

**Dementia Day Camp VI
University of Southern Maine
Portland, Maine
July 26 – 29, 2007**

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Professional Development Grant Report**

Restatement of problem researched, creative work, or professional enhancement opportunity:

The goal of DDC VI will be to target early stage, intervention research during a series of interactive, engaging, and fun working sessions on the coast of Southern Maine with the expected outcome to be a R21 100,000.

Brief review of the professional enhancement opportunity, creative work, or research procedure:

Dementia Day Camp VI is a yearly cooperative and educational venture between a number of researchers and clinical therapeutic recreation practitioners that has taken place since 2001. The intent of the event is to bring together these individuals in a workgroup environment that will focus on specific outcomes with targeted, early stage intervention working sessions. The goal of the workgroup is to write a R21 \$100,000 grant.

This was an invitation only workgroup that focused on specific outcomes with targeted, early intervention work sessions for individuals with Alzheimer's disease/dementia, with the overall goal of writing a R21 \$100,000 grant. The Hartford Center for Geriatric Nursing Excellence sponsored this event.

Summary of findings, outcomes, or experiences had:

The following noted dementia researchers attended and participated in Dementia Day Camp VI in Portland, Maine

- Ann Kolanowski PhD – Penn State School of Nursing
- Donna Fick PhD – Penn State School of Nursing
- Nancy Richeson PhD – University of Southern Maine College of Nursing and Health Professions
- Linda Buettner PhD – Florida Gulf Coast University – Positive Center on Aging
- Janet Specht PhD – University of Iowa Gerontological Nursing Interventions Research Center
- Kathleen Buckwalter PhD – University of Iowa Gerontological Nursing Interventions Research Center
- Sandy Burgener PhD – University of Illinois at Chicago
- Karen Rose PhD – University of Virginia School of Nursing
- Jiska Cohen-Mansfield PhD – Research Institute of Aging of the Hebrew Home of Greater Washington

By participating in this event I had the opportunity to network with a number of highly regarded researchers in the area of therapeutic recreation and dementia/Alzheimer's disease (see above list of individuals). This setting provided the opportunity to meet and greet these individuals in a relaxed, casual environment and also in a more goal/task oriented environment. I also had the

opportunity to learn more about the most recent and cutting edge research in the area of activities/therapeutic recreation and dementia and to become familiar with intervention programs that were currently being funded (at the national level). My involvement at this level can in turn open the door for me to be involved in a large research project (R21 \$100,000 grant) in an area that I have a strong interest in and some level of expertise.

I think this was a superb learning experience for me, as I had the rare opportunity to meet a number of noted researchers that I look up to and admire greatly for their work. I learned so much from them sometimes simply by just sitting and listening to these individuals talk. At some point in my career I hope to have the chance to participate in some form of research with some, if not all, of these individuals. Currently, I am pursuing a small (\$1500 - \$3000) grant with Dr. Nancy Richeson for the University of Southern Maine and Dr. Karen Rose from the University Of Virginia School Of Nursing (we don't know if we will receive funding yet- but are keeping our fingers crossed).

I am very appreciative to Arkansas Tech University and to the funding provided by the professional development grant for allowing me the opportunity to participate in Dementia Day Camp VI. I too think that this was a wonderful occasion to represent Arkansas Tech University and our therapeutic recreation program.