RTS Lead Educator Receives Nurse Excellence Award in Education

In November, RTS Lead Educator Marie Walter received the Nurse Excellence Award in Education at Gundersen Health System’s Excellence Awards Celebration. The celebration honors nurses who demonstrate exceptional knowledge, guidance, and innovation. Marie’s career as a nurse and a nurse educator has distinguished her in patient care, education, and research, and has improved the health in communities both near and far.

According to RTS Director Emerita Dr. Rana Limbo, “To be a guide like Marie requires high emotional intelligence, strong empathic skills, and a natural ability to use the processes of caring theory to help patients through the suffering that naturally occurs when one’s own health and the health and well-being of their unborn baby is uncertain.”

RTS staff and leadership celebrate Marie’s award.

RTS Is Now on LinkedIn!

Connect with us on LinkedIn to learn about new trainings, exhibits, products, and publications as they are happening.

For your convenience, back issues of RTS Connection are archived. Go to www.ResolveThroughSharing.org and click on Resources, RTS Connection Newsletter.
Dr. Limbo's Retirement

Dr. Rana Limbo’s impact on nursing care is apparent on many levels. Throughout her 50-year career, she has made significant contributions, particularly at the helm of the RTS program, which she co-founded. In July, RTS celebrated her and her innumerable accomplishments as she accepted her new role in retirement as Director Emerita for RTS.

International Perinatal Bereavement Conference

Presented by the Pregnancy Loss and Infant Death Alliance, the 21st International Perinatal Bereavement Conference took place October 24-27 in St. Louis, MO. RTS staff and National Faculty members involved in planning and presenting this year’s conference include Dr. Rana Limbo (Consultant and PLIDA Past President), Marie Walter (Presenter), Gina Jones (Co-Chair and PLIDA Board President), Dr. Deborah Rich (Conference Planning Member and Presenter), Beth Ricci (Contributing Committee Member), Jane Heustis (Presenter), and Marcia Jenkins (Presenter).

Staff are pictured above in front of the RTS exhibit booth. RTS was a Mighty Mississippi (gold) level sponsor at the event, which was attended by over 300 people.

RTS founders, Dr. Rana Limbo and Dr. Sara Wheeler, were special guests—along with Catherine Lammert and Sr. Jane Marie Lamb (in memoriam) of Share—at the President’s Reception honoring perinatal bereavement pioneers.
Selah House Respite Center and Carefarm

Earlier this year, Dr. Rana Limbo visited the Selah House Respite Center and Carefarm in Sedona, AZ. Dr. Joanne Cacciatore, author and founder of the MISS Foundation, got the idea to start the farm when, on a hiking trip, she came across an abused and neglected horse, who she later rescued and named Chemakoh. Chemakoh's suffering reminded Dr. Cacciatore of the unbearable pain experienced by individuals grieving a traumatic death. Since she first encountered Chemakoh 3 years ago, Dr. Cacciatore has made great progress on her carefarm, rescuing many other animals and incorporating the farm's beautiful landscape in various ritual and reflection exercises.

During her visit, Dr. Limbo connected with the animals—horses, dogs, sheep, and a potbelly pig—and added a tag to the medallion tree. Upon reflecting on her trip, Dr. Limbo said, "I have known and admired Joanne for many years. Her inspiration, empathy, and kindness toward the bereaved and those caring for them is unmatched. I experienced deep emotion and a strong connection to the land and the animals during my visit there. It is a true one-of-a-kind place of healing. I encourage all who are able to visit. They will leave with a piece of Selah House in their hearts."

The medallion tree is a place where visitors can hang copper tags bearing the names of their deceased loved ones. Visitors create the mementos themselves by stamping the names into the tags by hand.

Do you have a story you would like to see featured in the RTS Connection? Let us know what took place in your RTS bereavement program or community in 2018. Email rts@gundsenhealth.org to submit a story.
RTS Trainings

In 2018, RTS hosted 15 trainings around the U.S. RTS Coordinators held 42 trainings in their own organizations, with over 580 attendees.

RTS Lead Educator Marie Walter and RTS National Faculty member, Amy Creamer, at Dartmouth-Hitchcock in New Hampshire.

RTS National Faculty members, Mark Hart and Dana Brantley, with RTS Coordinator, Captain Tonge, at Moody Air Force Base in Georgia.

RTS National Faculty, RTS staff, and Gundersen Health System staff at the annual training in La Crosse, WI.
RTS Products and Publications

In 2018, RTS fulfilled over 1,850 orders for patient support and training materials. The top-selling RTS patient support materials were the Door Card and the brochure titled “Miscarriage” (around 20,000 of each sold).

Online Modules
In August, RTS released three new online learning modules. The modules are user-friendly, interactive, and evidence-based. They work seamlessly with RTS education, providing in-depth introductions to topics that are fundamental to the core RTS courses. You can complete the modules by taking RTS Bereavement Training, or you can complete them independently by purchasing the module 3-Pack for $45.
- Communicating With the Bereaved
- Memory-Making and Ritual
- Guided Participation: A Method of Teaching and Learning

RTS Bereavement Training: Adult Death
Resolve Through Sharing’s newest training was developed from RTS Bereavement Training: Pediatric and Adult Death and was redesigned to focus solely on adult death topics. The agenda includes discussion on end-of-life care; traumatic death and stigma; deaths of military personnel; grief and families; and making meaning through spiritual care, organ donation, and ritual. The course incorporates new reflection exercises and interviews with bereaved individuals.

Understanding Suicide: You Are Not Alone
Released in October, this compassionate and informative booklet was written for those who have experienced the trauma of suicide personally or know someone who has. Topics include addressing stigma and advancing the language of suicide, understanding signs and causes, the lifelong journey of grief, and helpful and unhelpful responses. Quotes and stories from those who have lost a loved one to suicide are woven throughout. A resource list is provided at the end of the booklet as well as links to personal interviews with those bereaved by suicide.
RTS Written Contributions

Books

Guided Participation in Pediatric Nursing Practice: Relationship-Based Teaching and Learning With Parents, Children, and Adolescents

This authoritative publication delivers an in-depth examination of Guided Participation (GP), a dynamic process of teaching and learning that helps individuals become competent by providing expertise through working alongside the learner. Written for clinical practitioners, researchers, and educators who wish to incorporate GP into their practice, and for managers, administrators, and policy makers who support its implementation, this resource demonstrates the value of GP as a new and emerging healthcare theory.

RTS Director Emerita Dr. Limbo, whose work with GP dates back to the early 90s, is one of the book’s three editors. She is also single author of one chapter and co-author of a chapter with RTS Director Mary Beth Hensel. RTS National Faculty member, Darryl Owens, co-authored a chapter in the book as well.

Articles and Editorials

In addition to developing and delivering various presentations throughout the year, RTS staff and National Faculty members contributed to a number of articles published in well-known healthcare journals.

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