

# COVID-19

## Weekly Digest



April 10, 2020

### Academy Actions

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*As we all face uncertainty and difficult times, be encouraged that you do make a difference with every act of kindness, compassion, and expression of hope. Thank you for all that you are doing to take care of your own safety and wellness as you care for others.*

President-Elect Kenneth R. White

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Academy President **Eileen Sullivan-Marx**, PhD, RN, FAAN, provided the opening **keynote for the Eastern Nursing Research Society (ENRS) Conference** on March 26th. She discussed the Academy's priorities and response to the pandemic as well as the importance of owning your influence. [Watch her full remarks.](#)



The Academy shared a [press release](#) on April 9th highlighting a white paper published by the Academy and the [American Red Cross](#) titled "**Closing the Gaps: Disaster Preparedness, Response, and Recovery for Older Adults**." This timely study found that while disaster preparedness is vital for people of all ages, older adults are more vulnerable and experience more casualties after a natural disaster or emergency due to several factors. Past-Chair of the Aging Expert Panel, **Wanda Spurlock**, DNS, RN-BC, CNE, FNGNA, ANEF, FAAN, served as co-chair for the project.

### Connect Fellow to Fellow - Academy Launches a COVID-19 Discussion Forum

The Academy recognizes the importance of Fellows being able to connect, collaborate, and share ideas. Many of you are doing this with your own colleagues, within your Expert Panels, or through direct Fellow to Fellow connections. In order to help facilitate the conversation around the pandemic, we have created a private [COVID-19 Discussion](#) forum within the Academy's website. This is an opportunity for you to share your stories, photos, videos,

resources, and other pertinent information with each other and the Academy staff.

On behalf of the Academy, we want to express our sincerest thanks for all that you are doing to deliver care to patients in need, offer support to families, educate the public, and provide leadership within your communities as the coronavirus pandemic continues to impact all aspects of everyday life.

*Please contact [Austin Hunte](#) with questions or if you need help accessing the site.*

## From the Front Lines



**Christopher R. Friese**, PhD, RN, AOCN(R), FAAN, Elizabeth Tone Hosmer Professor of Nursing, Health Management and Policy at the University of Michigan, and staff nurse at the University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center, recently [shared his perspective](#) on the danger nurses at the bedside face working with vulnerable populations, such as oncology patients, during the COVID-19 pandemic. Not only do health care providers need to ensure the safety of their patients, they also need to protect themselves. “As a cancer nurse, I have decided to risk my personal health to care for my patients. Yet I am terrified that I could unwittingly transmit this stealthy disease to one of them,” said Dr. Friese. “For Fiscal Year 2020, the NIH budget exceeds [\\$40 billion](#). In contrast, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), the nation’s agency that solely studies worker protection received [\\$342 million](#),

with a fraction of that focused on health care.” Despite these ongoing barriers, Dr. Friese shared with the Academy, “I am honored to work alongside skilled and dedicated nursing colleagues during this pandemic. Patients with cancer still require care during these challenging times and our team has stepped up to meet the challenge. Our clinical colleagues are working under great uncertainty. As nursing leaders, I encourage Academy Fellows to apply their knowledge and skills in their local health systems or health departments.” Today at 1:30 PM Dr. Friese and **Diana Mason**, PhD, RN, FAAN were featured speakers for GW Nursing’s Center for Health Policy and Media Management webinar: [Masks and PPE: COVID-19 and the Next Pandemic](#).

*(Photo: Dr. Friese during a recent shift at the University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center)*

## News & Updates from National Organizations

The **World Health Organization's (WHO)** published “[The State of the World's Nursing 2020](#)” report and shared a [press release detailing their recommendations](#) on how to increase the nursing workforce. This report was released on [#WorldHealthDay](#). The Academy supports the WHO recommendations for strengthening the future of the profession, especially those relating to promoting nurse leadership in practice and in health policy.



The **WHO Health Financing Team** also released an article: "Priorities for the Health Financing Response to COVID-19."

**Movement is Life** released a podcast, "*COVID-19 Pandemic: Are Disadvantaged Communities at Higher Risk?*" featuring **National Black Nurses Association** Executive Director and Academy Honorary Fellow, **Millicent Gorham**.

The **Emergency Nurses Association (ENA)** records [short audio bytes](#) for emergency nurses to educate them about topics related to COVID-19. Listen to the most recent recording

about [Nurse Wellness](#). For more resources such as visual abstracts and webinars, visit ENA's [COVID-19 page](#).

**American Nurses Association (ANA)** released the document titled *Nurses, Ethics, and the Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic*.

COVID-19 Conversations with **NAM and the American Public Health Association: Emerging Evidence on COVID-19 Spread and Treatment**: listen to the [recorded presentation](#). For more information, please visit the [NAM website](#).

- **NAM Transportation Research Board (TRB)** released a Webinar: [The Supply Chain and COVID-19](#).
- **NAM** published [Strategies to Support the Health and Well-Being of Clinicians During the COVID-19 Outbreak](#).



The **Philanthropy Roundtable** released a webinar: [COVID Legislation and Relief Options for Grantees](#). For more information, please visit their [website](#).

The **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF)** provided [\\$50 million in immediate short-term relief](#) to several national and community organizations such as Feeding America and Meals on Wheels.

The **American Public Health Association** launched its annual [National Public Health Week](#) to thank and recognize public health professionals.

**UnitedHealth Group** announced it will accelerate payments and other financial support to health care providers in the US to help address the financial pressure caused by COVID-19.

## Federal Government Response

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA)**

- Register for a *Guidance for Certifying Deaths Due to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)* webinar on April 16th.

## **Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Activity**

- CMS [issues](#) new Infection Control Guidance based on CDC Guidelines to Protect Patients and Healthcare Workers from COVID-19. The guidance helps ensure infection control in the context of patient triage, screening and treatment, the use of alternate testing and treatment sites and telehealth, drive-through screenings, limiting visitations, cleaning and disinfection guidelines, staffing, and more.
- CMS [approved](#) approximately \$51 Billion for Providers with the Accelerated/Advance Payment Program for Medicare Providers to ensure providers and suppliers have the resources needed to combat the pandemic. The streamlined process has reduced processing times for a request of an accelerated or advance payment to between four to six days. Access the Accelerated/Advance Payment Program [Fact Sheet](#).
- CMS [sent a letter](#) to clinicians that outlines a summary of actions CMS has taken to ensure clinicians have maximum flexibility to reduce unnecessary barriers to providing patient care during the unprecedented outbreak of COVID-19 including information about telehealth and virtual visits, accelerated and advanced payments, and recent waiver information.
- CMS [released](#) updated recommendations to postpone non-essential surgeries and other procedures to conserve critical healthcare resources and limit exposure of patients and staff to COVID-19.
- CMS [recorded a video](#) providing answers to common questions about the Medicare telehealth services benefit.
- CMS [released guidance](#) on allowing Medicare-enrolled ASCs to temporarily enroll as hospitals and to provide hospital services to help address the urgent need to increase hospital capacity to take care of patients. This guidance is part of the [COVID-19 Emergency Declaration Blanket Waivers for Health Care Providers](#).
- CMS [issued recommendations](#) to Nursing Homes and State & Local Governments to help mitigate the spread of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) in nursing homes. Take a look at the [additional guidance](#).
- CMS [continues to hold calls](#) with clinicians, hospitals, other facilities, and states in an effort to keep stakeholders updated on COVID-19 efforts. Find [more general information](#) on COVID-19.

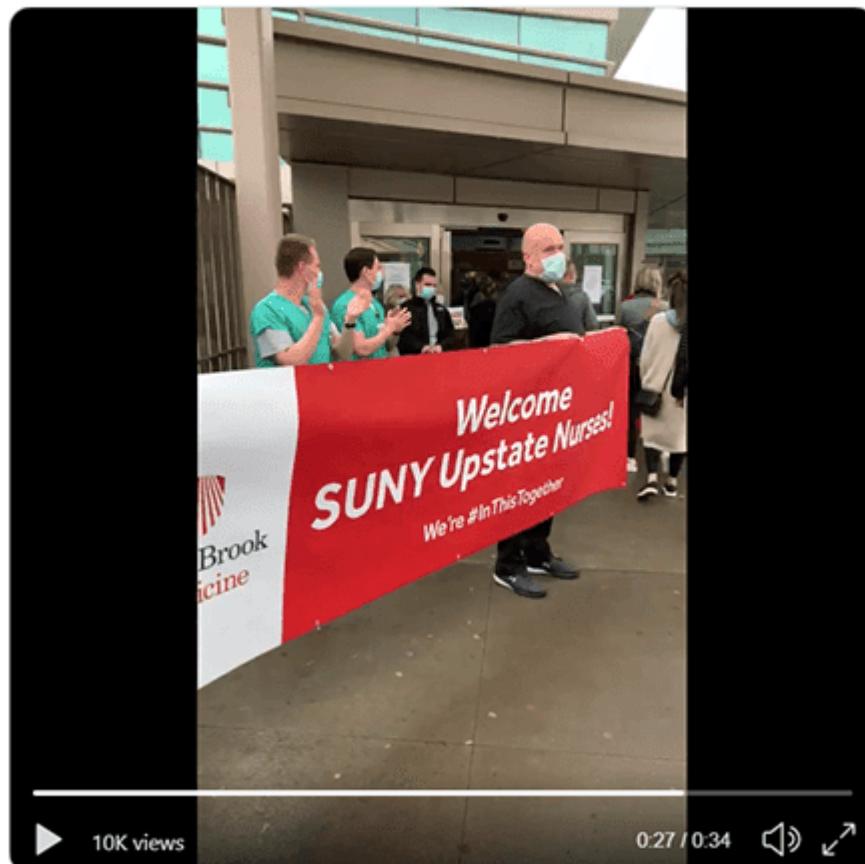
## **Office of Science Policy and Communication, National Institute on Drug Abuse/National Institute of Health (NIDA/NIH)**

- NIDA Director, Dr. Nora Volkow published two articles “[Collision of the COVID-19 and Addiction Epidemics](#)” and “[Stigma and the Toll of Addiction](#)” in the *Annals of Internal Medicine* and *The New England Journal of Medicine* respectively. NIH Leadership has established a [COVID-19 Scientific Interest Group](#). For more information, visit the [COVID-19 resource page](#).



Stony Brook Medicine  
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Heroes greeting heroes! #InThisTogether ❤️  
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(Source: Stony Brook Medicine on Twitter)

## COVID-19 Resources

## Policy News

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