

National POLST Paradigm

Featured News: National POLST Paradigm presentations at national conferences.



2017 Agenda includes talks at SWHPN, AAHPM, and ASA Aging in America.

The National POLST Paradigm will be attending the Social Work Hospice & Palliative Care Network General Assembly, American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine Annual Assembly, and the American Society on Aging Aging in America Conference. Please come and attend our presentations. We'd love to meet with you too! [View details and more info online.](#)

Featured Resource: POLST and Religion



Now highlighted online at our website: POLST and Religion.

POLST and Religion is a topic that is of perpetual interest and concern to both patients and health care professionals. Because of this, we have a webpage dedicated to this topic, which includes links to information provided by the Catholic Health Association, and a downloadable overview provided by the National POLST Paradigm clarifying the *POLST Paradigm Fundamentals*. [View POLST and Religion webpage.](#)

Featured Research: POLST Paradigm Featured in Special Series, *Measuring What Matters*.



Measuring What Matters, a project of AAPHM/HPNA featured in JPSM.

The *Journal of Pain and Symptom Management* features POLST research by Unroe, Hickman, Torke et al., as part of a special series on "Measuring What Matters," a project of the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine and Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association. One of 10 care quality indicators of this special project is, "Care Consistency With Documented Care Preferences," reflecting the importance of assessing care preferences and then following through on stated patient choices for treatments. [View online \(limited access\).](#)

National POLST Paradigm News in Brief

Kansas/Missouri POLST Paradigm Program, TPOPP, earns Endorsed Status. On December 16, 2016, the National POLST Paradigm Task Force approved Endorsement Status for the Kansas/Missouri POLST Paradigm Program, known as Transportable Physician Orders for Patient Preferences (TPOPP). [Learn more about TPOPP.](#)

Louisiana's POLST Paradigm Program, LaPOST, received grant funding from the Louisiana Department of Health using civil money penalties paid into the Nursing Home Residents' Trust Fund. The cooperative endeavor agreement was approved December 22, 2016 by the Louisiana Department of Health Office of Aging and Adult Services. The funds are to be used to develop educational activities and resources for nursing facilities across Louisiana to train their staff, residents and caregivers on Advance Care Planning and LaPOST. Work will begin on January 2, 2017 and will end on June 30, 2017. [Learn more about LaPOST.](#)

JAHF Conversation Starters Report available online. On December 1, 2016, The John A. Hartford Foundation published a report titled, "Conversation Starters: Research Insights from Clinicians and Patients on Conversations about End-of-Life Care and Wishes," based on data collected from focus groups commissioned to determine barriers to end-of-life conversations. (This study was a follow up to a *Conversation Stopper* survey released in April 2016.) Insights include a broad desire of patients to discuss EOL care both early and later in life, but that the clinical setting may be best later when EOL is nearer. EOL discussions during healthy adulthood

are welcome and appropriate but may be more meaningful when conducted in community rather than clinical settings, at which they may seem superficial while patients are still young and healthy. [Learn more](#). [Download the report \(PDF\)](#).

There's still time to apply for the Sojourns Scholar Leadership Program, an initiative designed to identify, cultivate and advance the next generation of palliative care leaders. Sojourns Scholars receive \$180,000 in funding to conduct an innovative impactful clinical, policy, education or research project in the field of palliative care and develop a leadership development plan designed to support growth as a leader in the field. Applications are due by January 12, 2017 at 4 p.m. PST. [Learn more about the Sojourns Scholar Program](#).

Congratulations to Hanna Nelson, National POLST Paradigm Office Coordinator, on the completion of her Master of Bioinformatics (MBI) degree in Health Information Management this past December! [Read more about the National POLST Paradigm Office staff](#).

OPTIMISTIC study: Advance care planning in nursing homes challenging but critical. Indiana University states that in a methodological report published in the *Journal of Pain and Symptom Management*, clinician-researchers from the Regenstrief Institute, Indiana University Center for Aging Research, and IU School of Nursing explore the challenges of determining "whether the medical care provided in a hospital or nursing home is consistent with the preferences of the patient and family as indicated in the patient's advance planning documents." The researchers make five recommendations in the report to improve "consistency with patient preferences." [View article online \(limited access\)](#).

