

Our society is aging rapidly, with the total number of people aged 65 and over expected to reach 20 percent of the population by 2030. Already, older adults constitute more than half of the patients in the health care system, and **virtually all nurses care for older adults in their subspecialties**. It is imperative that nurses have the competence to deliver care to older adults.

The **REASN** program, an initiative of the Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing, is a collaborative effort with 14 hospital-based specialty nursing associations, representing more than 200,000 nurses, to put the most up-to-date, evidence-based information on care of older adults directly into the hands of specialty nurses. Through these intensive collaborations, the Hartford Institute is working with associations to create geriatric educational products and resources that ensure the geriatric competencies of their members.

“**REASN** is helping specialty nursing associations to move to a higher level of engagement in geriatric care. They are helping their members prepare for the future.”

– Mathy Mezey, EdD, RN,  
FAAN, director, Hartford  
Institute for Geriatric Nursing



## The Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing Web sites, Programs and Resources

**www.ConsultGeriRN.org** – ConsultGeriRN.org is the Hartford Institute’s clinical nursing Web site with evidence-based geriatric content and resources developed by national nursing experts who care for older adults. Resources include the Hartford Institute’s TRY THIS.<sup>®</sup> Best Practices in Nursing Care to Older Adults series of assessment tools, a gerontological certification review course, continuing education opportunities, advanced practice Web-based case studies, and specialty practice content.

**www.HartfordIGN.org** – This Web site contains resources and links to all the products and resources developed by the Hartford Institute in the areas of education, practice, research, and policy. You will find links to National Geriatric Nursing Hospital Competencies, position papers and briefs, the Hartford Institute’s Geriatric Nursing Forum, geriatric nursing resource links, geriatric photos and much more.

**www.NICHEProgram.org** – NICHE is a national leader in improving geriatric care in hospitals. Currently, over 280 hospitals have adopted NICHE programs. They share a common vision of providing exemplary care to older adults through implementing NICHE’s systemic approach to creating organizational change across disciplines. NICHE sites report improved patient outcomes, greater patient and nurse satisfaction, increased efficiency and marketability. Sites have exclusive access to several tools and resources and participate in a community of learning where peers share knowledge and expertise.

For more information about the REASN program, the Hartford Institute Web sites, programs and resources, please contact us at [contact@hartfordign.org](mailto:contact@hartfordign.org).

2010

# The best **REASN** to improve care for older adults



**Resourcefully  
Enhancing  
Aging in  
Specialty  
Nursing**

# What is REASN?

REASN is a four-year initiative, funded by The Atlantic Philanthropies (USA) Inc., to deepen the involvement of specialty nursing associations in improving nursing competencies among their members who care for older adults. Through their collaboration with REASN, specialty associations:

- ▶ Create advanced geriatric educational products and resources that are specific to their specialty
- ▶ Create sustainable infrastructures for geriatric initiatives, such as geriatric special interest groups within the association
- ▶ Enhance their Web sites to offer geriatric content and available resources specific to their specialty



## Specialty Nursing Organizations: Deepening Their Commitment to Geriatric Care

Currently, 14 organizations, representing 200,000 members of nursing specialties, are engaged in exciting projects to enhance their members' awareness of evidence-based best practices in care of older adults. These organizations are producing materials that can be accessed by other organizations. Following are highlights of these projects:

**American Academy of Nursing (AAN)/ Expert Panel on Acute and Critical Care/ American Association of Critical Care Nurses (AACN)** Collaborating to develop Web-based continuing-education modules and promoting a culture of caring for older adults within the organizations.

**American Organization of Nurse Executives (AONE)** Expanding the guiding principles for the Elder-Friendly Hospital/ Facility and developing a complementary set of guiding principles specific to the role of the nurse leader in providing the elder-friendly hospital environment.

**American Society for Pain Management Nursing (ASPMN)** Developing a model to prepare hospital nurses as Geriatric Pain Management Resource Nurses (GPMRNs); incorporating geriatric content into the ASPMN certification curriculum; creating an issue for the Hartford Institute "TRY THIS:®" Assessment tool series on assessing nociceptive vs. neuropathic pain.

**American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses (ASPAN)** Developing Web modules with geriatric competency-based learning specific to the older perianesthesia patient.

**Association of Perioperative Registered Nurses (AORN)** Developed an online confidence-based course titled, "Perioperative Care of the Older Adult," developing an online module addressing care of the older adult related to specific procedures; increasing articles on the needs of older adults in AORN publications; fostering discussions on the AORN Web site on older adult perioperative issues.

**Emergency Nurses Association (ENA)** Developing universal recommended guidelines for safer transfer of older adults between long-term care (LTC) facilities and emergency departments.

**Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association (HPNA)** Developing a geriatric Web course, *Dementia Care: Understanding the Diagnosis, Embracing the Diversity, and Upholding the Dignity at the End of Life*, and offering continuing education contact hours upon completion of the course.

**Infusion Nurses Society (INS)** Developing a Webinar for INS members and non-members focusing on basic principles of infusion therapy with the geriatric patient, providing continuing education for the Webinar which will be archived on the INS Web site.

**National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists (NACNS)** Developing Web-based, CNS-specific case studies to increase geriatric nurse competence among CNSs.

**National Nursing Staff Development Organization (NNSDO)** Customizing a "How To" module for staff-development educators to infuse care of older adults into practice settings, offering a preconference workshop titled *Leading, Developing, and Coaching for Excellence in the Care of the Older Adult* at the 2010 NNSDO convention and revitalizing the NNSDO Geriatric Special Interest Group.

**Oncology Nurses Society (ONS)** Creating an organization-wide dedication to the special needs of older adults with cancer, including a geriatric task force charged with developing a plan to reach members with educational resources.

**Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association (PCNA)** Creating online professional clinical tools and developing two "TRY THIS:®" assessment tool issues; including geriatric content in the National Symposium and regional chapter programs; and continually infusing geriatric content in educational publications.



### Global Vision Statement

National nursing organizations, including specialty associations and members of the Coalition of Geriatric Nursing Organizations are widely endorsing the Specialty Nursing Association Global Vision Statement on Care of Older Adults\*, affirming that:

- ▶ Older adults receive care sensitive to the physiological, functional, and psychological needs that set them apart from younger adults;

\* To view the Global Vision Statement and for an up-to-date listing of endorsing organizations, visit [www.ConsultGeriRN.org/gvs](http://www.ConsultGeriRN.org/gvs)

- ▶ All nurses appreciate the wide spectrum of health of people age 65 and over, and are responsive to the needs of "healthy" and "frail" older adults, taking into account cultural diversity;
- ▶ All nurses are familiar with the evidence-based body of knowledge about care of older adults;
- ▶ All pre-licensure and post-licensure nursing education programs incorporate competencies related to care of older adults;
- ▶ Care of older adults be an essential element of hospital staff development education;
- ▶ Hospitals, home care, and institutional long-term care settings establish systems that support best practices in care of older adults;
- ▶ Care of older adults be seen as a responsibility of all nurses crossing all specialties;
- ▶ Practicing nurses look to specialty nursing associations as resources for evidence-based clinical-care information related to care of older adults.