN Syllabus, the newsletter for the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN). In the Q&A, Dr. Grady discussed NINR’s 25-year history and its impact on health and health care.

“NINR develops the evidence base for the most effective, affordable, and highest quality health care, especially nursing care,” she said in the interview, noting several landmark NINR-funded studies that have improved public health outcomes. As for the next 25 years, Dr. Grady added that “NINR-supported research is ideally positioned to address the most important health challenges faced by the American people, now and in the coming decades.”

Dr. Grady also offered advice to investigators and nursing students who are interested in research—identifying resources such as NINR’s Grantsmanship Workshop Video Series (www.youtube.com/ninrnews) and recommending mentoring and volunteering with those already involved in research. “There is no replacement for hands-on experience,” she said.

The full article is available online (starting on page 4) at http://www.aacn.nche.edu/publications/JulyAug12.pdf.

4. NINR GPP Recipient Presents to NIH End-of-Life and Palliative Care Special Interest Group

On October 18th, Sheeba Nadarajah, a Pre-Doctoral Fellow with the NIH Clinical Center Pain and Palliative Care Services and a NINR Graduate Partnership Program recipient from the University of Maryland School of Nursing, presented her doctoral dissertation work conducted within the NIH CC Pain and Palliative Care Program. Nadarajah’s presentation, “A Phenomenological Inquiry of Psycho-Socio-Spiritual Healing in Cardiac
Rehabilitation Patients,” was part of the NIH End-of-Life and Palliative Care Special Interest Group (EOL PC SIG) Research Lecture series, co-sponsored by NINR.

Nadarajah discussed a phenomenological study of lived experiences of psycho-socio-spiritual healing following an acute cardiac event in a sample of cardiac rehabilitation patients. Her research also examined the shock of an acute cardiac episode and the life-transforming experiences described by study participants.

Each year the NIH EOL PC SIG provides the opportunity for NIH Fellows to share their research with the larger NIH EOL PC community. These lectures are designed to foster their critical thinking and provide a supportive forum to engage in discussion on their research topic.

Please check the NIH EOL PC SIG website for future lectures and events at: http://sigs.nih.gov/EOLPC/Pages/default.aspx.


The 2012 Science of Eliminating Health Disparities Summit will be held on Wednesday, October 31st, through Friday, November 2nd, 2012 at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center in National Harbor, Maryland.

The Summit is an HHS-wide endeavor involving a broad spectrum of the federal government that seeks to advance activities to eliminate health disparities. The agenda will build on the momentum of the 2008 Summit and the increased interest of federal agencies to demonstrate their commitment towards improving the health of all Americans. The Summit represents an ongoing focus on emerging science and its intersection with practice and policy, while maintaining momentum on current national and international trends in addressing the social determinants of health.

For more information, please email 2012Summit@mail.nih.gov or visit www.nimhd.nih.gov/summit_site/index.html.

6. 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 www.ninr.nih.gov/ResearchAndFunding/DEA/OEP/FundingOpportunities/default.htm. These items can also be found in the NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts: grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/index.html.


The 2013 NINR Summer Genetics Institute (SGI) will be held from June 3rd through 28th on the NIH Campus in Bethesda, Maryland.

The application period for the 2013 SGI opens on January 14 and will close on March 18.

The SGI is a tuition-free, one-month, intensive research training program that provides participants with a foundation in molecular genetics appropriate for use in research and clinical practice. The program seeks to increase the research capability among graduate students and faculty and to develop and expand clinical practice in genetics among clinicians.

Administered by the Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences (FAES) as one of its Specialty Bio-Trac programs, the SGI features lectures and hands-on laboratory training. On completion of the program, participants receive eight hours of graduate-level college credit from FAES.

More than 200 SGI graduates are making a difference in communities across the country -- building programs of nursing research in genetics; disseminating the results of genetics-related research in peer-reviewed scientific publications and at scientific conferences; and integrating genetics content in nursing school curricula and practice.
Graduate students, faculty, and clinicians who are citizens or permanent U.S. residents may apply. Applicants should demonstrate potential for highly productive research or a clinical career.

For more information on the SGI, please send an email to ninrsgi@mail.nih.gov or visit http://www.ninr.nih.gov/Training/TrainingOpportunitiesIntramural/SummerGeneticsInstitute/.

8. Dr. Grady Authors Editorial on the National Nursing Research Roundtable

A guest editorial from NINR Director Dr. Patricia A. Grady recently appeared in Heart and Lung: The Journal of Acute Critical Care. Dr. Grady’s article, entitled “Vision and Innovation: The National Nursing Research Roundtable,” discussed the role of the National Nursing Research Roundtable (NNRR) and offered a recap of the 2012 NNRR, which followed the theme of “Symptom Management in the Era of Technology”—an important topic to acute and critical care specialists.

“The NNRR is a mix of formal scientific presentations, roundtable discussions, and break-out sessions,” Dr. Grady explained in the article. During discussions, Roundtable participants made several recommendations that would “facilitate knowledge sharing” and “foster research and practice collaborations” such as special boot camps, workshops, forums, and a repository that links health care practitioners and scientists to relevant technology, informatics and engineering applications.

“Overall, the 2012 NNRR reflected the energy, synergy, and creativity of past Roundtables,” Grady states in the article, “and has provided the symptom management, quality-of-life, technology, informatics, and engineering communities with thoughtful and innovative recommendations for moving forward.”


9. NINR Prepares for National Hospice and Palliative Care Month

November is National Hospice and Palliative Care Month and NINR is ready with a new supply of its award-winning brochure, Palliative Care: The Relief You Need When You’re Experiencing the Symptoms of Serious Illness. Also available in Spanish (Cuidados Paliativos: El alivio que necesita cuando tiene síntimos de una enfermedad grave), the brochure describes what palliative care is, who it benefits, and how it works.

Most importantly, it clarifies the many ways palliative care differs from hospice care—providing symptom relief to patients of any age and at any time during an illness. Readers learn that palliative care can be delivered in tandem with curative treatments and is particularly helpful to those dealing with chronic illnesses such as AIDS and diseases of the heart, lungs, and kidneys.

Free print copies (up to 25 per language) are available on request. Unlimited downloads are available online at www.ninr.nih.gov/palliativecarebrochure or www.ninr.nih.gov/cuidadospaliativos. Please email info@ninr.nih.gov or call NINR at 301-496-0207 to request print copies.