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## University of San Diego

Office of Public Relations

News Bureau

### **"POLITICS OF PAIN MANAGEMENT" IS FOCUS OF USD NURSING LECTURESHIP**

New federal guidelines have been passed to help direct U.S. health care practitioners in the effective management of acute pain. How were these guidelines enacted and how will they work?

Christine Miaskowski, Ph.D., R.N., F.A.A.N., a nursing professor who helped write the guidelines, will address these issues in a free public lecture entitled "The Politics of Pain Management: The Role of Clinical Practice Guidelines" on Tuesday, February 16, at the University of San Diego.

Sponsored by USD's Philip Y. Hahn School of Nursing and Zeta Mu Chapter, Sigma Theta Tau, the lecture will take place at 4:00 p.m. in USD's Manchester Executive Conference Center. The event is free and open to the public but reservations are required (call 260-4548).

Dr. Miaskowski, an Associate Professor at the School of Nursing at the University of California at San Francisco, is a nationally renowned expert in the management and care of acute pain. In 1990, the U.S. Agency for Health Care Policy and Research named her to a committee formed to develop national guidelines for postoperative pain management in adults and children.

"Pain is a symptom that has been undertreated in both adults

and children," said Dr. Miaskowski. "Over a two-year period, our expert panel developed the Acute Pain Guidelines to provide recommendations for all clinicians who must manage acute pain.

"We received considerable input from both clinicians and consumers before publishing these guidelines last March," she continued. "However, the guideline development process has generated numerous questions and controversies about whether or not this represents government's interference with health care."

Before joining the UCSF School of Nursing faculty, Dr. Miaskowski was Coordinator of Clinical Practice and Quality Assurance at the Hospital of Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York City. She is associate editor of the American Pain Society Journal and editor-in-chief of Yearbook of Oncology Nursing. She is a member of the American Pain Society's Board of Directors and has served as president of the Nursing Pain Association.

For further information about the February 16 USD Nursing Lectureship, please contact the School of Nursing at 260-4548.