

1994-02-18

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Digital USD Citation

Office of Public Information, "Nursing's Role in Health Care Reform is Topic of USD Lecture" (1994). *News Releases*. 4002.
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NURSING'S ROLE IN HEALTH CARE REFORM IS TOPIC OF USD LECTURE

Health care reform has finally made it to the front burner of American politics, and everyone is weighing in on the subject. The current health care "system" has been criticized for providing too little care, too late, for too many people at too high a cost. Nurses are the largest group of professionals in health care. Where will they fit in?

Barbara J. Safriet, Associate Dean, Yale Law School, will look at the future role of these front-line health care providers when she delivers USD's 1994 Nursing Lecture entitled "Nursing: A Case Study in Health Care Reform" on Thursday, March 3, at 4:00 p.m. in the Manchester Executive Conference Center.

Dean Safriet urges immediate legislative reform to reduce the restrictions that currently constrain advanced practice nurses, especially nurse practitioners and certified nurse-midwives. "Advanced practice nurses have demonstrated repeatedly that they can provide cost-effective, high-quality primary care for many of the neediest members of society," she says. "Unfortunately, they have been severely limited in their role by restrictions on their scope of practice, prescriptive authority, and eligibility for reimbursement."

The annual lectureship, sponsored by the Philip Y. Hahn School of Nursing, is free and open to the public, but reservations are required (call 260-4548).

Safriet's Yale law courses include regulation of health care providers, gender discrimination and race discrimination, and professional responsibility. She has published numerous articles on health care costs and health care regulation. She serves as an advisor to the American Bar Association and to the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration's Advisory Group on Workforce Projections of Nurse Practitioners and Nurse-Midwives.

"Dean Safriet has emerged as one of the nation's most compelling voices for removal of barriers to advanced practice nursing," said Dr. Janet Rodgers, Dean of the Nursing School. "Eliminating these restrictions would enable advanced practice nurses to increase access to health care while still preserving quality and reducing cost. Her lecture is certain to be provocative."