

Omaha System Excellence Awards 2015

The biannual awards for meaningful and continued contributions to the Omaha System in Practice, Education, and Research were presented at the April 2015 Omaha System International Conference.

An Excellence in Practice award was presented to Nicole Koster, Physiotherapist, MS-Public Health, The Netherlands. Nicole is employed at Ecare, the first company in The Netherlands to develop Omaha System software. She is a PhD candidate at the University of Twente. She is co-founder of and a member of the Board of Directors at the Omaha System Support Europe Foundation, which focuses on European users of the Omaha System. For the last four years, Nicole has been the driving force to implement software for an electronic health record based on the Omaha System at Buurtzorg Nederland, a national homecare organization. She is currently analyzing Omaha System-based health informatics for insurance companies, which would enable them to contract with healthcare organizations based on measured outcomes. Nicole is a well-known speaker and author about the Omaha System. She wrote the first official publication of the Dutch translation of the Omaha System, enabling Dutch health care professionals and software firms to access the Omaha System.

A posthumous Excellence in Practice award was presented to Judith G. Riemer, RN, PHN, CNS, MS. Judith received her BSN from UCLA School of Nursing, Riverside, California. She was a co-chair of the Omaha System International Conferences from 2008-2013 and served on the Omaha System Board of Directors from 2009-2015. The Omaha System practice community is indebted to Judith for years of service that advanced practice quality and the use of the Omaha System in California and the United States. As a public health nurse, Judith was a visionary leader who implemented the Omaha System in Riverside County and collaborated with others to promote excellence in use of the Omaha System. She worked with agencies, groups and software developers using computerized Omaha System-based documentation. Judith presented nationally at numerous Omaha System International Conferences and American Public Health Association Annual Meetings. Judith provided Omaha System training as well as software training and implementation consulting services for more than 10 years. She also wrote for publication, and developed training materials to help clinicians understand how to effectively and accurately utilize the Omaha System taxonomy in an electronic health record.

A joint Excellence in Education award was presented to Semra Erdogan, RN, PhD, and Selda Secginli, RN, PhD. Dr. Erdogan received her PhD in Pediatric Nursing, Istanbul University, Turkey. She is Professor and head of the Public Health Nursing Department at Florence Nightingale Nursing Department, Istanbul University, Turkey. Dr. Secginli received her PhD in Public Health Nursing at Istanbul University, Turkey. She is Associate Professor at Florence Nightingale Nursing Department at Istanbul University.

Both Dr. Erdogan and Dr. Secginli teach the Omaha System in several of their courses at Istanbul University, including Public Health Nursing, Nursing Informatics, and Community-based Nursing Informatics. Together they focus on integrating the Omaha System into the public health nursing curriculum at the baccalaureate, master and doctorate levels. They have developed expertise in applying the Omaha System in nursing students' practice settings ranging from family health to schools and home care. Both Dr. Erdogan and Dr. Secginli have numerous publications and dissertations that represent the ongoing work they are doing in Turkey. Drs. Erdogan and Secginli authored a Turkish book about the Omaha System that is scheduled to be published in June 2015. They also worked with software developers to create software that can be used by their students and others. They have made a significant impact on advancing knowledge of the Omaha System through mentoring and teaching others to be strong advocates for the appropriate and consistent use of the Omaha System in Turkey.

An Excellence in Research award was presented to Sally P. Lundeen, RN, PhD, FAAN. Sally is Dean and Professor, College of Nursing, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She received her PhD at the University of Illinois. Dr. Lundeen has been recognized by the National Nursing Center Consortium for fostering the growth of nurse managed health centers in both Wisconsin and Illinois. She has published, written training manuals, and produced video tapes. She established nurse managed centers in the 1980s, and used the Omaha System to enhance practice, documentation, and information management from the inception. As co-creator of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's nurse managed health centers' automated community health information system, Dr. Lundeen incorporated Omaha System components into the electronic health record. She has received national and international recognition for her research activities and is a frequent speaker on health care reform, community engagement and the role of nurses in research, practice and education. Dr. Lundeen is admired for her tireless efforts in community health work and her contributions to the body of research related to nurse managed health centers and their impact on the health of communities.

We congratulate the five winners who are representative of the many individuals who have contributed to the Omaha System over the years. The nomination process is not difficult and we encourage each of you to identify others who have contributed and to make a nomination for the 2017 awards.