Cynthia Vlasich has been named the new International Leadership Institute and Educational Resources Director. Vlasich, an accomplished nurse leader with more than 25 years of experience, will oversee all programs under the International Leadership Institute in addition to directing educational initiatives.

Most recently, Vlasich served as Vice President of Professional Services and Advertising at Gannett Healthcare Services. Prior to that, Vlasich was the Chief Nurse and Division Director at the American Red Cross. She has received several honors throughout her career, including the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society for Nursing Outstanding Community Leader Award (1996), American Red Cross Presidential Scholar Award (1996), and United States Public Health Service Chief Nurse Medal (1990). In 1994, Vlasich was recognized as one of 18 national nursing leaders for exemplary leadership and professional achievement at the highest levels of the United States Congress Executive Branch.

Geriatric Nursing Leadership Academy Fellows Focus on Project Implementation

In February, Geriatric Nursing Leadership Academy Fellows participated in the second of two workshops in Scottsdale, Arizona. Some of the topics included “Your Future as a Geriatric Nursing Leader,” “Individual Leadership Development,” “Leading Health Care in the Digital Age,” “Leading Lasting Change,” and “Leadership Career Development,” which focused on career mapping and time management.

Each Fellow, with assistance from his or her mentor and faculty advisor, is developing a project centered on improving the quality of health care for older adults and their families through geriatric nursing practice. The Fellows are leading interdisciplinary teams in their respective practice settings.

Faculty advisors will conduct the second of two site visits during the summer. Fellows and their mentors will submit their final project reports in the fall and present a poster at the Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International’s (STTI) 40th Biennial Convention, taking place in Indianapolis, Indiana, from October 31 to November 4.

The 18-month mentored leadership program was initiated by STTI and developed with a generous grant from The John A. Hartford Foundation, in partnership with the Hartford Foundation’s Centers of Geriatric Nursing Excellence. For more information about the program and other geriatric nursing resources from the honor society, visit http://www.nursingsociety.org/LeadershipInstitute/pages/default.aspx.

New Environment of Elder Care Nursing Research Grant

In continuing its mission to support the education of nurses, STTI has begun accepting applications for the Sigma Theta Tau International/Hill-Rom Environment of Elder Care Nursing Research grant. Nurses who meet the following criteria are encouraged to apply by July 1, 2009:

- Be an RN with a current license.
- Have a master’s or doctoral degree or be enrolled in a doctoral program.

Allocation of funds is based on the quality of the proposed research, the future promise of the applicant, and the applicant’s research budget. Applications from novice researchers who have received no other national research funds are encouraged. Preference will be given to STTI, if all other qualifications are equal.

Applicants must submit a completed research application package and signed research agreement via the online submission system. A final report and a completed abstract will be kept in the Virginia Henderson International Nursing Library with credit given to research grant partners in all publications and presentations of the research. Applicants must also be ready to implement the research project when funding is received. Funding is available up to $9,000.

The recipient will be notified in September 2009, and the grant will be presented during the honor society’s 40th Biennial Convention in Indianapolis.
Coaching in Nursing Workbook Offered Free to Nurses Worldwide

The International Council of Nurses (ICN) and STTI have published a free resource titled Coaching in Nursing Workbook and have made it available to nurses around the world. This tool is a hands-on guide that can be used to teach nurses coaching principles and skills to develop individual professional competencies and improve nurse staffing retention. The workbook is filled with exercises, checklists, and conversation starters. It uses role-playing as a learning tool for independent/individual study and supports the coaching principles and strategies in the ICN monograph, Guide to Coaching and Mentoring in Nursing.

The workbook and related information about obtaining continuing education credit is available online at http://www.nursingsociety.org/Education/ContinuingEducation/Pages/FreeCE.aspx.

Foundation Participation in National Nursing Research Roundtable

Rachael Watman, Senior Program Officer at the Foundation, participated in the March 2009 National Nursing Research Roundtable, co-hosted by the National League for Nursing and the National Institute of Nursing Research. The roundtable discussion, “Meeting Future Health Challenges,” addressed the challenges expected in the research and health care environments of the future, how the Foundation is strategizing to meet those challenges, and the key health problems that could be addressed using nursing research.

About the Foundation

The John A. Hartford Foundation is at the forefront of pioneering advances in medicine and health care, funding research and programs that have revolutionized medicine and shaped the delivery of health care during the past 75 years. The Foundation’s overall goal is to increase the nation’s capacity to provide affordable care to its rapidly increasing older population.

For additional information about The John A. Hartford Foundation, including grant announcements, program information, quarterly newsletters, annual reports, staff contact information, and grant guidelines, access the Foundation’s Web site at http://www.jhartfound.org.

About the Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International

The mission of the Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International is to support the learning, knowledge, and professional development of nurses committed to making a difference in health worldwide. Membership is by invitation to baccalaureate and graduate nursing students who demonstrate excellence in scholarship, and to nurse leaders exhibiting exceptional achievements in nursing. The honor society has more than 130,000 active members. Learn more about the honor society by accessing http://www.nursingsociety.org.
AARP, THE AARP FOUNDATION, & THE ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION

Champion Nursing Coalition Established

The Center to Champion Nursing in America, a joint initiative of AARP, the AARP Foundation, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, recently launched the Champion Nursing Coalition, a diverse group of organizations representing consumers, insurers, businesses, health care providers, and others committed to working together to educate Americans about the nation’s severe nursing shortage and its impact on health care quality, access, and cost.

The Center was created to address the alarming shortage of nurses in the United States, which is projected to reach 500,000 by 2025. Despite this projection, the nation’s nursing schools are unable to educate the nurses needed now and in the future because of major faculty and resource shortages. In 2008, 99,000 qualified applicants were turned away from nursing schools, according to the National League for Nursing.

Members of the Champion Nursing Coalition have committed to educate their members and constituents about the nursing shortage and the importance of addressing it as a part of comprehensive health reform. The coalition is a first-of-its-kind effort to link consumers, purchasers, and non-nursing providers of health care in support of commonsense, common ground solutions to the U.S. nursing shortage.

Founding members of the Champion Nursing Coalition are:
- AARP
- Alzheimer’s Association
- American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging
- American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
- American Health Care Association
- American Hospital Association
- American Public Health Association
- America’s Health Insurance Plans
- Consumers Advancing Patient Safety
- Disabled American Veterans
- Easter Seals
- Families USA
- Kaiser Permanente
- National Association of Community Health Centers
- National Association for Home Care and Hospice
- National Business Coalition on Health
- National Business Group on Health
- National Education Association
- National Partnership for Women and Families
- Paralyzed Veterans of America
- Verizon

About AARP
AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan membership organization that helps people age 50+ have independence, choice, and control in ways that are beneficial and affordable to them and society as a whole. AARP produces AARP The Magazine, AARP Bulletin, AARP Segunda Juventud, and AARP.org.

About the AARP Foundation
The AARP Foundation is AARP’s affiliated charity. Foundation programs provide security, protection, and empowerment for older adults in need. Low-income older workers receive the job training and placement they need to rejoin the workforce. Free tax preparation is provided for low- and moderate-income individuals, with special attention to those age 60 and older. The Foundation’s litigation staff protects the legal rights of older Americans in critical health, long-term care, and consumer and employment situations. Additional programs provide information, education, and services to ensure that people older than age 50 lead lives of independence, dignity, and purpose. Foundation programs are funded by grants, tax-deductible contributions, and AARP. For more information, visit http://www.aarp.org/foundation.

About The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (http://www.rwjf.org) focuses on the pressing health and health care issues facing the country. As the nation’s largest philanthropy devoted exclusively to improving the health and health care of all Americans, the Foundation works with a diverse group of organizations and individuals to identify solutions and achieve comprehensive, meaningful, and timely change. For more than 35 years, the Foundation has brought experience, commitment, and a rigorous, balanced approach to the problems that affect the health and health care of those it serves.