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American Academy of Nursing Designates Leslie Chang Evertson, Mihae Kim, Michelle Panlilio, and Kelsey Stander as American Academy of Nursing Edge Runners for UCLA Alzheimer's and Dementia Care (ADC) Program

Nurse Practitioners Provide Essential Care to Alzheimer and Dementia Patients and Their Family Caregivers to Lessen Physical, Emotional, and Financial Strain Associated with Diagnosis

Washington, D.C. (October 23, 2018) — The American Academy of Nursing today recognizes Leslie Chang Evertson, GNP-BC, Mihae Kim, AGPCNP-BC, Michelle Panlilio, GNP-BC, and Kelsey Stander, AGNP-BC as American Academy of Nursing Edge Runners for their model, UCLA Alzheimer's and Dementia Care (ADC) Program. Edge Runners are nurses who have designed innovative models of care or interventions which improve health, impact cost, and influence policy.

The ADC program is a collaborative practice in which nurse practitioner Dementia Care Managers provide patients and family caregivers with timely, necessary, and individualized assistance to meet the challenges posed by Alzheimer's and dementia while patients retain their primary care health provider. The Dementia Care Managers' holistic approach to care is uniquely suited to help patients and family caregivers navigate the diagnosis, progression, and prognosis of Alzheimer's and other dementias.

The physical, emotional, and financial costs of dementia are often overwhelming and leave both the patient and family caregiver feeling alone in their struggle. ADC Dementia Care Managers maximize patient function, independence, and dignity, while minimize caregiver strain and reducing unnecessary costs.

"The ADC program provides patients and families with 24/7 access to healthcare professionals because Alzheimer's and dementia presents a 24/7 challenge for patients and families alike," said Karen Cox, President of the American Academy of Nursing. "By also addressing advance care planning, legal, and financial issues, the ADC program helps ease real world burdens which weigh down families caring for loved ones with Alzheimer's and dementia."

Ninety-six percent of caregivers participating in the ADC program reported they felt supported in their role, with 87% of physicians surveyed saying they would recommend the program to other patients. The program also resulted in a 40% reduction of placement in long-term nursing homes and a \$601 per quarter spending reduction on healthcare costs.

"My colleagues and I thank the American Academy of Nursing for this tremendous honor. We proudly accept the Edge Runner designation on behalf of all patients and their family members who bravely battle Alzheimer's and dementia on a daily basis," stated Leslie Chang Evertson, Lead Dementia Care Manager.

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The American Academy of Nursing (www.AANnet.org) serves the public and the nursing profession by advancing health policy and practice through the generation, synthesis, and dissemination of nursing knowledge. The Academy's more than 2,500 fellows are nursing's most accomplished leaders in education, management, practice, and research. They have been recognized for their extraordinary contributions to nursing and healthcare.

CONTACT:

Kim Czubaruk
202-777-1178
kim_czubaruk@aannet.org