

## *Nebraska Nursing Hall of Fame*



### **Barbara Braden**

Few names are more familiar to practicing nurses than “Braden.” The Braden Scale for Predicting Pressure Ulcer Risk is used by nearly every student nurse and practicing nurse in the US and across the globe. The researcher and designer of that scale is Nebraska’s own Dr. Barb Braden and one of the inaugural inductees in the Nebraska Nursing Hall of Fame.

Dr. Braden received her basic nursing education in Omaha at St. Joseph’s School of nursing and completed her BSN at Creighton University. Her master’s degree is from University of California at San Francisco. Dr. Braden earned her PhD at The University of Texas at Austin.

A long-time faculty member at Creighton University, Dr. Braden started researching pressure ulcers as part of a larger project that fulfilled the objectives of the Robert Wood Johnson Teaching Nursing Home Project and while partnering with Nancy Bergstrom to write an NIH grant to study nutrition as a risk factor in pressure ulcer development. Pilot testing for reliability and validity was conducted as part of the Teaching Nursing Home Project and extensive testing in various settings and sites was conducted. This work was funded by two large NIH grants. The initial publication of the reliability and validity of the Braden Scale took place in *Nursing Research* in 1987. Since that time, the Braden Scale disseminated rapidly and is in use all around the world. It has been translated into as many as 20 languages.

Dr. Braden, currently Dean, University College at Creighton University, has been the recipient of various honors related to her research and Braden Scale. Among these include distinguished alumni from both Creighton and the University of California, San Francisco as well as Hall of Fame at the University of California SF School of Nursing. Her dissertation demonstrating the effect of relocation stress on serum cortisol and pressure ulcer development was awarded the Outstanding Dissertation. Dr. Braden was inducted as a fellow in the American Academy of Nursing and received the Maes-MacInnes Award, New York University, for contribution to and impact on the nursing profession.

Global honors include the Keynote address for Wound Ostomy and Continence Nurses Annual meeting being renamed as the Barbara Braden lecture and Lifetime achievement award from the European Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel. Dr. Braden was recognized for exemplary contribution to the discipline at the opening ceremonies for the World Union of Wound Healing Societies in June 2008.

During her induction into the Nebraska Nurses Hall of Fame, Dr. Braden responded in her usual humble way. While recognizing the impact of the Braden Scale on mortality and morbidity, she credited those staff nurses using it as making the difference. Clearly, when we speak of standing on the shoulders of giants, the shoulders of Dr. Barbara Braden, nurse extraordinaire, are at our feet.