Following the success of the major awards of the previous three years, *International Journal of Palliative Nursing*, in collaboration with Macmillan Cancer Support, is proud to announce the *International Journal of Palliative Nursing Awards 2008*. The *International Journal of Palliative Nursing Awards 2008* will highlight and reward excellence in evidence-based palliative care. These awards recognize not only individual commitment and achievement but they have become a staging post for the specialty of palliative care nursing.

A panel of well-respected judges will pay particular attention to initiative and enterprise in palliative care in which the care of patients is paramount. Entries are invited from individuals or members of a team for six major categories.

**PALLIATIVE CARE NURSE OF THE YEAR**

Sponsored by ProStrakan Group plc

This award aims to recognise a nurse who has made a difference to the palliative care of patients in practice. This may be in the care of terminally ill patients with any diagnosis. Articles may discuss individual case studies. Alternatively, entrants may describe innovations in symptom relief, service development or changing the culture within organisations that have resulted in improved care.

ProStrakan Group plc is a rapidly growing specialty pharmaceutical company engaged in the development and commercialisation of prescription medicines for the treatment of unmet therapeutic needs in major markets. The company’s development facilities are situated at ProStrakan’s headquarters in Galashiels in Scotland. EU-wide sales and marketing of ProStrakan’s portfolio of products are handled by commercial subsidiaries in the UK, France, Germany, Spain and other EU countries. www.prostrakan.com

**EDUCATIONALIST OF THE YEAR**

The aim of this award is to highlight innovation in palliative nursing education. We are interested in hearing about the development of new educational strategies and materials, of learning networks that encourage the growth of skills and knowledge of nurses, patients and families or carers, and the development of means to assess the outcomes of education. Entrants should submit an article outlining their achievements and how, through education, they have made a difference to patients and those close to them.

**DEVELOPMENT AWARD**

This award aims to celebrate the achievements of a team or an individual working in an area of the world where palliative care services are relatively new. Articles should be submitted describing the development of palliative care approaches that have made a difference to patients and those close to them. This may have involved introducing new services, education, or nursing innovations, and is likely to have taken place using limited resources. The work may have involved overcoming barriers and helping people or communities to use their own internal resources.

**NON-CANCER SYMPTOM MANAGEMENT AWARD**

This award aims to draw attention to innovation in symptom management outside of the cancer arena. Entrants should outline the achievement of improvements in the palliative care of patients. The article may focus on a single symptom such as pain, breathlessness, agitation, constipation or delirium. Alternatively, the subject may involve a holistic symptom management approach. Articles on individual case studies, the development of assessment tools and pragmatic protocols, and non-pharmacological approaches would all be welcome.

**MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAMWORK AWARD**

Good palliative care depends on teamwork between health-care professionals, patients and carers. The aim of this award is to highlight inspirational multidisciplinary working. Entrants should submit articles showing how groups of people have worked together to make a difference to the care of patients and those close to them. The articles may discuss the difficult process of developing an effective team and of overcoming barriers. Alternatively, the focus may be on systems that facilitate the communication of the information needed for different professions to bring their skills to help patients. Examples of cross-disciplinary learning and support will also be considered.

**LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

This award recognises the contribution made over a number of years by an inspirational and influential individual who has made an outstanding contribution to palliative nursing.
THE AWARD CEREMONY
The finalists of each category will be invited to attend a prestigious awards ceremony, which will be held at The Café Royal in London on the evening of Friday March 7, 2008. Winners will be presented with their awards in a formal setting following a gala dinner.

ENTRY CRITERIA
1. Entries are open to professionals working in palliative care individually or as members of a team.
2. Entries should be made either by the individual or through the nomination of a colleague, for example, a manager or a supervisor.
3. Each entry should be supported by a statement of no more than 1000 words, as to why the entrant feels he/she/they should win that particular category.
4. For each entry, there should also be a supporting statement of no more than 300 words signed by a manager and/or supervisor verifying that the entrant has indeed achieved that described in their submission.
5. Each submission will be judged by three judges, who will not be made aware of the entrants’ identity.
6. Each category will have a winner and two runner-up winners.
7. Short-listed candidates will be invited to a gala dinner and awards ceremony at The Café Royal, London on the evening of Friday March 7, 2008.
8. No one employed or closely associated with International Journal of Palliative Nursing or MA Healthcare Ltd, be that employee, spouse, close relative or regular contributor or columnist, may enter the awards.
9. In certain circumstances, if the standard of entries is considered not high enough, the judges may elect not to make a particular award.
10. The closing date for entries in all categories is January 28, 2008.
11. The decision of the judges is final and no correspondence can be entered into.