

Overview of Selma's Slice of Life

A Veterans Health Nursing Leadership Initiative

BACKGROUND – SELMA'S LEGACY OF WARMTH, COMPASSION, AND KINDNESS

Selma's Slice of Life's is a philanthropic initiative named in honor of Selma Rabin, known for her warmth, compassion, and kindness, who lived with cancer for several years before it took her life in 2018. Selma's loving husband Arthur Rabin founded this initiative with their children, Robyn, Jason and Nicole Rabin, and grandchildren to inspire excellence in the world of nursing by honoring top nurses around the country caring for our Veterans with cancer, and helping to ensure that those who have served our country and their families receive the very best-in-class cancer care possible.



The program will award its inaugural round of nursing leadership prizes and awards in late 2019 through the Prostate Cancer Foundation's national partnership with the Department of Veterans Affairs. The initiative blends public and private leadership expertise in crucial areas such as nursing leadership in clinical practice, genomics, and precision oncology, bringing together experts both from the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Prostate Cancer Foundation.

CARING FOR OUR HEROES

On November 29, 2016, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Prostate Cancer Foundation (PCF) partnered to advance precision medicine for America's Veterans. As part of this announcement, PCF pledged \$50 million to support the PCF Veterans Health Initiative to expand prostate cancer precision oncology research among Veterans to speed the development of new precision treatment options and cures for prostate cancer patients. The Veterans Health Administration is the largest integrated health system in the U.S., providing care to more than 9 million Veterans enrolled in VA health care programs at 1,243 facilities, including 172 VA Medical Centers and 1,062 outpatient sites of varying complexity.

The timing of this partnership is crucial: Never in history have we been so close to solving so many medical research challenges. Precision medicine and "big data" provide unprecedented insights into why we get sick and – more importantly – how we can more effectively treat, and perhaps cure, not just prostate cancer but multiple life-threatening diseases. As the largest segment of the nation's health workforce, nursing leadership will be critical to delivering on this promise.

PROFESSIONAL CATEGORIES: VA NURSING BY THE NUMBERS

VA had 95,787 nursing personnel (including nurse anesthetists) as of July 2018, including:

Registered Nurses (RN)	61,535
Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNA)	973
Nurse Practitioners (NP) +	5,818
Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNS) +	313
Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurses (LPN/LVN)	14,446
Nursing Assistants (NA)	12,534

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AN INVESTMENT IN THE FUTURE OF NURSING

To advance the delivery of life-saving new therapies and best-in-class care to Veterans, in 2019 the Selma's Slice of Life Initiative will support nursing oncology leadership within VA medical centers. The program provides an opportunity to recognize and strengthen nursing leadership while also supporting our nation's courageous Veterans in their own battles against cancer.

Many of the over 95,000 VA nursing personnel are Veterans themselves or continue to serve as Reservists. Those nurses who are not Veterans themselves view working at the VA as their opportunity to serve their country. There is a great feeling of professional satisfaction serving our nation's heroes. VA Nursing is highly valued within the VA healthcare system and nurses are categorized as an integral member of the patient's treatment team. Patient care is delivered via a collaborative approach focusing on teamwork between Nurse, Physician, and other health care partners.

Selma's Slice of Life will raise vital funds to provide philanthropic support to advance nursing-related leadership in a national program across the Veterans Health Administration's 18 geographically divided administrative areas called Veterans Integrated Services Networks (VISN). The program will allocate funding for:

- Nursing Leadership Awards ranging \$50,000 to \$300,000 over a 2-3 year period to support dedicated nursing oncology leaders across the US.
- The funding will facilitate protected research time for nursing leaders, including time to conduct small, exploratory pilot studies that will contribute toward advancing the mission of Selma's Slice of Life and the care of Veterans.

This national network of Selma's Slice of Life nursing leaders will play a critical role in driving nursing excellence to assure access to state of clinical science for Veterans with advanced forms of cancer. It will also help to remove access disparities across clinical centers and to cutting-edge clinical trials. In addition to providing funding, the Selma's Slice of Life Nursing Leadership Initiative will bring overdue recognition to nurses as the unsung heroes of patient care and raise awareness among colleagues, distinguished officials and the media. The awards will provide recognition and funding for those who have dedicated their careers to nursing in the VA not only for their already impressive achievements but also for the promise of what they will accomplish in the future. Selma's Slice of Life nurses will also be given access to powerful networking and development tools throughout their careers in nursing. All of us can shape the future of cancer care but it will take a very concentrated and collaborative effort on nursing to deliver the needed cutting edge advances directly to patients. That role is ours to deliver.

About the Prostate Cancer Foundation

The Prostate Cancer Foundation (PCF) is the world's leading philanthropic organization funding and accelerating prostate cancer research. Founded in 1993, PCF has raised more than \$788 million and provided funding to more than 2,000 research programs at more than 210 cancer centers and universities. PCF advocates for greater awareness of prostate cancer and more efficient investment of governmental research funds for transformational cancer research. Its efforts have helped produce a 20-fold increase in government funding for prostate cancer. More information about PCF can be found at www.pcf.org

For more information on Selma's Slice of Life Veterans Health Nursing Leadership Initiative, please contact: Rebecca Levine, Vice President, Government Affairs via 310-570-4725 or rlevine@pcf.org.