



Surgeon General's Call to Action on Breastfeeding Honors Penn Professor Diane Spatz

On January 20, 2011 Diane Spatz, PhD, RNC, FAAN, joined Surgeon General Regina M. Benjamin and community representatives at George Washington University as they released The Surgeon General's Call to Action to Support Breastfeeding.

While 75 percent of U.S. babies start out breastfeeding, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says, only 13 percent are exclusively breastfed at the end of six months. The rates are particularly low among African-American infants.

"Many barriers exist for mothers who want to breastfeed," Dr. Benjamin said. "They shouldn't have to go it alone. Whether you're a clinician, a family member, a friend, or an employer, you can play an important part in helping mothers who want to breastfeed."

Many mothers who attempt to breastfeed say several factors impede their efforts, such as a lack of support at home; absence of family members who have experience with breastfeeding; a lack of breastfeeding information from healthcare clinicians; a lack of time and privacy to breastfeed or express milk at the workplace; and an inability to connect with other breastfeeding mothers in their communities.

Dr. Benjamin's "Call to Action" identifies ways that families, communities, employers and health care professionals can improve breastfeeding rates and increase support for breastfeeding, including community programs providing mother-to-mother support; more "baby-friendly" hospitals and health care models; proper clinician training; paid maternity leave and lactation support programs; and family involvement.

Breastfeeding, high risk pregnancy, and advanced practice nursing/models of care are areas of particular interest to Dr. Spatz. Her funded research has included studies such as Breastfeeding Services for LBW Infants-Outcomes and Cost (R01-NR-03881) (1995-2000) and Mom and Me Do BSE: Mothers and Daughters Together for Breast Health Promotion (1998-2002). One of Dr. Spatz's current projects is an NINR-funded (National Institute of Nursing Research) study in conjunction with Johns Hopkins University; Support for low income breast feeding; Costs and outcomes (R01-NR-007675-01A1) (2003-2007). She is also the Principal Investigator for a Foerderer Foundation-funded study; An innovative program for breastfeeding education and training. (2002-2005) Dr. Spatz is also a Principal Investigator for two studies entitled A Retrospective Review of Infants Readmitted with Early Breastfeeding Difficulties (2005-2006) and The Use of Human Milk and Outcomes of Infants with Congenital Surgical Anomalies (2006-2007).

She is the Course Director of Nursing-361: Case Study in Breastfeeding and Human Lactation. Dr. Spatz guest-lectures regarding breastfeeding, research utilization, mentorship and NSNA (National Student Nurses Association) in a variety of courses including N-50: Introduction to Nursing, N-51: Human Development, and N-371: Advanced Clinical Practice: Clinical. She is also the Associate Professor of Health Care of Women and Childbearing Nursing - Clinician Educator, and Helen M. Shearer Term Associate Professor of Nutrition.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/topics/breastfeeding/index.html>

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2011pres/01/20110120a.html> <http://www.nursing.upenn.edu/nursingnews/Pages/SpatzCalltoAction.aspx>

<http://www.aannet.org/i4a/headlines/headlinedetails.cfm?id=296>

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Penn nursing student and cancer survivor designs handbags for charity

Leukemia survivor Yali Derman was first diagnosed at the age of 4. Thanks to a bone marrow transplant from a sibling, she says she's now a healthy sophomore at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing. The month of isolation following the transplant "was probably the darkest hour," says Derman. Art was always part of Derman's battle against cancer. The nurses at Children's Memorial Hospital in Lincoln Park encouraged her to make up songs and to sing to them, to make them bracelets and, in general, "to keep creating and to keep living even when going through treatment," says Derman.

Derman began designing handbags at 16, when the Make-a-Wish Foundation partnered her with Kate Spade. Now at 20, she's still using her art to heal. Derman runs a program called Yali's Carry On With Creativity for children and adults, both sick and healthy. It signifies how cancer survivors carry on in the face of their medical baggage. Her latest line, "Yali's carry On for KIDSS", an alliance with Saks Fifth Avenue, the organization "KIDSS for kids" and the Yali's Carry On handbag collection, will be launched by Saks Fifth Avenue in March. They will also be carried by Saks in Chicago and Bala-Cynwood. All proceeds will benefit the construction of a creative arts playroom in the new Children's Memorial Hospital of Chicago.

To see the bags and find out more, please visit:

<http://www.yaliscarryon.com/>

<http://www.nursing.upenn.edu/nursingnews/Pages/YaliSaks.aspx>

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Penn Nursing honored for ongoing support of men in the nursing profession

Christopher Coleman, PhD, MS, MPH, APRN-BC, ACRN, FAAN, and David Allen, student president of the Male Association of Nursing of the University of Pennsylvania (known as "MAN-UP"), are recognized for their support of male nurses in Advance for Nurses. MAN-UP was formed in 2007 by students and faculty to help address issues related to men in the field and to men's health.

Dr. Coleman serves as faculty advisor to MAN-UP. He explains that, "Men are clearly still a minority in nursing; so what we see happening is similar to when ethnic minorities enter nursing or other groups where they had not been present in before, or at least not present in critical mass".

Dr. Coleman is the Fagin Term Associate Professor of Nursing and Multi-Cultural Diversity, Associate Professor of Nursing in Psychiatry, School of Medicine. Dr. Coleman is best known for

his research focusing on health compromising sexual behaviors with HIV seropositive African American men middle-aged and older who have sex with men exclusively, or with both men and women.

For more information, see: <http://bit.ly/hSDEGb>

Headshots available upon request.

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Penn Nursing Researcher Barbara Medoff-Cooper receives funding for infant mortality study

Barbara Medoff-Cooper, PhD, CRNP, FAAN, RN, has received the Investment for the Future Practice Research funding in 2010-11 for her pilot study entitled "Using Community Collaborative Methods to Decrease Inter-stage Mortality in Infants with Complex Congenital Heart Disease". Dr. Medoff-Cooper's study will develop aspects of a proposed intervention, Transitional Telehealth Home Care: REACH to conduct home monitoring that integrates: 1) an evidence-based Advanced Practice Nurses Transitional Care model, and 2) innovative use of technology. REACH partners with parents to individualize care and assist them in recognizing early changes in infant health status before an infant is in crisis and will address the mandate for coordinated care teams in the HR3590 of the Health Care Reform Bill.

Dr. Medoff-Cooper is the Ruth M. Colket Professor in Pediatric Nursing and director of the Center for Biobehavioral Research. She is internationally recognized for her research on infant development, feeding behaviors in high-risk infants, and infant temperament. She has been funded by the National Institute for Nursing Research, the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, the Bureau of Maternal and Child Health, and the Benjamin Franklin Partnership of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, as well as numerous professional organizations and foundations.

Headshots available upon request.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.nursing.upenn.edu/nursingnews/Pages/Medoff-CooperInfantMortality.aspx>

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Penn Nursing Professors Julie Fairman and Linda Aiken Published in December New England Journal of Medicine

Julie Fairman, PhD, RN, FAAN co-authored a perspective article - "Broadening the Scope of Nursing Practice" - asserting the case for standardized and expanded practice regulations for nurse practitioners across states to slow the growth of health care costs and improve value. In the same Dec. 15 issue, Linda Aiken, PhD, RN, FAAN, penned a perspective article - "Nurses for the Future" - which took on the patterns of nursing education and preparation, and its future impact on workforce shortages and patient-focused goals. Both articles addressed October's Institute of Medicine (IOM) Report, "The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health."

"Public funding for nursing education should be targeted to make it possible for students

entering any basic RN education program to graduate with a BSN," said Aiken. "Unless basic nursing education is at the BSN level, it will be mathematically impossible to have enough nurses with graduate degrees to solve the shortage of faculty and advanced practice nurses."

Dr. Fairman is a Professor of Nursing, and director of the Barbara Bates Center for the Study of the History of Nursing. Dr. Fairman is a nurse historian whose work on the history of 20th Century health care represents a track record of consistent funding, including fellowships from the NLM, NEH and RWJ. Her work on the history of critical care earned her awards from the American Association of the History of Nursing and her first book, *Critical Nursing: A History*, received favorable reviews in the national and regional popular press and from reviewers in professional journals.

Dr. Aiken is the Claire M. Fagin Leadership Professor in Nursing, Professor of Sociology, and director of the Center for Health Outcomes and Policy Research. Dr. Aiken is an authority on causes, consequences, and solutions for nurse shortages in the U.S. and internationally. She directs the Center for Health Outcomes and Policy Research, is The Claire M. Fagin Leadership Professor of Nursing, Professor of Sociology, and Senior Fellow of the Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics at the University of Pennsylvania.

Headshots available upon request.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.nursing.upenn.edu/sia/Pages/nursingeducation.aspx>

<http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp1011639>

<http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp1012121>

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Penn Nursing's LIFE Program featured by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Research supporting the success of the Penn Nursing LIFE- Living Independently for Elders- program is featured in the November 2010 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation publication. The article claims when nurses, physicians and other health professionals overcome professional barriers and work together, patients--and provider-benefit,.

The Living Independently For Elders (LIFE), is a Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) program owned and operated by the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing. It provides comprehensive, community-based health care 24 hours/day, 7 days/week to more than 420 frail elders in West Philadelphia, who would otherwise require institutionally based long-term care services. Funded as Medicare and Medicaid model, LIFE works in partnership with families and older adults to provide quality of care resulting in reduced hospitalizations, nursing home stays, and emergency department visits. LIFE/PACE is essentially a regulated provider program operated by independent entities to allocate government resources to Medicare/Medicaid beneficiaries. PACE Programs are distinctively different from Medicare Advantage programs in their full comprehensive acute and long term care community based services and adherence to quality and cost savings principles using health plan capitation and integrated care delivery model with interdisciplinary team.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.rwjf.org/pr/product.jsp?id=71488>

<http://www.nursing.upenn.edu/nursingnews/Pages/LIFErwjf.aspx>

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