



For Immediate Release

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School of Nursing Researcher Receives Nearly \$3.2 Million Grant To Study End-of-Life Communication For Kidney Patients

CHAPEL HILL--Assistant professor Mi-Kyung Song received a nearly \$3.2 million grant from the National Institute of Nursing Research, National Institutes of Health, for a study entitled, "Representational Intervention to Promote End-of-Life Decision-Making Preparation."

The randomized, controlled trial will test the effects of the SPIRIT (Sharing the Patient's Illness Representation to Increase Trust) intervention in improving preparedness for end-of-life decision making among patients with end-stage renal disease (ESRD) and their surrogates. The study also will test the effects of the SPIRIT intervention in reducing surrogates' conflict during decision making and psychosocial morbidities.

Subjects will be 200 white and black patients with ESRD recruited from outpatient dialysis clinics and their chosen surrogate decision makers. Song's co-investigators and SON assistant professor Jill Hamilton, School of Medicine associate professor Laura Hanson, UNC biostatistics professor Jason Fine and professor Sandra Ward from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

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