



Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation Announces Two Grants to Fund Cancer Nursing Centers of Excellence in Russia and the Czech Republic

(NEW YORK, December 10, 2013) – The Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation has awarded two grants through its *Bridging Cancer Care*[™] program to fund Centers of Excellence in oncology nursing and smoking cessation in Russia and the Czech Republic. The centers will offer training and technical assistance to nurses and will disseminate lessons and impactful approaches to broader audiences throughout Central and Eastern Europe.

The Cancer Care Nursing Practice Center of Excellence is being funded through a two-year, \$350,000 grant to **World Services of LaCrosse**. The center will be established in Saratov Oblast, Russia and expand to the Moscow Oblast, and will draw on the experiences gained through two previous projects funded by the Foundation. Those projects focused on expanding the scope of practice for nurses in providing care to cancer patients in the community and strengthening nurse education.

The Eastern Europe Nurses' Center of Excellence for Tobacco Control is being funded through a two-year, \$350,000 grant to the **International Society of Nurses in Cancer Care (ISNCC)**. The center will be based in Prague, Czech Republic, and provide smoking cessation training and resources to nurses and communities in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Slovenia and Slovakia. The center will draw from experiences gained from projects previously funded by the Foundation that focused on improving tobacco control skills for general practice and oncology nurses in Eastern Europe, engaging them in delivering evidence-based cessation interventions and helping to raise community awareness about the need for tobacco control.

In addition to the Centers of Excellence grants, the Foundation also announced two other *Bridging Cancer Care* grants:

University of Washington and Russian Nurses Association will receive \$129,179 to build upon a previous project to train nurses in Russia in evidence-based oncology nursing

practices to improve patients' quality of life, enhance their ability to manage their symptoms and decrease their anxiety and depression.

Project HOPE Poland will receive a \$47,803 sustainability grant to expand a two-year program to improve early detection of cancer in children in Poland by strengthening the role of community nurses and primary health care teams. Project HOPE will develop national recommendations and guidelines for primary care physicians when they suspect cancer in their pediatric patients.

“Nurses play a significant role in the delivery of care for cancer patients and in the lives of their families and caregivers and are a vital component of the health care system, disseminating patient and family educational information , providing psychosocial support and improving overall patient outcomes,” said John Damonti, president, Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation. “By providing funding for two Centers of Excellence that will serve as best practice models, we are hopeful that we can continue to maximize the position of nurses and expand the scope of nursing practice in Central and Eastern Europe. We are equally pleased to provide continued funding for several programs that have demonstrated success in those areas, thereby advancing the role of nurses in the care of patients with cancer.”

About *Bridging Cancer Care*

Bridging Cancer Care is the Foundation's umbrella program for efforts to reduce cancer disparities in Central and Eastern Europe by improving oncology nursing skills and building partnerships between oncology nurses and the community. Cancer is the second-most common cause of death in Europe and mortality rates in Central and Eastern Europe are significantly higher than those in Western Europe.

About the Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation

The mission of the Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation is to promote health equity and improve the health outcomes of populations disproportionately affected by serious diseases and health conditions. For more information about the Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation, please visit www.bms.com/foundation or follow us on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/bmsnews>.

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