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**In Celebration of Nurse Practitioner Week,
Organizations Screen documentary film *The Invisible Patients***

THE INVISIBLE PATIENTS, an award-winning documentary film directed by Patrick O'Connor, tells the story of Jessica Macleod, a nurse practitioner, and four patients she cares for in their homes in Evansville, Indiana. Together they put a human face on some of the most urgent healthcare issues facing the United States, from the living conditions of the elderly poor and end-of-life care, to the soaring costs of hospitalization, complexity of insurance and over-prescription of opiates.

"We are thrilled that ***THE INVISIBLE PATIENTS*** is being screened during **Nurse Practitioner Week**," said Patrick O'Connor, director/producer of the film. "The film showcases the vital work of nurse practitioners, and the stories in the film reveal the emotional and financial burdens created by our current system that cry out for solutions."

According to the [American Association of Nurse Practitioners](http://www.aanp.org), National Nurse Practitioner Week is held annually to celebrate these exceptional health care providers and to remind lawmakers of the importance of removing outdated barriers to practice so that NPs will be allowed to practice to the full extent of their experience and education.

This week, ***THE INVISIBLE PATIENTS*** is being screened on **11/16** by the [Nurse Practitioners of Oregon](http://www.nursepractitionersoforegon.org), on **11/17** by the [Nurse Practitioner Association of Maryland](http://www.nursepractitionerassociationofmaryland.org), and on **11/19** by the [School of Nursing & Health Studies University of Washington I Bothell](http://www.washington.edu/schoolofnursing).

"*The Invisible Patients* explores the unique relationship between nurse practitioners and their patients and the challenges patients and home health care nurse practitioners encounter every day," said **Kevin Mealy, spokesperson for the Oregon Nurses Association and Nurse Practitioners of**

Oregon.

"We thank the University of Maryland for co-sponsoring this free event held during National NP Week in celebration of Maryland NPs and the high-quality care they provide to patients. To all NPs in Maryland and throughout the US - Thanks for being a NP!" said **Beverly Lang MScN, RN, ANP-BC Executive Director, Nurse Practitioner Association of Maryland.**

"The Invisible Patients is an intimate portrait of the day-to-day work of one of the thousands of overworked, underpaid and underappreciated professionals caring for society's marginalized. For all of its quiet dignity, the film is a powerful indictment of the indignities and infirmities that millions of Americans suffer at the hands of incoherent health systems. It is also an uplifting vindication of the value of Nurse Practitioners, and the central role they could play in solving our primary and indigent care crises," said **Dan Bustillos JD, PhD Assistant Professor, School of Nursing & Health Studies University of Washington - Bothell**

The outpouring of love and support for the film has been tremendous, and it has received terrific reviews.

"...a powerful film that brings into the light challenges faced by the frail homebound and the heroic work they, their families and health care providers perform to preserve their humanity." – **Bruce Leff, MD Professor of Medicine, Johns Hopkins University**

"... absolutely wonderful... shows a professional practice, a human practice, a spiritual practice." **Melinda Swenson, PhD, FNP, PAANP, ANEF, Indiana University**

*"An achingly intimate portrait of a growing problem... makes you a fly on the wall in the lives of people falling through the cracks of the American healthcare system. - **Sam Watermeier, Film Reviewer – NUVO***

Watch the [film trailer](#). And check out [what people are saying about THE INVISIBLE PATIENTS](#)

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