

I came into nursing as a second career after working as a psychologist. I'd always admired nursing and saw it as an opportunity to extend my scope of care "below the neck."

I began my career as a nursing assistant, then nurse, on a medical oncology unit at Massachusetts General Hospital while pursuing a Masters degree in Nursing at the MGH Institute of Health Professions. While working at the bedside, I found myself volunteering to take "those patients" — the patients approaching end of life. So, while working towards my Masters degree, I also began training with the Palliative Care Service at MGH and found my true passion.

My career as a palliative care nurse practitioner started at Care Dimensions Hospice in Massachusetts while also helping to create a palliative nursing certificate program at the University of Massachusetts-Lowell. I later returned to MGH, working as co-director of the Inpatient Palliative Care Service and as director of the Palliative Care NP fellowship. During this time, I worked with Connie Dahlin to establish a Boston Chapter of HPNA. And I later had the honor of serving on the Board of Directors of HPNA as well as President of HPNA in 2011.

I relocated to Denver, CO with my husband in 2015 to be closer to his family and accepted a position as a palliative care nurse practitioner with HCA/HealthONE with the mission to create a system-wide palliative care service across their network, using RNs to serve as palliative care change agents in their six community hospitals. Workforce training issues continue to be near and dear to me. I have recently accepted an appointment at University of Colorado College of Medicine to teach in their inter-professional Masters of Science in Palliative Care program.

I deeply value the IOM Report on the Future of Nursing, which called on nurses to take a greater role as leaders in the increasingly complex health care system in the America. As such, I am very excited to begin my term on the HPCC Board of Directors and look forward to working a board that is passionate about advancing the field of palliative nursing.

When I am not teaching or at the bedside, you will find me studying French (to slow down the dementia process...) or helping to take care of two dogs, four chickens, and a surly parrot.