Leaders of 26 nursing organizations met in Washington, DC to develop a collaborative agenda and action plan for primary palliative nursing. The summit was convened by the Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association (HPNA) on May 12, 2017 under the theme, “Nurses Leading Change and Transforming Palliative Care.” The objective of the summit was to create a collaborative national agenda for primary palliative nursing. The ultimate goal is to ensure that patients with a serious illness and their families have access to primary palliative nursing care whenever and wherever they need it.

The work of the summit focused on three aspects of palliative nursing: communication and advance care planning, coordination/transitions of care, and pain and symptom management. These three components of care are embedded in nursing care across all specialties. Nursing has a wonderful opportunity to create this shared agenda and thus transform the care and culture of serious illness.

The summit participants worked in small groups led by a nursing content expert in each of the three focus areas. These national nursing experts included Mi-Kyung Song, PhD, RN, FAAN (communication/advance care planning), Gerri Lamb, PhD, RN, FAAN (coordination/transitions of care), and Judith Paice, PhD, RN (pain and symptom management).

Currently, the members of the Palliative Nursing Summit Steering Committee, along with facilitators from the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) are reviewing the information and recommendations from the summit to create a summary report and an implementation plan. This information will be shared with all of the summit participants to encourage the widest possible engagement in implementing the plan. The work and findings of the summit will be disseminated through publications and presentations, with four articles currently in development and scheduled to be published in the first 2018 issue of the Journal of Hospice and Palliative Nursing (JHPN). There will also be a session on the summit in September 2017 at the HPNA Clinical Practice Forum (http://advancingexpertcare.org/clinical-practice-forum).

The Steering Committee will be actively seeking funding to support the implementation plan. Summit planners appreciate the financial support for the Palliative Nursing Summit provided by the Milbank Foundation and the Hospice and Palliative Nurses Foundation (HPNF). More information and a list of participating organizations are at http://advancingexpertcare.org/palliative-nursing-summit.

Suggested tweets or posts:

We worked with 25 other nursing organizations to ensure access to palliative nursing care #palliativenursingsummit.

Working together to transform palliative nursing care for patients and families #palliativenursingsummit.

Patients and families should have access to primary palliative care whenever and whenever they need it #palliativenursingsummit.

Nurses are leading change and transforming palliative care #palliativenursingsummit.