Benefactor

Virginia K. Saba
EdD, Honorary PhD, DS, RN, FAAN, FACMI, LL

Dr. Virginia K. Saba was a longtime Sigma member and supporter. She established a fund for Sigma's Virginia K. Saba Nursing Informatics Leadership Award, which honors an individual for his or her innovative and cutting-edge work in the field of nursing informatics and whose work has resulted in a significant development and sustained contributions to advance the discipline of nursing informatics.

A Pioneer in Nursing Informatics

For more than 50 years until her passing in 2021, Dr. Saba spearheaded the nursing informatics (NI) movement within the United States and internationally and drove its acceptance through unique and new innovative programs. Through her efforts, NI was professionally recognized as a nursing specialty that required its own standards, academic programs, and educational materials, all of which she helped initiate.

Dr. Saba also developed computer-based information systems for clinical nursing practice, including the Clinical Care Classification (CCC) System.

In 1981 Dr. Saba initiated the first National Conference Computer Technology and Nursing at the US National Institutes of Health. She also organized the first nursing track, NI sessions and NI working group at the Symposium on Computer Applications in Medical Care (SCAMC), now the American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA) symposium. She was instrumental in forming the ANA Council for Computer Applications in Nursing (CCAN), which she served as a board member and chaired for several years. The CCAN was the driving force that promoted NI as a new nursing specialty and fostered the creation of the Scope and Standards of Nursing Informatics Practice and the NI Specialty Certification.

Dr. Saba was a distinguished scholar at Georgetown University School of Nursing and professor at the US Uniformed Services University. She also was the namesake and inaugural recipient of the American Medical Informatics Association Virginia K. Saba Informatics Award. Dr. Saba authored multiple books, book chapters, and articles, including two editions of the ***Clinical Care Classification (CCC) System: User's Guide*** and seven editions of ***Essentials of Nursing Informatics***. She was one of the first editors of *Computers in Nursing (CIN) Journal* (now called *CIN: Computers, Informatics, Nursing*).