

# N-HEFT NEWS

## LETTER FROM CO-DIRECTORS



Dr. Ileana Piña  
Case Western Reserve University



Dr. Hector Ventura  
Ochsner Clinic

Dear Colleagues,

Attending the annual HFSA meeting on the periphery of Hurricane Rita and the heels of Katrina makes us reflect on the power of nature-the power to create and destroy all in one. As doctors we have that same power though on a smaller scale. With our combined efforts and expertise we can impact the practice of medicine for heart failure patients with a positive energy force that is as prevailing and far reaching as a hurricane. With that power comes the responsibility to provide the best that both science and the art of medicine can provide. We are ever vigilant as we continually monitor new evidence and utilize the best practice available. The weight of that responsibility carried alone can be overwhelming. However, belonging to a network of experts, as we do in N-HeFT, supports us as we move forward with confi-

dence that we are "doing it right".

The winds of change affect every aspect of our work turning us in so many directions, the environment seems almost as turbulent as a hurricane at times. The medical field, continuing medical education and industry are undergoing a major transformation combining heavy regulations and monitoring on the part of accreditation bodies and commercial industry. Only those organizations, such as N-HeFT, that focus on designing, implementing and evaluating quality education that complies with all relevant guidelines will survive the maelstrom. We hold ourselves accountable as a network of experts and continue with high expectations for all members of the team. Beginning with July 1, 2005, we expect every host site to provide at least one training a year to be considered as active. Because we are committed to the continuous improvement of our program, we will concentrate on developing new teaching techniques and venues of dissemination. We promise to carefully scrutinize our efforts and analyze our outcomes.

Those of us who attended our Saturday PBL workshop enjoyed the experience of an alternate teaching method. As we met together throughout the conference, we focused on the road ahead as we discussed the needs of our HF patients and the health care community who serves them. We asked, "How can we best share our expertise in a way that will improve their practice of the art and science of medicine?" In response we decided to continue to add new

curriculum in new ways. Our website will take on a new look to showcase these changes. Case studies will be available to accommodate a variety of providers. We will also offer CME for on-line lectures as well as links to other opportunities for education. Watch for emails asking for your participation as we move forward. We will meet via web conference at a convenient time, probably evening.

At this time we welcome our newest host site, Northwestern University, The Center for Heart Failure, Bluhm Cardiovascular Institute directed by **William G. Cotts, MD. Kathleen L. Grady, PhD, RN, CCNS, FAAN** the administrative director will be the clinical coordinator. We also welcome the newest additions to our team who demonstrate quality, excellence and commitment, the trademark of N-HeFT. **Amanda Brown E.M., RN MS, CNS** has recently joined the University of California San Francisco working with Theresa Demarco, MD as The Heart Failure Nurse Coordinator of the Heart and Vascular Center. **Michelle L. Edwards, RN, MSN, FNP, ACNP**, is working with Reynolds Delgado, MD as Program Manager of Heart Failure Center & Program at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital/ Texas Heart Institute, in Houston, Texas.

**Linda Ordway, RNC, MS, ANP**, working with David DeNofrio, MD as a Clinical Nurse Specialist at Tufts New England Medical Center.

### Marketing

Invite the physicians who refer patients to your center. Just send the mailing list and we will send the invitations for you and coordinate the process. Are you hosting educational meetings or conferences? Let us know and we can send you brochures to make available for participants. The brochures on the web can also be downloaded from [nheft.org](http://nheft.org) and emailed to your colleagues.

[nheft@case.edu](mailto:nheft@case.edu)

## Clinical Coordinator Corner

Albany Medical Center

Edwin Philbin, MD

To Be Announced

The Cardiovascular Center

Douglas Chapman, MD

To Be Announced

Case Western Reserve University

Ileana Piña, MD

Kimberly Huck, ND, RN

Duke University Medical Center

Christopher O'Connor, MD

Laura Gauden, RN

Emory University Hospital

Andrew Smith, MD

Pam Pursley, RN, CCRN, MN, ANP

Midwest Heart Specialists

Maria Rosa Costanzo, MD

To Be Announced

Northwestern University

William G. Cotts, MD

Kathleen L. Grady, PhD, RN, FAAN

Ochsner Clinic

Hector Ventura, MD

To Be Announced

Oklahoma Cardiovascular Associates

Philip B. Adamson, MD

To Be Announced

Our new Clinical Coordinators bring vast experience and in-depth education and training to our network. We welcome them to our team as we look forward to their contribution to N-HeFT nursing education and the many forms it will take as we continue to expand our influence.

**Amanda Brown E.M., RN MS, CNS** has recently joined the University of California San Francisco under the direction of Theresa Demarco as The Heart Failure Nurse Coordinator of the Heart and Vascular Center. She is responsible for initiating a nurse-run heart failure program managing the titration of medication and monitoring patients to optimize HF medications and management. Her experience includes Cardiac Intensive care, research, teaching and several publications.

**Michelle L. Edwards, RN, MSN, FNP, ACNP** just began her new role as Program Manager, of Heart Failure Center & Program working with Reynolds Delgado, MD at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital/ Texas Heart Institute, in Houston, Texas in August of this year. Her new position provides her the opportunity to integrate her vast knowledge, versatile skills, and proven talent in nursing, teaching, management, staff development and research dedicated to excellence in patient

care. She is a board certified Family & Acute Care Nurse Practitioner with more than seventeen years nursing experience, eight of those in Advanced Practice. Her experience includes various specialty areas such as ICU, CCU, Open Heart, Trauma ICU, Internal Medicine, Family Medicine, Cardiology, and most recently, Outcomes Management. She blends the expertise of heart failure specialty with the family care environment. She is a certified Acute Care Nurse Practitioner and Family Nurse Practitioner and has both a Bachelor and Master of Science degree in Nursing. Her several publications and presentations focus on quality and outcomes in the cycle of heart failure care.

**Kathleen L. Grady, PhD, RN, C-CNS, FAAN**, Administrative Director, Center for Heart Failure, Bluhm Cardiovascular Institute in the Division of Cardiac Surgery, brings 30 years of dynamic experience that includes nursing practice, teaching, research and administration. She is working with William Cotts, MD. She currently serves on several editorial boards such as *The Journal of Heart and Lung Transplantation*, multiple review boards such as *The Journal of Cardiac Failure*, *American Journal of Medicine*, and *Critical Care Medicine* and has au-

thored 49 publications, 50 abstracts, 6 book chapters and edited one book. Kathleen has also presented at more than 100 conferences regionally, nationally, and internationally, in addition to providing consultation for start-up programs at numerous organizations. Her research work includes several NIH-funded projects. Her education, accomplishments and numerous awards attest to her passion for excellence, tireless energy and a deep commitment to patient care weaving a common thread throughout her career.

**Linda Ordway, RNC, MS, ANP**, our newest clinical coordinator, working with David DeNofrio, MD brings twenty-four years of experience in nursing, seven as an advanced practice nurse, most recently as a Clinical Nurse Specialist at New England Medical Center. Linda has earned Bachelor and Master of Science degrees in nursing and is a certified Acute Care Nurse Practitioner. She has presented lectures sharing her expertise in the areas of acute care, and managing the surgical patient. She has published in *Anesthesia Analogs and Critical Care Nursing Clinics of North America*. Her expertise lies in the area of acute inpatient care.

## HFSA – Problem Based Learning Workshop

In an effort to continue to improve our program, members of N-HeFT faculty attended a workshop in Boca Raton on Saturday Sept. 17, at the HFSA annual meeting. Since the goal of our network of heart failure experts is to improve the quality of healthcare for heart failure patients by improving the practice of medicine, we are continually searching for better teaching methods. We know from research that knowledge does not automatically translate to practice. Many medical schools have successfully implemented problem-based learning in their curriculum based on the work of Howard Barrows, MD of South-

ern Illinois University, who has performed in-depth research into the problem-solving skills of physicians and students. He originated the technique of the simulated or standardized patient now used extensively for assessment and teaching of clinical and bedside skills and is widely recognized for his work in problem-based learning and the assessment of clinical competence through performance-based testing. This small group experience promoting collaborative skills fosters integration of learning into patient care.

Ann Kelson, faculty emerita at Southern Illinois University

School of Medicine, who worked closely with Dr. Barrows for 15 years, facilitated the workshop as we explored PBL for N-HeFT. She was responsible for curriculum design, faculty development and designing assessment systems. She has provided consultations, presented papers, and held workshop nationally and internationally. Ann Kelson's publications include: Koschmann, Myers, Feltoich and Barrows (1993) "Using Technology to Assist in Realizing Effective Learning and Instruction" *Journal of Learning Science*; and Myers.

Participants identified the components of problem-based learn-

ing, discussed its value in enhancing the impact of the training experience, and worked together to apply its principles. The technique involves non-sequential steps in the problem-solving process: 1. Brainstorming various hypotheses about cause, effect, or resolution 2. Synthesizing information gathered through brainstorming 3. Identifying information needed to solve the problem 4. Developing an action plan to solve the problem. Participants enjoyed the process.

We will move forward on developing cases for the web. We will also offer tools to help faculty use this facilitation technique.

## CHP and AHRQ-Taking HF Advocate Education on the Road

When asked how N-HeFT training impacted them, HF Advocates reported that sharing the experience with their champions outside of the work environment actually opened the channels of communication and trust that initially set the stage for successful communication which has continued. Creating a network of supporters who have the power to implement change is key to success. N-HeFT continues to serve as a rich resource for training and mentoring.

A group of N-HeFT clinical coordinators working with faculty from The Catholic Health Care Partners GAP partnership will further develop the curriculum to disseminate to other systems. Online curriculum for nurses offered through the N-HeFT web site will provide basic science and clinical education as well as case applications related to the cycle of care for HF to include hospital, outpatient, and in home care. Early discussions included the following modules 1. Overview of Heart Failure, 2. Disease Management Strategies Through The Life Cycle Of Heart Failure, 3. Setting up A Multidisciplinary Team-based HF Program: Managing Change, Effective Communication, Telemanagement, Monitoring Devices, Patient Education, Quality of Life and Psychosocial Issues, End of life issues. We are planning to work on this program via web conferencing. Please email Jeanne if you want to participate. We will work in the evenings for the convenience of those interested in participating. AHRQ has approved some funding towards the project.

### Mission Statement

The National Heart Failure Training Program seeks to educate physicians and other healthcare professionals in best practices for treating heart failure. By providing both didactic sessions and preceptorships through its network of heart failure centers across the country.

## N-HeFT in Cyberspace

A recent study comparing online CME with live presentations concluded that appropriately designed, evidence-based online CME can produce objectively measured changes in behavior as well as sustained gains in knowledge that are comparable or superior to those realized from effective live activities<sup>1</sup>. Leaders in the field of continuing medical education argue emphatically that the education of physicians as nameless, faceless groups has not proven effective. They assert that physicians and other healthcare professionals must be treated as individuals, with individual needs and learning styles, and at differing stages of development with respect to any given area of competence. They point out that a single one dimensional intervention seldom facilitates a significant enhancement of performance in practice.<sup>2</sup> However, the application of reflective practice, active learning, continuous self-assessment, and a diverse array of learning and resources, such as clinical vignettes designed to support performance, has shown to enhance outcomes. Research on changing physician behavior found that interventions combining two or more strategies were more likely to be successful than knowledge translation alone.

The reality of the epidemic of heart failure accompanied by its high costs and research findings about changing physician behavior challenges us to change the way we educate. Although we know that the small group preceptorship model, customized to meet the individual needs of each practice, is the best model, we understand its limits. In order to reach as many health care providers as possible, we have responded by reaching out to the cyberspace arena with our best-practice model, offering evidence-based information and case application for all members of the HF team. To fulfill our mission, we continue to address the changing needs and interests of our audience.

Our discussions of providing online education will soon become a reality. We are currently redesigning our web site to accommodate our expanded offerings such as a new area for nursing and allied health care practitioners. The home page will feature CME and CE case studies, presenting a new case each month targeting a variety of audiences. We will also provide further HF education by adding links to other online sites as well as the opportunity to experience presentations online.

(1) Fordis M, King JE, Ballantyne CM, Jones PH, Schneider KH, Spann SJ et al. **Comparison of the instructional efficacy of Internet-based CME with live interactive CME workshops: a randomized controlled trial.** JAMA 2005; 294(9):1043-1051.

(2) Majumdar SR, Soumerai SB. **Why most interventions to improve physician prescribing do not seem to work.** CMAJ 2003; 169(1):30-31.

[South Florida Medical Institute](#)

[Gervasio Lamas, MD](#)

[Parandeh Alashti, PA-C](#)

[St Louis University](#)

[Paul Hauptman, MD](#)

[To Be Announced](#)

[St Luke's Episcopal Hospital](#)

[Reynolds Delgado, MD](#)

[Michelle Edwards, RN, MSN, FNP, ACNP](#)

[Temple University Hospital](#)

[Alfred Bové, PhD, MD](#)

[Judith Moore, RN, BSN](#)

[Tufts New England Medical Center](#)

[David DeNofrio, MD](#)

[Linda Ordway, RNC, MS, ANP](#)

[University of California San Diego Medical Center](#)

[Barry Greenberg, MD](#)

[To Be Announced](#)

[University of California San](#)

[Francisco Medical Center](#)

[Theresa DeMarco, MD](#)

[Amanda Brown, E.M., RN, MS, CNS](#)

[University of Cincinnati](#)

[Lynne Wagoner, MD](#)

[Ginger Conway, MSN, RN, CNP](#)

[University of Iowa Health Care](#)

[Ron Oren, MD](#)

[Carla Pies, RN, MSN](#)

[University of Kansas Hospital](#)

[Charles Porter, MD](#)

[Christy Russell, RN](#)

[University of Maryland School of Medicine](#)

[Stephen Gottlieb, MD](#)

[Kay Blum, PhD, CRNP](#)

[University of Minnesota](#)

[Leslie Miller, MD](#)

[Khris Monson, RN](#)

[University of New Mexico](#)

[Robert Taylor, MD](#)

[Elizabeth Shepherd, RN](#)

[University of North Carolina](#)

[Kirkwood Adams, MD](#)

[Jana Glotzer, RN, MSN, CCRN, ACNP](#)

[Valerie Johnson, RN](#)

University of Pittsburg Medical Center

Srinivas Murali, MD

Jessica Spates, PA

University of Rochester

John Bisognano, MD

Sheila McCart, AOS

University of South Florida

Douglas Schocken, MD

Mary Ann Yarborough, RN

University of Southwest Texas

Clyde Yancy, MD

Brenda Thompson, RN, MS, CCRN ,CNS

University of Washington Medical Center.

Carol Buchter, MD

Mary Stout, NP

Washington University

Gregory Ewald, MD

Cindy Pasque, RN



**NHeFT Welcomes New Host Sites!**

Welcome to the following members of the newest N-HeFT host site housed at Northwestern University within the Northwestern Medical Faculty Foundation, William Cotts, MD, the director, serves as the Medical Director of the Heart Transplant Program and Kathleen Grady, PhD, RN, C-CNS, FAAN, the clinical coordinator, is the Administrative Director of the Center for Heart Failure of the Bluhm Cardiovascular Institute. John B. O'Connell, MD, Director, Center for Heart Failure Bluhm Cardiovascular Institute and Professor of Medicine and Kathleen Halvey., RN, MN, APN, Nurse Practitioner: Division of Cardiology, Advanced Cardiac Therapy. They offer a wealth of experience and professional achievements in the field of heart failure including publications, research, awards, presentations, and professional service.

Contact us if you need help marketing.

**N-HEFT SITE VISITS!**

**Dates not yet confirmed**

Case Western Reserve University and Tufts New England Medical Center are working on setting mutual dates with participant groups for site visits.

Tufts New England Medical Center

November 30

Participant—York Hospital

**Completed site visits this quarter.**

Case Western Reserve University—October 4

Participant—Metro Health Medical Center

Northwestern University—

August 30

Participant— Abbott Laboratories

Tufts New England Medical Center

October 7

Participant— Middlesex Hospital

Residency Pilot— September 27

Participant— UHHS Family Practice Third Year Residents

August 2

Participant— UHHS Family Practice Second Year Residents

August 30

Participant— UHHS Family Practice First Year Residents

**Upcoming Scheduled visits**

Case Western Reserve University

January 25

Participant— Peter Dillard, MD, Inc

**N-HeFT 2005**

To remain an active member of the N-HeFT Network, each host site is required to host at least one training per program year from July 1, 2005- June 30 2006. Sites that are unable to participate for reasons such as organizational transition should contact Jeanne Hitch to discuss a leave of absence.

**Clinical Coordinators**

**Clinical Coordinators**

As of July 1, 2005, the host site clinical coordinators will receive an honorarium for each N-HeFT training. The honorarium will be mailed when all documentation for the training and follow-up is received by the National Office. An electronic version is preferred.

- Signed Host Site Agreement
- Completed Host Information Form
- N-HeFT directors, coordinators, faculty CV's, signed disclosures (updated each year)
- Agenda, handouts, slides
- Sign-in Sheets
- Credit claim forms
- Evaluations
- Debriefing notes and goals
- 30, 60, 90 documented

**Congratulations**

Congratulations, Dr. Ileana Piña, on being selected for a 2005 Scholarship in Teaching Award at Case Western Reserve University. The education narratives were intensively reviewed by the committee and were also sent to outside education experts for their assessment. This award was presented to Dr. Piña in recognition of achieving high standards and her contribution to education at the Case School of Medicine providing a model of applying scholarship to teaching.

**Research**

The N-HeFT network is a rich resource for heart failure, not only as a model of best practice, but also because of plentiful research dramatically impacting the care of heart failure. Watch for more information in future articles.