

## Press Release

### Evaluation of ELNEC Undergraduate Faculty Training Program Data Shows Successful Outcomes

#### *Over 19,000 Nursing Students, Representing 460 Institutions Have Received ELNEC Lectures*

WASHINGTON, D.C., February 28, 2005 – The End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium (ELNEC), a national initiative to improve end-of-life (EOL) care, has just published data in the January 2005 issue of *Journal of Palliative Medicine* from eight national training courses, developed to enhance EOL expertise in faculty teaching in undergraduate nursing programs (five courses) as well as in continuing education programs (three courses). The 12-month follow-up data includes 502 faculty members (92%), representing 460 different nursing programs from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico.

The results from the 12-month data showed significant improvement in disseminating EOL content. Participants reported that after attending the ELNEC course, they were able to devote more time to teaching EOL issues (18.59 hours pre-course compared to a post-course mean of 28.72 hours). Understanding the constraints on faculty and crowded nursing school curriculum, this change was notable, in that changes occurred within the first 12 months of course attendance. Because of an increase in EOL curriculum content, participants rated the effectiveness of new graduates in providing EOL care as higher than in their pre-course rating and mastery improvements were significant after students studied the ELNEC modules. In addition, there were other outcomes that many participants reported. For example, 49% used the ELNEC curriculum to teach outside of their own nursing program; 46% attended other CE conferences on palliative care; and 43% began subscribing personally to EOL publications/journals.

Because of the extraordinary demand for ELNEC courses, and the over-all success of the program, an outreach to pediatric palliative care nurses, oncology nurses, graduate nursing faculty, hospice, and long-term care facilities is underway. At this point, only one third of the nation's undergraduate nursing programs have attended an ELNEC course. Reaching the other two thirds of the undergraduate nursing schools, reinforcing and maintaining school's commitments to EOL care education are future goals of the ELNEC project. This is crucial in providing not only up-to-date EOL nursing education, but excellent care to patients and their families experiencing end-of-life issues.

These ELNEC courses were funded by a major grant from The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and administered jointly by The City of Hope National Medical Center and The American Association of Colleges of Nursing. Since it was launched in February 2000, ELNEC has trained over 2,000 nurse educators, representing all 50 states. **Over the next few years, project leaders estimate that ELNEC-trained educators will touch the lives of 6 million patients and their families facing the end of life.**