

PEOPLE & EVENTS

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Associate Editor

Virani Receives California Nurse Excellence Award for Teaching



Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) member Rose Virani, RNC, MHA, OCN®, is the recipient of *Nurseweek's* 2003 California Nursing Excellence Award in the Teaching category. From a field of

hundreds of nominees, 44 nurses were selected as finalists and honored on April 25 at a reception in Los Angeles/Universal City, when the top award winners in eight categories were announced.

Virani, a research specialist at City of Hope National Medical Center in Duarte, CA, is the author or coauthor of 23 publications that address topics such as teaching professional nurses, palliative care education for nonhospice homecare nurses, and analysis of end-of-life content in nursing textbooks. Her first major research work was as a coordinator and leader of a 1997–2000 project, “Strengthening Nursing Education to Improve End-of-Life Care,” which evolved into her current role as project director of the national End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium. The curriculum covers nursing care at the end of life; pain management; symptom management; communication; culture; ethical-legal issues; grief, loss, and bereavement; achieving quality care at the end of life; and preparation and care for the time of death.

Nurseweek started the Nursing Excellence Awards in 1999 to recognize nurses and their contributions to health care and to place a human face and story on the contributions that nurses make in California. In the event's five-year history, 230 nurses have been recognized for their accomplishments.

Duke Receives \$6 Million Award for Pediatric Brain Tumor Research

A \$6 million award from the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation will establish and fund a new institute at the Duke Comprehensive

Cancer Center, located in Durham, NC, that will be devoted exclusively to pediatric brain tumor research. The primary goal of the new Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation Institute at Duke will be to develop innovative and less invasive clinical treatments for children diagnosed with brain tumors.

The \$6 million award from the nonprofit Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation, based in Asheville, NC, is the foundation's largest award ever. The 20-year-old foundation is the world's largest nongovernmental source of funding for pediatric brain tumor research. The award also represents the largest foundation award ever received by the Duke Comprehensive Cancer Center.

“This award from the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation will allow our researchers to aggressively pursue their studies to establish better treatment and care of children with brain tumors,” said Ralph Snyderman, MD, chancellor for health affairs and president and chief executive officer of the Duke University Health System.

The Brain Tumor Center at Duke is one of the world's leading pediatric and adult neuro-oncology programs, offering more active clinical trials than any other treatment center. Additional information is available at www.cancer.duke.edu. For more information about the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation, visit www.pbtfus.org.

University of Pittsburgh Establishes Institute to Enhance Palliative Care

The University of Pittsburgh, in collaboration with Family Hospice and Palliative Care in Pittsburgh, PA, has established the Institute to Enhance Palliative Care, a community of scholars and healthcare professionals from diverse fields who have joined together to improve care for the seriously ill and dying. The institute's goal is to improve end-of-life care by expanding the number and quality of providers of palliative care and to raise awareness among patients and families of the availability of palliative care.

The institute will be housed in the School of Medicine's section of palliative care and medical ethics, where, since 2000, a team of

nationally and internationally recognized palliative care professionals have been conducting research, training healthcare providers, and caring for patients through several hospitals within the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. The Institute to Enhance Palliative Care will focus on education, training, research, community service, and advocacy.

“The institute . . . highlights the importance and benefit of collaboration and partnership between local leaders in palliative care,” said Raphael Sciollo, MA, MSW, MS, president of Family Hospice and Palliative Care and institute codirector. “The institute will provide both professionals and laypersons an opportunity to make well informed choices about end-of-life care.”

One of the first hospice programs in Pennsylvania, Family Hospice and Palliative Care now serves patients in 11 western Pennsylvania counties and 2 Ohio counties. For more information, visit <http://newsbureau.upmc.com>.

New Publications Address Radioactive Iodine Exposure

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) announces new publications addressing radioactive iodine (I-131) from fallout. The materials are designed to address the concerns of Americans who were exposed to I-131 from above-ground nuclear testing in the 1950s and early 1960s. People exposed to I-131, especially during childhood, may have an increased risk of thyroid disease, including thyroid cancer. The following resources are available for distribution.

- *Get the Facts About Exposure to I-131 Radiation* is a general brochure that provides information about the Nevada tests and identifies individuals at particular risk.
- *Making Choices: Screening for Thyroid Cancer* is a workbook for individuals concerned about their exposure to I-131 from fallout.
- *Radioactive Iodine (I-131) and Thyroid Cancer—An Educational Resource* is a flipchart presentation for Native Americans, available online and in printed form.

For more information and to order materials, visit www.cancer.gov/i131 or call NCI's Cancer Information Service toll free at 800-4-CANCER. 

Publish Your Accomplishments!

The *Oncology Nursing Forum* accepts news of member accomplishments for “People and Events.” Submissions should include a recent photo and be less than 250 words. For more information, contact Associate Editor Patricia F. Jassak, MS, RN, AOCN®, via cell phone at 773-350-2234 or e-mail at pjassak@aol.com.

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