

Bill Novelli, Georgetown University and the Coalition to Transform Advanced Care: Feb. 10, 2016

Friends of National Institute of Nursing Research – Remarks to the Congressional Nursing Caucus

I'm very glad to be here this evening, because I believe in Nurse Power...and I believe in the National Institute of Nursing Research.

NINR has a critical mission: to improve the health of individuals, families and communities. It is dedicated to making people's lives better, across the entire lifespan and across America.

Dr. Pat Grady and her Institute are bridge builders. Their work is primarily clinical, but they strategically span the bench, clinical practice and the communities where people live, work, learn and play.

So this is research that makes a real difference in people's lives.

Members of both parties and in both houses of Congress support medical research. But nonetheless, this is a tough time, when investment in scientific and medical research is not keeping pace with research needs and opportunities.

Our scientists, especially young investigators, are being forced to submit more proposals to chase fewer dollars and to do less and less research. In this difficult climate, there is nothing more important than to support our research community.

Michael Bleich and I were I privileged to serve on the IOM committee on the Future of Nursing. Our report pointed out that the science of nursing and nursing research is key to: providing better patient care, improving health and evaluating outcomes.

Our report called nurse scientists a critical link in the discovery and translation of knowledge, and for increasing the evidence base for the practice of care. And NINR is the focal point for this research.

It's remarkable how much NINR contributes, from diabetes management to risk reduction in HIV to pain management to advanced illness and palliative care.

And the Institute has put particular emphasis on reducing health disparities.

NINR's strategic plan stresses four key themes:

- **Designing interventions to help caregivers and patients manage symptoms, from acute to chronic illness.**
- **Promoting health and wellness and preventing illness.**
- **Research into self-management to move care wherever possible from providers to individuals, families and communities**
- **And advanced illness and palliative care – a critical need in our aging society – an issue I work on every day with the Coalition to Transform Advanced Care (C-TAC). NINR is NIH's lead institute for this research.**

There's a story among gerontologists about how everyone should live in good health to a ripe old age, well into our 90's, and then have it all end with a quick bullet...fired by a jealous lover. But we all know that's not the way most people head off into the great unknown. And that's why we need NINR's important work in palliative care.

NINR recently celebrated its 30th anniversary, and this is an opportunity to look forward to – and support -- the many important contributions to come.

America needs nursing science and research; and America needs NINR.

Thanks very much.
