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September 1, 2010

For Immediate Release

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Greetings!:

The University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing has exciting news, prestigious awards and ground breaking research developments happening every day. See what we've got going on now. Click on the headlines to be taken to the full story below:

- [Penn Nursing Professor Appointed to National Spot](#)
- [Penn Nursing Ranked "Best School for Men in Nursing"](#)
- [Dr. Aiken Makes List of 100 Most Powerful in Healthcare](#)
- [Dr. Bruner First Woman and First Nurse Principal](#)
- [Penn Nursing Student Recognized by CDC](#)
- [Dr. George Recognized by the Association of Asthma Educators](#)
- [Dr. Ulrich's Commentary Published in the American Journal of Bioethics](#)
- [Dr. Bradway's Research on Continence Care Featured on MedScape](#)

- [Dr. Teitelman Inducted into American Academy of Nurse Practitioners](#)

Health and Human Services Administration Appoints Penn Nursing Professor Director of the Division of Nursing

The federal Health and Human Services Administration has announced that Penn professor Julie Sochalski, a well-known expert in the field on healthcare workforce issues and who has directed multiple federal research efforts, has been appointed the Director for the Division of Nursing in the Bureau of Health Professions.

Dr. Sochalski, PhD, FAAN, RN, currently an Associate Professor at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, will be on leave for two years, announced Penn Nursing Dean Afaf I. Meleis, PhD, DrPS(hon), FAAN, FRCN.

"This is a very critical time for nursing as we implement healthcare reform and I cannot think of a more qualified person to lead the national agenda for nursing and improved quality of care," said Dr. Meleis, the Margaret Bond Simon Dean of Nursing at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing. "She will help to define the future of nursing."

"Extending affordable healthcare coverage under healthcare reform will require a fundamental shift in how we organize, deliver, and finance healthcare services," said Dr. Sochalski. "This critical nexus-getting from where we are to where we need to be-is where nurses are increasingly stepping up with evidence on how to better organize and deliver healthcare services."

As the Director of the Division of Nursing, Dr. Sochalski will serve as principal advisor to the Associate Administrator, BHP and to the Administrator, HRSA, on national policy for nursing research, practice, and education with the overall objective of improving the quality of healthcare and nursing service in the Nation.

Dr. Sochalski has directed a series of national and international studies funded by National Institutes of Health (NIH) and other private and government foundations focused on the variation in patient outcomes in both in-patient and out-inpatient settings and the factors associated with nursing care that help to explain that variation. She has been the principal investigator on two NIH-funded studies evaluating the impact of a nurse-managed comprehensive geriatric outpatient rehabilitation program on the outcomes of frail elders. These studies involved the creation and use of statistically-matched control groups from national longitudinal Medicare databases to assess program outcomes and systematically explored the role of race in the variation of outcomes.

She is a national expert on the healthcare workforce and has served as a Senior Scholar with the Bureau of Health Professions at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, advising on research and policy issues regarding the nursing and medical workforce, particularly on the current national nursing shortage. She has published in interdisciplinary health policy and health services research journals on the conceptual and empirical foundations for the relationship between the structure and the quality of care and patient outcomes, and on domestic and international trends in the healthcare workforce and their implications for public policy.

Dr. Sochalski received her MS and PhD degrees from the University of Michigan, focusing on Health Economics, Public Policy and Public Health nursing. Headshots available upon request.

[Back to top](#)

Penn Nursing Ranked "Best School for Men in Nursing"

Penn Nursing was awarded the prestigious "Best School for Men in Nursing" award for 2010 by the American Assembly for Men in Nursing (AAMN).

The award recognizes a nursing school or college that has provided significant efforts in recruiting and retaining men in nursing, in providing men a supportive educational environment, and in educating faculty, students and the community about the contributions men have and do make to the nursing profession.

"Your application showed a proven record of diversity in the workforce and a superior dedication to men in nursing," said Ryan Lewis, a member of the AAMN board of directors.

Awards are offered annually and are presented at the Luther Christman Awards Dinner each year at the annual conference. The 35th Annual AAMN Conference will be held September 23-25, 2010 in Durham, North Carolina. The University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing previously held the award in 2006.

[Back to top](#)

Penn Nursing's Linda Aiken Makes List of 100 most powerful in healthcare, along with President Obama and Schwarzenegger

Penn Nursing's Dr. Linda Aiken, along with President Barack Obama and Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, made Modern Healthcare's 2010 list of the 100 Most Powerful People in Healthcare.

Aiken checks in at number 68, while President Obama topped the list, and Pelosi came in third. The outgoing governor of California, Arnold Schwarzenegger, was ranked 16th. Aiken, PhD, RN, director of the Center for Health Outcomes and Policy Research at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, has been recognized in several other publications noting Modern Healthcare's Top 100, including the American Nurses Association, Research!America and Medical News Today.

<http://www.nursing.upenn.edu/sia/Documents/8.23%20%20Aiken%20ranked%20in%20100%20most%20influential.pdf>

- <http://www.researchamerica.org/app/webroot/blog/?tag=linda-aiken>

- <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/198727.php>

Headshots available upon request.

[Back to top](#)

Dr. Deborah Watkins Bruner is First Woman and First Nurse Principal Investigator of a National Cancer Clinical Trials Cooperative Group

Dr. Deborah Watkins Bruner has been awarded a U10 grant from the National Cancer

Institute (NCI) as Principal Investigator (PI) of the Radiation Therapy Oncology Group (RTOG) Community Clinical Oncology Program (CCOP).

Dr. Bruner, the Independence Professor of Nursing Education at the University of Pennsylvania and co-program leader of the Cancer Control Program at the Abramson Cancer Center, is the first woman and first nurse to be awarded PI of a NCI sponsored cancer clinical trials cooperative group.

The RTOG CCOP is the only CCOP research base focused solely on providing radiation (RT) and combination therapy-related symptom amelioration trials, and state-of-the-art RT treatment trials to the CCOP community, accruing close to 2000 patients over the last five years.

The RTOG CCOP research base is affiliated with 34 CCOP members including three minority-based CCOPs and has over 240 affiliate members, of which approximately 75 percent are community-based facilities.

Dr. Bruner, RN, PhD, FAAN, has worked for almost two decades with the RTOG and has been PI or Co-PI of 10 clinical trials. Dr. Bruner serves on the NCI Clinical Trials Advisory Committee (CTAC) which helps the NCI Director set the NCI clinical trials research agenda. Further, she is co-chair of the NCI Symptom Management and Health Related Quality of Life (QoL) Steering Committee which has the purpose of reviewing and prioritizing NCI-funded symptom management and QoL research and helping direct the future of these areas of science.

Dr. Bruner's research has focused on QoL, patient reported-outcomes (PROs) and symptom management across cancer sites with a focus on pelvic tumors, as well as decision-making, preferences and utilities for cancer therapies. Dr. Bruner is also internationally recognized for her research in sexuality after cancer therapy. In the area of recruitment and health disparities, Dr. Bruner has applied a novel scientific methodology in social marketing to cancer research, and is leading a unique program to study the behavioral aspects of human subjects' recruitment to research trials.

Headshots available upon request.

[Back to top](#)

Penn Nursing Student Recognized in Newsletter of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Program

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Academic Centers of Excellence on Youth Violence Prevention (ACEs) newsletter, features Penn Nursing doctoral student Catherine McDonald and her mentor, University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing Professor, Dr. Therese Richmond.

McDonald won second prize in the student poster competition at the University of Pennsylvania Injury Science Day for her work examining the role of family in youth violence prevention, a role she participated in as a member of the Philadelphia Collaborative Violence Prevention Center (PCVPC).

Dr. Richmond, a PCVPC co-director received the Andrea B. Laport Endowed Term Associate Professor Chair at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing. This position recognizes excellence in and provides support for faculty research.

Headshots available upon request.

[Back to top](#)

Dr. Maureen George Recognized by the Association of Asthma Educators

Dr. Maureen George was awarded the Outstanding Member Award by the Association of Asthma Educators for her longstanding dedication and contributions to the organization. Dr. George is one of the founding members of the organization and has served as president, as well as editor of its newsletter for more than 10 years.

"It is just this type of national service that brings such distinction to our profession and to our School," said Dr. Afaf Meleis, Dean of the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing.

Read more about her work: <http://www.nursing.upenn.edu/sia/Pages/GeorgeAsthma.aspx>

Headshots available upon request.

[Back to top](#)

Dr. Ulrich's Commentary Published in American Journal of Bioethics

Connie M. Ulrich's commentary "Nurse Practitioners: What Does the Public Need to Know?" was a featured article in the August edition of The American Journal of Bioethics.

Connie Ulrich, PhD, RN, FAAN, is an Associate Professor of Bioethics and Nursing at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, and is a senior fellow with the Center for Bioethics and the Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics.

Read full article:

<http://www.nursing.upenn.edu/nursingnews/Documents/8.17%20Bioethics%20Ulrich.pdf>

Headshots available upon request.

[Back to top](#)

Dr. Bradway's Research on Continence Care Featured on MedScape

Dr. Christine Bradway's extensive research on continence care for obese nursing home residents is featured as the first choice on the most recent Medscape Today, from WebMD.

Findings from her latest study, published first in Urologic Nursing, aimed to describe demographic characteristics and co-morbid conditions of obese nursing home residents, current nursing care practices related to continence care in obese nursing home residents, licensed and unlicensed nursing caregivers' reports of continence care issues they experience with obese nursing home residents, and continence care issues reported by obese nursing home residents.

Dr. Bradway PhD, CRNP is the Assistant Professor of Gerontological Nursing, Clinical Educator and Program Director of the Gerontology Nurse Practitioner Program.

For more information, see:

<https://share.nursing.upenn.edu/sites/communications/Lists/MediaLog/Attachments/2517/5.18.10%20medscape%20bradway.pdf>

Headshots available upon request

[Back to top](#)

Dr. Teitelman Inducted into American Academy of Nurse Practitioners

Dr. Anne Teitelman was inducted as a Fellow in the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners at their 25th conference in June. This honor recognizes nurse practitioner leaders for their outstanding contributions to healthcare through clinical practice, research, education or policy. Dr. Teitelman was recognized for her expertise in primary healthcare with underserved populations.

"Thank you Anne, for your many contributions to nursing and to our School," said Dr. Afaf Meleis, Dean of the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, in a note to faculty.

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[Back to top](#)

-30-

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