

**EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE CALL #5 IN OUR SERIES:  
“Eating with Dignity: Nutrition & Hydration”  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2006 – 3PM (ET) [2PM CT / 1PM MT / 12PM PT]**

**Expert Speaker Biography: Dr. Jeanie Kayser-Jones**

Jeanie Kayser-Jones, RN, PhD, FAAN is a professor in the Department of Physiological Nursing, School of Nursing and the Medical Anthropology Program, School of Medicine at the University of California, San Francisco. She holds a doctorate in Medical Anthropology from the University of California, Berkeley, a Master of Science degree in nursing from the University of California, San Francisco, and a Bachelor of Science degree, *cum laude*, from the University of Colorado.

Dr. Kayser-Jones is recognized nationally and internationally for her rigorous, systematic investigation of problems that influence the quality of care and the quality of life of nursing home residents. Her initial research, an ethnographic, cross-cultural comparative study of institutionalized elders in Scotland and the United States, was published by the University of California Press in a book entitled, *Old, Alone and Neglected: Care of the Aged in the United States and Scotland*. Her subsequent interdisciplinary program of research has focused on the social, cultural clinical and environmental factors that influence the quality of care in nursing homes. Dr. Kayser-Jones has consistently been awarded extramural funding for her research from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Institute on Aging (NIA).

In 1993, Dr. Kayser-Jones received a 5 –year research grant entitled “The Behavioral Context of Eating and National Support”, to investigate eating problems and nutritional care in nursing homes, a problem that previously had not been systematically investigated. The findings of this study disclosed that due to poor oral health, undiagnosed swallowing disorders, lack of individualized care, inadequate staffing and lack of supervision of nursing assistants by professional staff, many nursing home residents lost a large amount of weight, resulting in malnourishment, dehydration, and death. In October 1997, as the lead panelist, Dr. Kayser-Jones presented these important findings at a Congressional Forum, United States Special Committee on Aging, on the “The Risk of Malnutrition in Nursing Homes,” The findings from this research have had far-reaching effects on research, education, clinical practice, and health care policy.

Dr. Kayser-Jones is the principal investigator on an interdisciplinary NIH funded study entitled: “An Ethnography of Dying in Long-Term care Facilities”. This NIH study is funded by the National Institute on Aging, the National Cancer Institute and the National Institute of Nursing Research. She was the Founding Director of the UCSF/Hartford Center of Geriatric Nursing Excellence, (funded by the John A. Hartford Foundation, New York, New York).

Dr. Kayser-Jones is a Fellow of the Gerontological Society of America, the American Academy of Nursing, and the American Anthropological Society. She has lectured to large interdisciplinary audiences in the United States, Canada, Hong Kong, Zambia, the United Kingdom, and other countries. She has received numerous awards for her research in nursing homes. Dr. Kayser-Jones has published her findings in nursing, gerontology, social sciences, medicine and law journals, and they have been publicized widely in more than 50 lay publications, including the NY Times, radio, television, and websites. Throughout her career, Dr. Kayser-Jones’s research efforts have been directed toward improving the quality of care and the quality of life of older people who spend the last days of their lives in nursing homes.