

Palliative and End-of-Life Care Symposium

Midwest Nursing Research Society Conference, March 29, 2019

Emerging Trends in the Palliative and End-of-Life Care of Patients and Families

3:15- 4:45 pm, Truman A (East), Kansas City



RIG Chair and Moderator: Renee Kumpula, EdD, RN, PHN, University of Minnesota

Competitive Symposium Presenters (bios next page)

- Susan O'Conner-Von, PhD, RN-BC, CNE, University of Minnesota, *Pediatric Oncology Nurses' Experiences with Children at Their End of Life*
- Verna Hendricks-Ferguson, PhD, RN, CHPPN, FPCN, FAAN, Saint Louis University, *Communication Preferences by African American Breast Cancer Survivors and Their Home Caregivers*
- Stephanie Gilbertson-White, PhD, APRN, University of Iowa, *Assessing Individuals with OASIS: Web-Based Symptom Management with Rural Patients*
- Rebecca Lehto, PhD, RN, Michigan State University, *Mental Health at the End of Life in Patients with Advanced Cancer*
- Christine Fortney, Ph.D. RN, The Ohio State University, *Understanding Medical Complexity among Infants at End of Life*

Presenter Bios



Pediatric Oncology Nurses' Experiences with Children at Their End of Life

Susan O'Conner-Von, PhD, RN-BC, CNE, is an Associate Professor in the School of Nursing, University of Minnesota and a staff nurse at Children's Hospital in Saint Paul, Minnesota. The focus of Dr. O'Conner-Von's teaching, research and service is care of children with special health care needs, palliative care and end-of-life care. Her research has included: pediatric pain and palliative care, preparation for surgery; non-pharmacologic interventions for pain management; web-based educational programs for adolescents with cancer, and spirituality care.

She has participated in a series of grants and received recent awards including the 2016 Hospice and Palliative Pediatric Nurse of the Year Award from the Hospice and Palliative Credentialing Center and the 2017 Dr. Jo Eland Excellence in Pediatric Nursing Award from the American Society for Pain Management Nursing.



Communication Preferences by African American Breast Cancer Survivors and Their Home Caregivers

Verna Hendricks-Ferguson, PhD, RN, is a Professor at Saint Louis University, School of Nursing. She completed her PhD in nursing at Rush University and a 3-year NIH funded T32 Post-doctoral fellowship at Indiana University, School of Nursing that focused on preparation of PC/EOL focused grants. She has been committed to the science of palliative and end-of-life (PC/EOL) evidence for children with cancer. Specifically, her research has focused on: being a voice for Bereaved parental concerns about symptoms experienced by a child with cancer during hospice care and Parents' preferences to receive early PC/EOL information for children with cancer who are receiving current treatments; Providing information of pediatric oncology nurses' perspectives about PC/EOL communication with parents of children with cancer; and Testing a MD/RN communication intervention to provide early PC/EOL information to parents of children with cancer with a poor prognosis.

Because of her commitment to PC/EOL research in children with cancer, Dr. Hendricks-Ferguson has received several grants to conduct studies to provide PC/EOL evidence in children and adults with cancer. She has also been honored with receiving many awards including the MNRS Best Research Manuscript Award and the Project Death in America: Nurse Leadership Award in Palliative Care by the Hospice Palliative Nursing Foundation in 2014; Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing in 2015; Fellow in Palliative Care Nursing by the Hospice Palliative Nursing Foundation in 2016; Research Writing Awards for published articles in the Journal of Pediatric Oncology Nursing in 2016 and 2017, and the Distinguished Nurse Scientist Award by the MNRS, PEOLC Research Interest Group in 2018.



Assessing Individuals with OASIS: Web-Based Symptom Management with Rural Patients

Stephanie Gilbertson-White PhD, ARNP, is an Assistant Professor in the College of Nursing at University of Iowa. Her work focuses on managing physical and emotional symptoms associated with advanced cancer. She is interested in both 1) identifying patients most likely to develop distressing symptoms and 2) improving how patients can self-manage their symptoms in order to decrease symptom interference with life. She is especially interested in using eHealth interventions to help patients living in rural areas. In addition, Dr. Gilbertson-White provides clinical care as an advanced practice nurse to patients with advanced cancer in the palliative care clinic at University of Iowa Hospital and Clinics and teaches in the graduate and undergraduate nursing programs at the University of Iowa.



Mental Health at the End of Life in Patients with Advanced Cancer

Rebecca Lehto, PhD, RN, FAAN, is an Associate Professor at Michigan State University College of Nursing. Her program of research has focused on psychological adaptation to cancer and enhancement of palliative and

end of life care. She is a co-investigator on an ongoing National Cancer Institute funded multi-site trial where her expertise was used to develop the protocol for delivery of meditation practices for patients undergoing cancer treatment. She is currently collaborating with interdisciplinary researchers who are evaluating a technology-mediated meditation program to foster resilience in caregivers of hospice and palliative care patients. She has presented her research extensively both nationally and internationally and has been an author on over 40 peer-reviewed manuscripts. She has served in leadership roles in several professional organizations.



Understanding Medical Complexity among Infants at End of Life

Christine Fortney, PhD, RN, is an assistant professor in the Martha S. Pitzer Center for Women, Children, and Youth at The Ohio State University College of Nursing. From a F31 awarded as a doctoral student, to post-doctoral intramural funding, to an ongoing K23 as a junior faculty member, Dr. Fortney has built a program of research based on the study of the experiences of critically-ill infants at high risk of death in the NICU and their families. Through the use of descriptive data, behavioral observations, and qualitative interviews with parents, she has highlighted the challenges to the identification and management of symptoms in critically-ill infants at high risk of death in the NICU, as well as the link between parent and nurse perceptions of infant symptoms and suffering and emotional distress. Dr. Fortney and her team published the first manuscript to illuminate patient-reported symptom data in this population. Her exploratory, descriptive work thus far has positioned her well to now begin to develop tools and interventions for testing. Today, Dr. Fortney will be discussing ongoing work she is doing with a collaborator looking at the Complex Chronic Conditions classification system.

Join our Palliative and End-of-Life Care (PEOLC) RIG

Our Short-term Goals are to: 1) Increase awareness and visibility of PEOLC RIG and member contributions, 2) Utilize website to increase interest and connect with membership, and 3) Increase active membership /new members and member publications

1. **Know our members:** Update membership contact information and send informational communications
2. **Consult our members:** Gather member survey data and share publications
3. **Activate our members: Engage** volunteers for abstract review, award reviews, and volunteers for conference
4. **Increase member visibility:** Facilitate the scholarship and research contributions of members with competitive symposium, nomination of members for MNRS awards and RIG awards; Highlight member achievements.

Our Long-term Goals are to: 1) Continue to improve/increase communication and networking between RIG members outside of the Annual Meeting and 2) Highlight the research and recognize the accomplishments of our members through all available mechanisms (e.g. MNRS website/MNRS Matters newsletter and Research Briefs)

Announcement: 4:45 pm Awards Presentation and Business Meeting, Imperial Ballroom (East)



- PEOLC RIG member, Dr. Margaret Campbell will receive MNRS Distinguished Contribution Award

Our Webpage: <https://mnrs.org/members-center/rigs/palliative-end-of-life-care/>

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Rebecca Lehto, Chair-elect at lehtor@msu.edu