Mercedes Bern-Klug is a tenured social work faculty member at the University of Iowa where she also directs the Aging Studies Program. She teaches “Introduction to Nursing Homes,” and “Global Aging” as well as “Integrated Social Work Theory and Practice.” Her research seeks to enhance the well-being of older adults with advance chronic illness and their family members. She is the editor of the book, “Transforming Palliative Care in Nursing Homes: The Social Work Role,” (Columbia University Press, 2010).