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\$25,000 Grant Awarded to Support Research on Hospital Care of Older Adults

SILVER SPRING, MD – The American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) selected Marie Boltz, PhD, RN, GNP-BC as winner of the 2008 Margretta Madden Styles Credentialing Scholars Grant Award. Dr. Boltz will use her \$25,000 grant to examine the relationship between the quality of nursing in geriatric units and the percentage of nurses in those units who are certified.

Dr. Boltz serves as Assistant Professor and Practice Director at the Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing at New York University. Boltz also plays a key role in a national initiative Nurses Improving Care for HealthSystem Elders, (NICHE), which seeks to infuse evidence-based practice into hospitals and other providers. "My own experience tells me that certification improves the nurse's ability to provide quality care as well increase the nurse's professional stature," said Boltz. "This research will provide the opportunity to examine the influence of certification upon clinical outcomes."

Boltz and her team will examine the relationship between the percentage of nurses certified and unit-level nursing quality indicators such as falls, injuries, restraint use, and pressure ulcers. All of these adverse outcomes are experienced more frequently by hospitalized older adults than by younger patients.

"We are pleased to support Dr. Boltz's innovative research in the field of geriatric nursing," says ANCC Research Director Vicki Lundmark, PhD. "Her research will provide important information and help to identify best practices that will support nurses' ongoing efforts to improve the quality of hospital care given to older adults."

"Dr. Boltz's research is the first of its kind and will be an important addition to the growing body of research on nursing credentialing," says ANCC Executive Director Jeanne Floyd, PhD, RN, CAE.

Dr. Boltz, an ANCC-board certified gerontological nurse practitioner, has more than 25 years of administrative and clinical experience in a variety of settings including acute care, long-term care, and community based programs. She first became interested in nursing while working as a nursing assistant as a teenager. "I was influenced by nurses who combined intelligence and compassion in their practice," says Dr. Boltz. "Nursing provides the opportunity for service, ongoing intellectual engagement, and professional growth."

About the Madden Styles Credentialing Scholars Grant Award

The Margretta Madden Styles Credentialing Scholars Grants Program was created to stimulate and support research on the impact of credentialing processes in nursing for consumers, healthcare employers and employees, policymakers, nurses, and the nursing profession. The award's namesake, Margretta Madden Styles, was a nurse scholar who was globally renowned as a leader in nursing education, credentialing, and international nursing. As the architect of the first comprehensive study of nursing credentialing in the 1970s, Dr. Styles was an innovator and pioneer in framing and defining this critical work that recognizes and differentiates quality in all aspects of nursing practice. For more information on how to apply for a 2009 scholars grant, visit

<http://www.nursecredentialing.org/FunctionalCategory/AboutANCC/CredentialingResearch/Grants.aspx>

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About ANCC

The American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), a subsidiary of the American Nurses Association (ANA), provides individuals and organizations throughout the nursing profession with the resources they need to achieve practice excellence. ANCC's internationally renowned credentialing programs certify nurses in specialty practice areas; recognize healthcare organizations for promoting safe, positive work environments through the Magnet Recognition Program® and the Pathway to Excellence™ Program; and accredit providers of continuing nursing education. In addition, ANCC provides leading-edge information and education services and products to support its core credentialing programs. www.nursecredentialing.org

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