

## ***October Newsletter: Palliative & End-of-Life Care RIG***

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Click on submit RIG Awards:

December 3, 5pm. Select the category you are interested in nominating an individual for:

Member Highlights: This month we are highlighting one student and one long term member of our RIG.

### **Megan Miller, BSN, RN, PhD Candidate**

Megan Miller, a PhD student at Michigan State University, passed her dissertation proposal defense this summer! She is now a PhD Candidate.

She has been a registered nurse since 2015, gaining professional experience in hospice and palliative care, nursing education and health promotion across the lifespan. Megan has two ongoing research studies funded by the American Nurses Foundation and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan. Her research will examine the impact of spirituality on pain experiences in women with advanced breast cancer in the context of an integrative therapy intervention.



Megan is passionate about end of life care and is interested in exploring how our relationship to death affects the way we live. She is a co-chair elect of our RIG, a facilitator of Death Café Lansing, a board member for the Funeral Consumers Alliance and a volunteer at Hospice of Lansing. Her future work will include the development of holistic (mind, body, spirit) interventions for pain in people with advanced cancer, the integration of end of life training for undergraduate nursing students, and the establishment of community-based hospice centers.

## **Verna Hendricks-Ferguson, PhD, RN, FPCN, FAAN**

Verna Hendricks-Ferguson, PhD, RN, FPCN, FAAN was appointed as the inaugural holder of the Irene Riddle Endowed Professorship at Saint Louis University, School of Nursing in St. Louis, MO on 08/19/19. The President and Provost of Saint Louis University have scheduled a university-wide Investiture Reception to honor Dr. Hendricks-Ferguson and three other endowed professorships on 11/13/2019.



Dr. Hendricks-Ferguson's program of research has made significant contributions to the science of palliative and end-of-life communication practices by pediatric oncology providers with parents of children with cancer who have poor prognosis. She has published extensively in this area and has been honored with receipt of several palliative end-of-life care awards including distinguished nurse scientist award by our special interest group, research writing awards by the Journal of Pediatric Hematology-Oncology Nurses and induction as a fellow in the American Academy of Nursing. Her pioneering research has been funded by several organizations including the Oncology Nursing Foundation, the Alex Lemonade Children's Cancer Research Foundation, and the National Institute of Nursing Research through the National Institute of Health.