2001 Ernest Amory Codman Award Recipient

Individual Award

Norma Lang RN, PhD, FAAN, FRCN
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

"I am honored and delighted to receive the Codman Award. I would like to share this honor with all practicing professional nurses who are the minute-by-minute determiners of the quality care received by patients. To recognize me is to recognize the essential contributions made by more than two million nurses in this country. It is a great honor to follow previous awardees who are considered the great leaders in the field of quality health care. It bodes well for nursing to have a nurse-and thus nursing-recognized as major contributors to the quality of health care."

Norma Lang, RN, PhD, FAAN, FRCN, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Dr. Norma Lang's pioneering work in identifying standards and measures to evaluate the quality of nursing care serves as the basis for nursing policy throughout the world. The model for measuring and evaluating the quality of nursing care that bears her name has been adopted in the United States, Canada, Australia and the United Kingdom. Dr. Lang is recognized as an Honorary Fellow in the Royal College of Nursing, London, an historic honor for her internationally renowned work.

For the past decade, Dr. Lang has been engaged in the scientific development of a system for classifying the phenomena of nursing practice, which culminated in her leadership in the development of the International Classification for Nursing Practice, the equivalent of the World Health Organization's classification of common determinants of practice for the nursing profession. "It is this work that will be her greatest legacy for nursing as it will have worldwide influence for the future and will provide the basis for research globally," says Sally Sample, RN, MN, FAAN, member of the Joint Commission's Board of Commissioners.

In addition, Dr. Lang pioneered the quality assurance effort in the profession of nursing beginning in the early 70s, writing scores of articles, conducting numerous workshops and consulting in the development of quality assurance in both nursing education and in all nursing practice sites.

Currently, Dr. Lang is Professor of Nursing at the University of Pennsylvania, and holds the Lillian S. Brunner Chair in Medical Surgical Nursing at the university. She is a Senior Research Fellow in the Annenberg Center for Public Policy, and a Senior Fellow in the Leonard Davis Institute for Health Economics. She is an advisor and faculty member for the Wharton Johnson & Johnson Program in Management for Nurse Executives and heads the Penn Macy Institute to Advance Academic Nursing Practice.

Dr. Lang holds national awards and fellowships with the American Nurses Association, the American Academy of Nursing, American Association of Colleges of Nursing, and the Institute of Medicine. In addition, she has served in numerous capacities on governing boards, advisory committees, editorial boards, and research review boards. For the Joint Commission, she served as Vice Chair of a Task Force for the Revision of Nursing Standards.