

International Palliative Nursing Masterclass (12 hours)

January 20 – 22, 2025, online

BIOS OF SPEAKERS



Camelia Ancuta, APRN, MSPC

Camelia is a nurse and she has been working in HCS since 2004. She is licensed in nursing and graduated the master's program "Management and strategies in palliative care" at the Faculty of Medicine, Transylvania University in 2012. She is involved in palliative nursing education at basic, intermediate and specialized levels for health care providers in the country and the region. As a team member in the Education, National Strategy and Development Department she is working in developing palliative care at the national level. In parallel, Camelia is a PhD student at University of Transilvania from Braşov where she is associate lecturer.



Nancy A. Barsamian, DNP, MPH, RN

Nancy Barsamian is an assistant professor at the Chan Ting-Fen Graduate School of Nursing at the University of Massachusetts Chan School of Medicine, where she earned her Doctor of Nursing Practice. She holds a master's in public health from Boston University and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Ursuline College. With over ten years of experience in acute care nursing in neurosurgery and cardiology, Nancy has also worked with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services on nursing home quality and the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office on elder abuse and neglect. Her recent global health scholarly work focuses on palliative care for individuals with dementia in Armenia, where she has been involved since 1993 through USAID and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

In 2023, she organized a conference on Palliative Care for Persons Living with Dementia at the American University of Armenia, training over 160 healthcare professionals and now on faculty as an adjunct professor at the AUA. Nancy serves on the board of the Armenian American Medical Association and Alzheimer's Care Armenia. She resides in Massachusetts with her husband, Anthony, and has two adult children, Tamar and Raffi.



Mary V. Cabral, MSN, APRN- CNP, CWOCN-AP

Mary V. Cabral is a Family Nurse Practitioner working at the Miriam Hospital in Providence, Rhode Island where she spearheaded the creation of the Ostomy Center providing pre-operative education and counseling, post-operative intervention in assessment and treatment of wounds and ostomy care.

She graduated in 1972 with a Diploma in Nursing from Rhode Island Hospital. In 1978 she received her Baccalaureate degree in Nursing from Rhode Island College and earned her Master degree in Nursing in 2003 from the University of Rhode Island.

She is Board Certified as an advanced practice Wound Ostomy Continence Nurse (WOCN), by the Wound Ostomy Continence Nurses Certification Board serving on the Advanced Practice Certification Committee. She has been an active member of the Wound, Ostomy, Continence Nurses Society for the past 26 years as well as the New England Region WOCN and is a member of the Education Committee.

Mary has had a diverse career including specialty practice in the acute care, outpatient and home care settings as well as home palliative hospice intervention.

She resides with her husband in Bristol, Rhode Island, has 3 children and 6 granddaughters.



Roxana Cazan, APRN

is a home care nurse with 18 years of experience in the field of palliative care, working in Hospice Casa Sperantei. In 2018 she completed her initial training by graduating the Nursing Faculty of Transylvania University, Brasov.

She believes she is privileged for working in the field of palliative care, because she has the opportunity to do what she loves most in this world: to help and communicate with people.

„There is always something more that can be done" is her personal motto and she uses any means to make this statement a reality. She likes older people, she likes listening to them and make them feel as important and valuable as anyone else. God is the one who gives her strength every day, and classical music soothes her soul.



Cristina E. Darabont, APRN, MSc

is the Patient Services Director of Hospice Casa Sperantei since 2013. Her main responsibility is organizing and coordinating the activity of palliative care services for adults and children in Brasov as well as in the Fagaras and Zarnesti area.

Since 1989 she is working as a nurse, first at the Cluj Napoca University Clinical Hospital, then at Brasov County Hospital, and in 2002 she started working at HOSPICE Casa Sperantei, as In-Patient Unit Manager.

In all this time, she managed to influence the lives of many patients through management, nursing and education activities, in parallel with acquiring skills in the care of stomized patients, training through master's studies in Management and Health Policies, obtaining the competence of clinical auditor, graduating the specialization program in palliative care and more recently, Last aid instructor.



Susan DeSanto-Madeya, PhD, APRN-CNS, RN, FAAN

Susan DeSanto-Madeya is the Miriam Weyker Endowed Chair for Palliative Care and an Associate Clinical Professor at the University of Rhode Island, College of Nursing. In her new role, she will lead the Interdisciplinary Palliative Care program URI, redesigning the curriculum, teaching core palliative courses, and expanding her program of research. In 2016, Dr. DeSanto-Madeya was selected as a Cambia Foundation Sojourns Palliative Care Scholar Leader, and in 2019, she became a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing.

As a nationally recognized Palliative Care leader, scholar, and advocate, Dr. DeSanto-Madeya has been influential in advancing palliative care education, science, and policy. She is passionate about optimizing the quality-of-life and care for persons, families, and communities living with serious illness. Dr. DeSanto-Madeya is committed to providing the next generation of healthcare professionals with the knowledge and skills needed to deliver high-quality, goal-concordant care. Her research interests and current work in palliative and end-of-life care have evolved from over 20 years of clinical experiences working with adult populations in a variety of settings from the intensive care unit to the community. Her work through direct patient/family care and research with varying populations has demonstrated that physical, psychological, social, and spiritual pain, distress, and suffering negatively influence patients' and family's quality of life and death.

As a palliative care leader, innovator and advocate, Dr. DeSanto-Madeya has led major palliative care initiatives at the local, state and national level. She is active member in the Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association (HPNA), Massachusetts Coalition for Serious Illness, and the International NeuroPalliative Care Society (INPCS). Dr. DeSanto-Madeya serves as a Board member for the Partners to Reduce Cancer Rhode Island and served on the Massachusetts Dept. of Public Health MOLST Taskforce. She is an ELNEC Train-the-trainer and has authored numerous papers and chapters related to palliative and end-of-life care, as well as presented nationally and internationally.

Dr. DeSanto-Madeya received her BSN from East Stroudsburg University, her MSN and PhD from Widener University.



Ginette G. Ferszt PhD, PMHCNS-BC, FAAN

Dr. Ginette G. Ferszt is a full professor at the College of Nursing, University of Rhode Island (URI). She had an integral role in the development of graduate and undergraduate courses in loss, grief and bereavement at URI. She has taught a wide range of courses in this specialty over the years including Loss Across the Lifespan, Responding to Grief and Difficult Conversations. In her past clinical work as a psychiatric clinical nurse specialist, Dr. Ferszt was part of a hospital-based Hospice Program in Philadelphia, a bereavement counselor, and a group facilitator for nurses and other health care professionals. Dr. Ferszt has been part of the cross-cultural educational initiative between Casa Sperantei in Brasov and the University of Rhode Island. She states that it has been a privilege to be part of this initiative which in its early days used teleconferencing as an educational approach. One of the most memorable experiences for Dr. Ferszt was her visit to Romania in 2011. The opportunity to make home visits with the Romanian Hospice Nurses was truly inspirational. Participating at the Second Romanian-American Symposium in Palliative Care, sponsored by Hospice Casa Sperantei in Brasov, Romania from June 16-18 in 2011 was indeed an honor. Dr. Ferszt embraces the opportunity to continue her collaboration with these amazing nurses and other health care providers to continue improving palliative care to people across the world.



Dr. Yelena Geiler

Yelena emigrated from Russia to the USA in 1997. She completed her initial undergraduate studies in biology and chemistry at the University of Massachusetts in Boston in 2000, followed by her master's degree in nursing at Regis College, in 2008. She practiced as a primary care nurse practitioner for 14 years before transitioning into community-based palliative care. Her role as an educator spans 15 years of precepting nurse practitioner students in a clinical setting, later teaching in the nurse practitioner residency program at Greater Lawrence Family Health Center where she co-lead a palliative care quality improvement project. She is known as a dynamic educator and has mentored many nurses throughout her career as an Associate Professor at Regis College. Pursuing her doctoral degree presented an opportunity to combine her advanced clinical skills with her expertise in research and biostatistics. In 2022, she completed the Doctorate of Nursing Practice program at Regis, focusing on primary palliative care. Dr. Geiler completed multiple certified programs, including being a facilitator and instructor for *Respecting Choices*[®] and ELNEC[®] Train the Trainer programs. Dr. Geiler serves as both an Education Specialist and Palliative Care Nurse Practitioner at the Hebrew SeniorLife in Boston, MA and an Associate Professor of Graduate Nursing Studies at Regis College. She serves as the educator for advanced evidence-based research and is the chair of scholarly practice projects at the college. Her interests and research have focused on culturally based serious illness communication and advance care planning for patients and families. She is a co-investigator and the lead educator in ongoing evidence-based research aimed to educate and impact nurses who provide comfort focused care for patients and families at Hebrew SeniorLife. During her career, Dr. Geiler has published and presented poster and podium presentations on palliative care nursing.



Diane Gerzevitz RN. MSN. FNP.

Faculty Emeritus University Of Rhode Island, Board member Hospices of Hope USA

I have been involved with the Hospices of Hope in Romania since 2003 when I was invited to join the Board and take an Insight Tour to see the work of the organization firsthand. That first experience clarified in my mind's eye as to the type of contribution I might be able to make to the Hospices. As a longtime educator with a specialty in Palliative Care it seemed fitting that I could contribute by facilitating educational experiences for Nurses at Casa Sperantei in Brasov and nursing students both in Romania and here at the University of Rhode Island. Through onsite symposia, accompanying nurses on home visits, teleconferencing and facilitating further education via linkages with ELNEC (End of Life Nursing Education Consortium) and Sigma Theta Tau Nursing Honor Society many nurses have completed advanced education and are known as the experts in End of Life and Palliative Care in Eastern Europe and have been invited presenters and received honors at prestigious conferences. Educational competencies are essential. The Hospice Casa Sperantei nurses and other health care workers in Brasov demonstrate a deep desire to learn and grow in Palliative Care and relieve the multidimensional sufferings of their patients. I am privileged to be part of this dedicated team of colleagues.

Irena Laska, RN, MSC

Irena Laska is a Palliative Care expert. She is the Executive Director of "Mary Potter" Palliative Care Center since 2004, leading an interdisciplinary team of medical doctors, nurses, social worker, financial officer etc. Mrs. Laska is the country leader for PC. National trainer and advocator. Lecture of PC in the bachelor and master degree.

Leader of the group of lectures who teach palliative care in all Nursing faculties in the country. Responsible for PC curriculum and their continuously update.

Member of National Working group for Palliative Care; in preparing the law of PC and developing it further. Really involved in bringing change in the health institutions and integrate PC within public health care. Leader of a training group for the development and reorganization of Primary HealthCare in Albania, focusing on home-based care, since 2020.

She has been evaluated with several national and international awards for her role in the development of PC in Albania.





Mary Lynn McPherson, PharmD, PhD, BCPS

Mary Lynn McPherson is Professor and Executive Director, Advanced Post-Graduate Education in Palliative Care in the Department of Practice, Sciences, and Health Outcomes Research at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy in Baltimore.

Dr. McPherson has maintained a practice in both hospice and palliative care, as well as ambulatory care throughout career. Dr. McPherson has several master's degrees in education, and a PhD in Health Professions Education. She teaches extensively in the Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) program on the topics of pain management and end-of-life care, including didactic and experiential content. She also developed one of the first palliative care pharmacy residency programs in the United States. Dr. McPherson is the Executive Director of Graduate Studies in Palliative Care at the University of Maryland, Baltimore, including a PhD program, Master of Science, and several Graduate Certificates. Dr. McPherson serves on the Board of the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine. She has received many honors for her work, including the American Pharmacists Association Distinguished Achievement Award in Specialized Practice, the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine Distinguished Hospice Interdisciplinary Team Member Award Maryland Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists W. Purdum Lifetime Achievement Award, and the Robert K. Chalmers Distinguished Pharmacy Educator Award from the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy. She has written five books, including the best-selling *Demystifying Opioid Conversion Calculations, A Guide to Effective Dosing, 2nd ed.*



Nicoleta Mitrea, APRN, MSc, PhD, FAAN

is actively involved in organizing, supervising and teaching the subjects in Palliative Care (PC) at all three levels of education for nurses: undergraduate, advanced and specialized. She started her nursing career at a very young age in the pediatric hospital. December 1998 marked her beginning of an unexpected career in Palliative Nursing, when she joined the Hospice "Casa Sperantei" (HCS) as a home care nurse. Her knowledge, abilities and revolutionary style has been increasingly polished and appreciated. Currently Nicoleta leads the education and clinical practice of PC nurses in HCS, other PC services around the country and in several Eastern European countries and is coordinating the national specialization program in PC for nurses. Nicoleta had graduated the Master Program in PC in 2012 and the Medical Doctoral Studies in November 2017. Since 2020 she is a senior lecturer at the University of Transylvania from Brasov, Faculty of Medicine – Nursing division. She never stopped caring for patients and is currently performing her clinical duties in the HCS lymphedema ambulatory service. Since 2016, she is running in marathons to fund raise for free of charge care delivered by HCS to patients (children and adults) and their families.



Liliana Rogozea, MD, PhD

is a professor at Transilvania University of Brasov and senior specialist in Public Health; The PhD was conduct in Pharmacognosy. Her teaching and research fields are: counselling in ethics, health promotion, and human behaviour. She has expertise in curriculum development, design of research methods in international project activities (e.g. Tempus, Leonardo da Vinci, ERASMUS +, MATRA and trainer for registered nurse). She is author and co-author of 29 books, including two chapters published in foreign publication; she communicate more than 260 article and published more than 200 article, 110 are indexed in Web of science. She has several publications abroad as well. She is a member of international Society of Biometrics, International Society of Clinical Biostatistics, and member of Association of International Society of History of medicine, member of Association of Nursing University College and vice-president of National Society of History of Medicine. She is editor coordinator of 1 medical journal (Jurnal Medical Braşovean), member in editorial board of another 3 (American Journal of Therapeutics, International Journal of Advanced Robotic Systems. She is vice-rector for public relation and expert member in medical board of Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education in Romania.



Andreas - Henri Mullalli, APRN, MSc,

Andreas - Henri Mullalli is a Specialist Clinical Nurse and facilitator on Department of Research & Continuing Education at Palliative Care Unit of «Galilee». Following his studies of Nursing at the National Kapodistrian University of Athens, he obtained a postgraduate diploma in “Clinical nursing” with the direction of “Critical Care Nursing.” He worked for 3 years as a Head Nurse in the Home Care for Elderlies St. Therapondas (Archdiocese of Athens) after he had been volunteering at the same place. In August 2014, he embarked on his journey in the field of palliative care, taking his first steps at the 'Galilee' Palliative Care Center. He attended further training seminars on Palliative Care at the “Galilee” Palliative Care Center, the “Residential training course of Transformational Leadership Programme, Brasov, Romania” (2015-2016), the ELNEC (End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium) train the trainers program in 2022, and also the “Introducing palliative care clinicians to critical reading and academic writing” – RESPACC program (Bucharest 2022). In 2016 he assumed the position of Infection Control Nurse and in 2019 he assumed the position of Head of Nurse at Home Care Service in Galilee. From 2021 he facilitates the Department of Research & Continuing Education in Galilee. He has organized educational seminars and presented at in-service education Program of Galilee and in Palliative Care courses. During his career he has presented oral presentations, posters and publication concerning Palliative Care at various scientific conferences.



Elisabeth Patiraki, RN, PhD

Elisabeth Patiraki is Professor of Nursing Care Delivery Systems-Palliative Care, Nursing Department, School of Health Sciences, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens -NKUA. Previously she worked at St Savvas Cancer Hospital for 17 years. Since 2009 she has been offering volunteer work at “GALILEE” palliative Care unit for adults of Holy Metropolis Mesogea and Laureotiki, as a member of the Steering Committee and director of research and continuing education department. Her clinical expertise, teaching and research has focused in caring, pain management, supportive and palliative care. Dr Elisabeth Patiraki has been the Director of Developing and Improvement of Nursing Care Delivery Systems laboratory of Nursing School, NKUA for the last eight years and has been leading a MSc program in Specialized Palliative Care and Advanced Nursing Oncology since 2003. She was also co-leading a MSc program in Management of Supportive and Palliative care of chronically ill patients organized from Medical school in collaboration with Nursing school of NKUA (2010-2021). She has supervised 110 MSc and 10 PhD theses, and has over 150 publications in peer-reviewed journals and texts. She has translated and edited five books in Greek, including Palliative Nursing (2019). She has been a principal or coinvestigator in many funded research projects related to supportive and palliative care mainly in cancer centers. She worked for the Palliative care feasibility study in Greece and served as a board member at nursing, cancer care and palliative care Hellenic and European societies. Recently she is leading the nursing specialty in palliative and supportive nursing care. In 2019, Dr. Patiraki received the Oncology Nursing Society Lifetime Achievement Award.



Julie V. Steller, DNP, FNPC, CHPN

Dr. Steller is a well- respected leader in palliative care and the development of innovative education programs globally. She has made significant, sustained, and outstanding contributions to health care and nursing education nationally and internationally. As an educator, she has influenced the development of thousands of US-based FNPs and hundreds of nurses in Israel, Romania, Turkey, Iraq, and Iran. She led the development of interdisciplinary palliative care programs for MGB community hospitals, established international collaborative research partnerships with five partners, and an international advanced end of life course associated with the nationally recognized End of Life Nursing Education Collaborative (ELNEC). Dr. Steller organized international independent study options for students and coordinated annual palliative care and hospice conferences. Her leadership was instrumental in facilitating the official recognition of the FNP role by the Israeli Ministry of Health. Today she continues to work at the intersection of research-teaching- and practice to impact global health care of citizens world-wide. Her most recent research aims to increase the comfort and competency for nurses who deliver end of life care for Russian patients in a LTC setting, where she is an active member of the Ethics Committee and Professional Development.

Dr. Steller’s research has been published in highly respected peer-reviewed journals such as: *The Journal of Hospice and Palliative Care Nursing*, *Nurse Education*, *The Journal of Nursing Scholarship*, *Clinical Journal of Oncology Nursing*, *Journal of Transcultural Nursing* and others. She has presented at national and international conferences including the Council for the Advancement of

Nursing Science, International Council of Nursing conferences in Singapore, Rotterdam, Barcelona and the Sigma Theta Tau Annual Conference in South Africa. She has held many board positions including the Global Nursing Caucus and the New England Alliance for Hospice of Hope, both of which she is a founding member.

Julie presented a poster entitled, "Telephonic Interviewing as a Method to Assess Interprofessional Education (IPE) in an International Model of Israeli Physicians and FNP Students" at the Eastern Nursing Research Society (ENRS) Annual Scientific Sessions. Included in the research was development of a tool that Julie and her Israeli colleagues established to conduct telephonic interviews with Israeli FNP preceptors who were piloting a program intending to introduce the role of the NP in the Israeli healthcare system. This work was presented at the International Council of Nursing Congress (ICN) this June in Singapore, representing continued research in Transcultural Interprofessional Education and International Collaboration on Interprofessional Transcultural Education.



Patricia White, PhD, ANP-BC, FAANP

Patricia White is a nurse practitioner and educator whose nursing career spans over 48 years. She has practiced as a nurse since 1975 and as a nurse practitioner since 1982 caring for adults of all ages in primary care, home based practice and for patients in long term care and rehabilitation settings. She has educated many nurse practitioners in her career with a 30 year career teaching at Simmons College where she directed the DNP program for four years and served as Co- coordinator of the Adult and Geriatric NP programs for 25 years.

She received her BS and MS degrees at Boston College and obtained a PhD in nursing from University of Rhode Island. Patricia is currently an Associate Professor at University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School, Tan Chingfen Graduate Nursing Department in Worcester, Massachusetts where she is a faculty member in the DNP program. She teaches in clinical courses as well as in the DNP project development courses, leadership and courses in the Post MS DNP program.

She has published and presented on many topics including clinical topics, ethics, best practices in teaching direct entry students, global health education and end of life issues affecting patients and families. In addition, she and her collaborator Dr. Wendy Wright have worked with NP and DNP students since 2013 implementing quality improvement and evaluation projects in two FNP owned family practices. This partnership has resulted in multiple peer reviewed presentations and publications describing the improved outcomes for patients with DM, Asthma, and Depression.

Her service contributions have included serving on the board of a NP owned free clinic in Maine, and over 30 years of teaching ethics and serving in the development and membership on ethics committees in two Elder Service programs in community health centers. Patricia currently serves on the Ethics Committee at Massachusetts General Hospital. She also consults and teaches for the New England Alliance of Hospices of Hope in collaboration with Casa Sperantei and the University of Transylvania in Brasov, Romania.

She was inducted as a FAANP in 2014 and was the recipient of the MCNP 2022 Lifetime Achievement Award. Her role as a longtime member of the MCNP and their PAC has enhanced the role of the nurse practitioner and the profession's efforts to provide access to high quality care. outcomes in a Nurse Practitioner owned practice and have published and presented the results of these efforts.

Currently, she serves on the Ethics committees at Harbor Health in Dorchester for their Elder Service Plan as well as at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. She serves in a number of professional organizations and looks forward to rejoining the palliative care collaborative with her colleagues in Romania.