

CACCC in China

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Between June 13 and June 25, 2019, a team of nurses, a doctor, and a CACCC volunteer traveled to Wuhan, China, to help with the growth and development of palliative care and hospice among Chinese health care professionals. The team included Sandy Stokes, RN and founder of CACCC; Carma Erickson-Hurt, RN; Gary Lee, MD and CACCC Board member; Cheryl Chi, CACCC volunteer; and Nicole Erickson, RN. The visit was organized and generously sponsored by Project HOPE. Linda Dong is the coordinator in the Project HOPE Wuhan office who served as our host for the visit.

The primary purpose of our visit was to teach a 4-day ELNEC Train-the-Trainer course to a group of 27 nurses from different hospitals in Hubei province. ELNEC (End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium) is a (US) national education initiative to improve palliative care. The Core ELNEC Curriculum has been translated into Chinese and was shared with each attendee. The course was held at a conference center where we stayed together and shared meals, so we had the opportunity to develop closer relationships with the nurses and hold evening activities. Some of the core topics included an overview of palliative care, pain management, communication, and spiritual care. A Heart-to-Heart Café and Heart-to-Heart Facilitator Training were among the

evening sessions. The first ELNEC course in Wuhan was taught by Carma in 2016, so this was the 4th annual course. To date, 115 master trainers have been trained; they have in turn trained over 2,700 other health care providers, who have served over 17,000 patients and family members.

The remainder of our time in Wuhan was not wasted. We attended the Oncology Nursing Committee of the Chinese Nursing Association Annual Meeting, where Sandy Stokes gave a presentation and two former graduates of ELNEC presented the results of their research. We taught in half-day or full day conferences at three hospitals in Wuhan: Tongji (200 attendees), Zhongnan (80 attendees), and Union (600 attendees from 8 different hospitals in China via video feed). We met with master trainers from previous ELNEC courses, and they helped us celebrate Sandy's birthday. Finally, we also had a tour of the Hubei Cancer Hospital and met informally with a group of their doctors and nurses to learn about how they incorporate palliative care into their practice.

Nurses in Wuhan have made great progress since Carma first taught ELNEC in 2016, but there is still much to be done. We hope to continue ELNEC trainings and also continue to build relationships with physicians in the future.

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Wuhan is the 7th most populated city in China, with a population of over 10 million people. It is the capital city of Hubei Province and is located at the intersection of the Yangtze and Han rivers in central China. It was formed by the combination of three adjacent cities, Wuchang, Hankow, and Hanyang. On a map of China, if one draws a line west from Shanghai and another line north from Guangdong, the two lines would cross fairly close to Wuhan. Wuhan is home to several medical and nursing schools, and it has several very large teaching hospitals, so it serves as an educational hub for Hubei Province and the rest of central China.

Project HOPE (Health Opportunities for People Everywhere) is a global health and humanitarian relief organization whose mission is to place power in the hands of local health care workers. The organization started in 1958 as a disaster relief organization and has branched out into the areas of maternal and child health, infectious diseases, and noncommunicable diseases. In China, they have projects in Shanghai, Beijing, and Wuhan. In 2002, they established the HOPE School of Nursing in partnership with Wuhan University. CJ Huang (1916-2012), a Chinese-American engineer and philanthropist, was a generous supporter who was instrumental in starting the HOPE School of Nursing.