

# **Preliminary Conclusions from the Cross-Cutting Evaluation of the Hartford Geriatric Nursing Initiative: Building Academic Geriatric Nursing Capacity Coordinating Center at the American Academy of Nursing**

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## **Introduction**

**Summary.** In 2000, the John A. Hartford Foundation launched the Building Academic Geriatric Nursing Capacity [BAGNC] Initiative. The American Academy of Nursing was selected as an active partner that would provide a home for a Coordinating Center to facilitate the activities of the programs and grantees who were part of the BAGNC Initiative, foster communications among grantees and the Foundation, and provide oversight of various kinds for the different programs. The BAGNC Initiative's goals include producing expert researchers, academicians and practitioners who will lead the field of gerontological nursing; training others to be gerontological nurses, and ultimately improving elder care in our society. The Coordinating Center was established at the American Academy of Nursing to act as a central entity to provide oversight and facilitate the development and coordination of the BAGNC programs. The BAGNC Programs include the Centers of Geriatric Nursing Excellence [CGNE] located at five Schools of Nursing, the Hartford Academic and MBA Scholars Program, the Annual BAGNC Leadership Conference, and the Nursing School Geriatric Investment Program [NSGIP] that supports programs at seven Schools of Nursing. Funding for the Coordinating Center began in July 2000. The Centers of Geriatric Nursing Excellence were funded beginning January 2001; the first cohort of Scholars was funded in July 2001; the first Leadership Conference was held on November 2001; and the Nursing School for Geriatric Nursing Investment Program was funded beginning in February 2002. Each of the programs is still active as of October 2004.

The specific goals of the Coordinating Center are as follows:

- Provide the organizational structure to support the new initiative including a "home" for the Program Director, Dr. Claire Fagin and her administrative staff.
- Facilitate linkages and networking among the John A. Hartford Centers of Geriatric Nursing Excellence [CGNEs].
- Provide the review, selection, and administrative structures and processes for the Hartford Scholars program.
- Develop and support conferences to advance two important aspects of building academic geriatric capacity; preparation of geriatric advanced practice nurses and leadership development of the faculty and individuals involved with the CGNEs and the Scholars program.
- Develop a data center to track the productivity and outcome information from the CGNEs and the Hartford Scholars.

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