

**UCLA SCHOOL OF NURSING AT A GLANCE
FACULTY RESEARCH AND CLINICAL EXPERTISE**

Research and Clinical Expertise of UCLA School of Nursing Faculty Who Can Direct Dissertations

Dong Sung An, PhD, MD

Research: Translational science aimed at HIV cure by developing hematopoietic stem cell (HSC) based anti-HIV gene therapy. The current limitation in HIV therapy is that anti-HIV drugs cannot provide cure. My research team investigates a permanent introduction of anti-HIV genes into HSC that has a potential to offer a lifelong protection against HIV. I identified a small interfering RNA (siRNA) expressed from a lentiviral vector to inhibit the expression of a major HIV co-receptor CCR5 to protect cells from HIV infection. The CCR5 directed siRNA is currently investigated in a phase I/I clinical trial (Safety Study of a Dual Anti-HIV Gene Transfer Construct to Treat HIV-1 Infection. <http://clinicaltrials.gov/show/NCT01734850>).

Significance: The requirement for life long daily drug administration due to the viral persistence has intensified efforts to develop novel therapeutics to achieve cure. Dr An's research team investigates a permanent introduction of anti-HIV genes into HSC that has a potential to offer a lifelong protection against HIV.

Clinical: N/A

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Barbara Bates-Jensen, PhD, RN, CWOCN

Research: Chronic wounds such as pressure ulcers, diabetic foot ulcers, and leg ulcers are a worldwide silent epidemic with limited public awareness about the financial costs of care for these wounds and the poor outcomes associated with inadequate care including suffering, loss of function, amputation, and death. My research is focused on pressure ulcers & chronic wound care (screening & detection methods, prevention, assessment & management) in vulnerable populations. I work with nursing home residents, elders, persons with spinal cord injury, and critically ill patients. I also evaluate and use new technology in wound care such as a medical device that measures skin and tissue damage before it is visible on the skin surface that I helped invent with UCLA professors in computer science and bioengineering. The research methods that I use include: methodological research, behavioral observation studies, direct primary data collection, clinical trials and cohort observational studies. The research my team conducts has the potential to improve care of persons with wounds here in the U.S. and around the world.

Significance: Dr Bates Jensen is interested in examining quality of care, and implementation science (translating research evidence into practice) as they relate to wound care in health care organizations.

Clinical: Gerontology nursing, chronic care, and wound care. I am actively involved in global wound care, providing education and training to build sustainable capacity in wound care in communities around the world.
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Sarah E. Choi, PhD, RN, FNP

Research: Dr. Choi's research focuses on identifying and understanding the biological, psychological, social, and cultural factors associated with chronic disease self-management among ethnic minority immigrants. Particularly interests are related to the role of family/social support and depression in disease self-management and outcomes among people with type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

Significance: Provide guidance to the development and testing of community-based culturally tailored self-care interventions focused on behavioral and lifestyle changes.

Clinical: Primary Care Family Nurse Practitioner

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Lynn Doering, PhD, RN, FAAN

Research: Care of patients with cardiac disease and heart transplantation and care of critically ill patients, focusing on the interface of behavior and biological outcomes, particularly inflammatory biomarkers; depression and immune dysfunction after coronary artery bypass surgery; identification of depression in cardiac patients; nurse-delivered cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) for populations with or at risk for depression. Currently, Dr. Doering is exploring the use of an ECG biomarker to detect allograft rejection in heart transplant patients and is collecting psychosocial measures (depression, quality of life, anxiety) during the first 6 months after transplantation. The benefit of early detection of allograft rejection may allow more timely initiation of medical therapy and reduce mortality from acute rejection.

Significance: Dr. Doering's research is significant for identifying clinical outcomes associated with depression and anxiety in cardiac patients, and her use of nurses to deliver CBT in depressed patients is unique and innovative

Clinical: Critical care and cardiopulmonary nursing

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Jo-Ann Eastwood, PhD CNS ACNP-BC FAAN, FAHA, FPCNA

Research: Despite the fact that heart disease is the number one killer of women, research on young women and cardiovascular disease is scarce, particularly research on prevention efforts. My previous research focused on psychobiological correlates of ischemic heart disease in women. I further built upon this foundation by focusing on IHD prevention through the promotion of self-management. My current funded study combines clinical and mobile "m-Health" approaches to cardiovascular risk reduction in young, minority women in the Los Angeles area. In a mutually beneficial collaboration with the UCLA Wireless Health Institute, I have combined a community-based participatory research model with mobile health technology during the last two years.

Significance: Consistent with UCLA's mission and the Institute of Medicine's report on reducing health disparities through prevention, I use an innovative approach that focuses on early recognition of risk factors, individualized goal setting and the development of self-management skills designed to promote healthy lifestyle behaviors to reduce IHD risk in young Black women in the Los Angeles area. It enables me to conduct cross-cultural research in the community. Through education on self-management skills, my research promotes sustainability and diffusion of heart healthy behaviors to the individual participant and into the family.

Clinical: Clinical Nurse Specialist Adult Critical Care and Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Cardiovascular

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Karen Gyls, PhD, RN

Research: Understanding early changes in Alzheimer's disease brain, specifically the mechanisms by which synapses degenerate. We study postmortem Alzheimer's tissue and transgenic mouse models of this disease, and focus on the synapse region through use of a synaptosome preparation (resealed nerve terminals). Synaptic changes are detected with flow cytometry analysis of synaptosomes using novel protocols that we have developed. We also use conventional biochemical assays including ELISA and Westerns, and image synaptic regions using confocal and electron microscopy. Collaborative projects with the Easton Center for Alzheimer's Research are directed at measuring CSF and plasma biomarkers in subjects with mild cognitive impairment (MCI) with the goal of finding a blood test that will identify Alzheimer's patients early in the disease and track patient response to therapies.

Significance: The focus of the Gyls lab is on understanding the earliest changes Alzheimer's disease synapses through study of postmortem human tissue and mouse models of AD. A second major focus is the study of early AD-related changes that show up in blood; the goal is finding blood tests to help us detect AD earlier, and to monitor subject's response to therapeutics in clinical trials.

Clinical: Cardiac and critical care nursing

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Nalo Hamilton, PhD, APRN, BC

Research: Research is focused on the development of breast cancer and the health disparity associated with this disease. Investigating the regulatory affects of the insulin like growth factor-II (IGF-2) on estrogen receptor mediated pathways will assess the clinical utility of IGF2 as a breast cancer biomarker.

Significance: Understanding the cascade of events in breast cancer development and associated ethnic differences will improve our ability to develop therapeutic agents that target cellular/molecular events in aggressive breast cancer.

Clinical: OB and Primary Care; Certified women's health and adult health nurse practitioner

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MarySue V. Heilemann, PhD, RN

Research: Dr. Heilemann focuses on creating and testing interventions to enhance symptom management for depression or anxiety including approaches that integrate media/transmedia using data-informed storytelling. Her research has focused on Latinas in relation to strengths (mastery, resilience, and other protective factors), stressors, and motivation in the context of intergenerational cultural expectations, gender issues, trauma, and post-traumatic stress disorder. Her methodological expertise involves a rigorous approach to qualitative research using Grounded Theory informed by Constructivism and Pragmatism. Dr. Heilemann also focuses on the implications of media portrayals of nurses in television, film, and the Internet in relation to public assumptions about the role and value of nurses as clinicians, team members, and leaders in health care and health policy.

Significance: Dr. Heilemann's intervention work is important for creating strategies to successfully engage and enhance mental health awareness and symptom management. Her methodological expertise in qualitative research equips researchers with a rigorous approach to understanding patient perspectives in context. Her experience in media/transmedia research is ground-breaking for investigators seeking to engage in new media strategies in the 21st century.

Clinical: Community-based mental health, community health nursing, and public health nursing

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Felicia Schanche Hodge, DrPH

Research: Dr. Hodge's research focuses on chronic health conditions and health beliefs and behaviors among American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Indigenous populations. Her work includes smoking cessation and control, diabetes and cancer screening and control, obesity, adverse childhood events, self-management of pain, and cultural constructs of illness and disease. Dr. Hodge holds a joint faculty position in Public Health (Health Services Department), is the Director of the Center for American Indian/Indigenous Research and Education (CAIIRE), and is the Director of an NINR-funded T32 Predoctoral-Postdoctoral Vulnerable Populations Training Program.

Significance: Studies document that AI/ANs have had the poorest health with cancer leading as the number one cause of death followed by heart disease and suicide. Cultural interventions are long overdue and play an important role in community wellness.

Clinical: N/A

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Eufemia Jacob, PhD, RN

Research: Dr. Eufemia Jacob developed the "Wireless Intervention Program" (WIP) that uses handheld electronic devices for self-monitoring pain and symptoms at home in children with chronic illness (cancer, sickle cell disease, persistent chronic pain). The WIP allows remote monitoring of pain and symptoms by health care providers, and facilitates communication between pediatric patients and health care providers. The effectiveness of the WIP will be evaluated to determine whether it will reduce the frequency and severity of daily pain and symptoms, minimize hospitalizations for pain and symptoms, and thereby, improve sleep, and increase overall quality of life in children with chronic illness (cancer, sickle cell disease, and persistent chronic pain). Dr. Jacob is also investigating abnormal sensory processing in children with persistent chronic pain that may lead to testing of individualized intervention strategies based on abnormal sensory processing profiles (i.e., hypoesthesia, hyperesthesia, hypoalgesia, hyperalgesia, allodynia).

Significance: The WIP is important because children with chronic illness require ongoing medical care and the WIP allows children to learn self-management behaviors and promote communications with health care providers. This enhanced communication would then empower them to be more involved in decisions regarding their own care, rather than heavily relying on their parents or caregivers as they transition into young adults. Her work on sensory pain may help clinicians provide optimal and medically-justifiable pain treatments. The findings may change the way we teach children with sickle cell disease and parents about pharmacological and non-pharmacological pain management strategies, particularly for children with persistent chronic pain.

Clinical: pediatric nursing, hematology/oncology nursing

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Su Yon Jung, RN, MPH, PhD

Research: Dr. Jung is a cancer epidemiologist gaining particular expertise in study design, data quality assurance, statistically analytic approach, data interpretation, and evaluation. Her research has focused on identifying cancer biomarkers associated with obesity and weight gain as potential strategies for cancer prevention. She incorporates genetic approaches to evaluate the effect of gene-environmental interactions on the pathways connecting cancer-relevant biomarkers to cancer carcinogenesis.

Significance: In cancer epidemiologic studies, behavioral and observational studies have been conducted in parallel with genome-wide association studies. Dr. Jung's molecular genetic epidemiology to incorporate hormonal and behavioral determinants in cancer prevention and prognosis will afford an opportunity for collaboration between the two research areas by its incorporation of the traditional and rigorous epidemiologic strategy into the genetic study approach.

Clinical: Community-based and public health practice; research design; statistical analyses including multivariate modeling, survival, CART, Baron-Kenny approach, and genetic association/gene-environmental interaction test.

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Eunice Lee, PhD, RN, FAAN

Research: Nursing Interventions to improve breast/cervical/colorectal cancer screening among immigrants; care of vulnerable and minority elder adults with dementia and their caregivers; depression; cross-cultural methodology. Dr. Lee's program of research has been focusing on the development and testing of culturally targeted, community-based interventions to increase breast cancer, cervical cancer, and colorectal cancer screening behavior among minority women, especially Korean/Asian American women. Her work has been funded by the National Institute of Nursing Research and the National Cancer Institute. Her expertise is in behavior change theory and testing theory-based interventions that incorporate culture to optimize cancer screening.

Significance: Dr. Lee's program of research has been focusing on the development and testing of culturally targeted, community-based interventions to increase breast cancer, cervical cancer, and colorectal cancer screening behavior among minority women, especially Korean American women. A major emphasis in her work has been on increasing early detection among aging and vulnerable populations and the reduction of health disparities in cancer prevention. Research methods of interests -- descriptive, experimental, qualitative, and mixed methods

Clinical: Gerontological nurse practitioner, geriatric-psychiatric nursing

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Mary Ann Lewis, DrPH, RN, FAAN

Research: Health Services Research which in the past has tested the effectiveness of intra-disciplinary interventions to improve the quality and outcomes of care for adults with developmental disabilities, the frail elderly, and children with asthma and epilepsy. The Affordable Care Act offers the opportunity to study the quality and outcomes of care provided to persons across the life span with chronic diseases by health care teams in populations with social and health disparities. These vulnerable populations lack the social determinants that promote health and are the most costly to the health care system.

Clinical: Family health
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Courtney H. Lyder, ND, ScD(Hon), FAAN

Research: Care of vulnerable and minority elder adults. Particular emphasis on chronic care issues — pressure ulcer prevention and management, perineal dermatitis, urinary incontinence, medication adherence, elder safety. Research methods of interests – descriptive, experimental and health services research.

Clinical: Gerontological nursing
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Paul M. Macey, PhD

Research: I study the relationship of the central nervous system to symptoms and co-morbidities of disorders of breathing during sleep. I primarily study adult obstructive sleep apnea (OSA), a condition that occurs in 10% of the population, and which leads to serious psychological and physiological comorbidities, and early death. My group currently looks at sex differences in brain and cardiovascular function in OSA, based on a variety of measures. In collaboration with other investigators, we also study brain, autonomic, and psychological symptoms in other patient populations, including chronic pain and pediatric conditions. The methods we use include brain imaging to measure function, brain structure, levels of chemicals, and blood flow. My group relates these brain measures to cardiovascular and psychological symptoms, measured in the lab or in the home with a mHealth system. Another approach we use is analyzing a large clinical database (“big data”) to discover links between hypertension and OSA. These studies have led to new interventions including exercise and mindfulness, projects we are just starting.

Significance: Obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) is difficult to treat, and is often overlooked in women. By viewing OSA as an example of a chronic, stress-related condition that affects the brain, we are developing new models of the disease that extend beyond the basic definition of not breathing properly during sleep. Based on these models, we have developed novel interventions that we are presently trialing.

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Janet Mentes, PhD, APRN, BC

Research: Improving the care of older adults, primarily in areas of oral hydration, oral care, and delirium detection and management. Current research emphasis is on early detection and management of dehydration in older adults in community and institutional settings, through the use of various biomarkers, such as urine and salivary parameters along with hydration habits.

Significance: Dehydration is a complicating condition that increases the likelihood of hospitalization of many common diseases of older adults including congestive heart failure, cancer treatments, and diabetes to name a few. Validation of early methods of detecting dehydration have the potential to decrease these un-needed costly hospitalizations and improve quality of life for older adults.

An additional research focus is evaluation of a mentorship program for promoting under-represented minority students' success in gerontological nursing PhD programs.

Significance: Increasing the number of nurses with PhDs from diverse backgrounds will accelerate the science required to decrease health disparities among underrepresented minority groups.

Co-Director of the Center for Advancement of Gerontological Nursing Research (AGNS)

Clinical: Geropsychiatric advanced practice nurse
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Carol Pavlish, PhD, RN

Research: Clinical ethics at the patient, family, provider, and healthcare system levels; ethical conflicts in oncology and ICU care; end-of-life decision making; team-based ethical advocacy; moral distress. I also research gender-based violence in post-conflict settings; refugee and immigrant women's health; transcultural nursing care; social justice and social advocacy; health and human rights. Research approaches include narrative, ethnographic, and community-based collaborative action research.

Significance: The primary aims of my ethics research are to develop and test effectiveness of proactive, team-based interventions to prevent ethical conflicts and moral distress in oncology and ICU settings. The primary aims of my social justice research are to develop and test effectiveness of health and human rights education to protect women against gender-based violence in post-conflict settings.

Clinical: Community health nursing and acute oncology nursing care
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Huibrie C. Pieters, PhD, D.Phil, RN

Research: Healthcare decision-making is the focus of my research program and my international and domestic experiences in nursing, clinical psychology, and neuropsychology inform this work. Specifically, my work is concentrated on decision-making across different understudied populations: older women with early stage breast cancer, low-income, decision making about surgery for drug-resistant epilepsy, second generation Latinas seeking treatment for depression, and screening for cervical cancer among homeless women. Treatment-related decision making is a complex, multifaceted process within the patient-clinician interaction. Since it is the patient who ultimately makes decisions, I study decision making from the patient's perspective. The unique contribution of my body of work is describing complex issues that pose a serious threat to both survival and quality of life.

Significance: Improve care by exploring ways to improve access to care and increase adherence, both for disease prevention and active treatments.

Clinical: Psychiatric/Mental health nursing; gero-oncology.
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Nancy A. Pike PhD, RN, FNP-C, CPNP-AC

Research: Biobehavioral and health outcomes in infants, children, and adolescents with congenital heart disease (CHD) and their families. This includes quality of life, health status, self-esteem, anxiety, depression, body-image, clinical symptoms, feeding / growth, neurodevelopment and cognitive outcomes, acquired medical conditions with aging and self-care with transitioning to adulthood. I serve as Principal Investigator (PI) on an NIH-funded R01 grant to look at the biological interface between the clinical symptom of cognition / memory loss and brain structural injury (MRI) in adolescents with single ventricle heart disease after surgical palliation.

Significance: To evaluate the structural status of brain regions which control memory and their relationship the clinical symptom of memory loss in adolescents with single ventricle congenital heart disease after surgical correction. This study has the potential to dramatically impact clinical practice, as information from this study can guide clinicians toward improved patient education/self-care strategies and test innovative interventions to improve memory in this growing population.

Clinical: Acute Care Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, Congenital Heart Disease, Cardiothoracic Surgery
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Wendie Robbins, PhD, RN, FAAN

Research: Biomarkers; reproductive toxicology; male reproductive health; occupational, environmental, and reproductive epidemiology.

Significance: The US Centers for Disease Control has identified infertility as a public health concern and has developed a national public health action plan to address this issue that affects ~1 in 7 couples. Our research focuses on promotion of healthy behaviors to maintain and preserve male fertility as well as identifying exposures that threaten optimal male reproductive health.

Clinical: Occupational and environmental health nursing
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Linda Sarna, PhD, RN, FAAN

Research: Her current work involves testing distance learning methods directed at nurses to expand capacity to treat tobacco dependence. She has current projects focused on nurses and tobacco control in the Czech Republic and Poland, on behalf of the International Society of Nurses in Cancer Care, and in the U.S. (Kentucky and Louisiana). She is the lead author on a monograph that will be published by the World Health Organization on the nurses' role in reducing non-communicable diseases (cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and respiratory diseases). She also has conducted secondary analysis of smoking among healthcare providers using the Current Population Surveys. Prior work has focused on symptom recovery after lung cancer surgery and quality of life, and the impact of tobacco use on patients with cancer. She is part of work groups at the National Cancer Institute and the Joint Commission regarding documentation of clinical interventions for tobacco dependence. In 2012-2013, she was the Chair of the Academic Senate at UCLA.

Clinical: Oncology

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Mary Ann Shinnick, PhD, MN, ACNP-BC, CCNS

Research: Her past work has included investigating the efficacy of human patient simulation as a teaching methodology in nursing (knowledge gains, critical thinking, impact of learning styles and self-efficacy as related to knowledge after simulation). She has advanced this trajectory to test different nursing competency methods in simulation and the clinical setting using video obtained by eye-tracking technology. Other research includes studying data obtained from the eye tracker such as focus and fixation points in a simulation and cognitive workload from pupil dilation changes during a simulation. The goal of these research topics is to inform nursing education and the validity testing of instruments measuring nursing competency in both simulation and the clinical setting. Methods: Quantitative.

Significance: This work is important for public safety as the development of valid assessment strategies ensures safe practitioners

Clinical: Acute Care Nurse Practitioner/Clinical Nurse Specialist; Cardiac Surgery ICU and Heart Failure
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Sophie Sokolow, PhD, MPharm, RPh

Research: Dr. Sokolow examines the influence of genetics on disease progression as well as on acetylcholinesterase inhibitor therapeutic response in Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI) and Alzheimer's Disease (AD).

Significance: The discovery of new genetic markers associated with slower disease progression and drug response provides the opportunity to assess the utility of genetic testing for personalized medicine in MCI and AD patients.

Clinical: Registered pharmacist, pharmacogenetics, and pharmacovigilance.
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Elizabeth Thomas, RN, PhD, ANP-BC, COHN-S, CNL

Research: Dr. Thomas's research focuses on type 2 diabetes in older working adults. She has conducted grounded-theory qualitative studies on diabetes self-management at work and quantitative work on type 2 diabetes, hearing loss and work-related exposures (noise and chemicals) in older Mexican Americans as well as a pilot workplace-based musculoskeletal injury prevention program. Current studies include an extension of grounded-theory qualitative studies on diabetes self-management at work, a quantitative study of self-efficacy for diabetes self-management, self-management behaviors, and work productivity in older adults and a larger cohort of the workplace-based musculoskeletal injury prevention program. Dr. Thomas has 20+ years of experience as an Occupational Health Nurse Practitioner working in high technology industries meeting the health, safety, and ergonomic needs of employees. She has designed, implemented, and managed numerous occupational health programs, including award winning workers' compensation and ergonomics programs. She has extensive experience as a team member and team leader in Total Quality Management initiatives.
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Rosamar Torres, PhD, RN

Research: My general research focus is maternal-child mental health with a focus on adolescent antenatal depression and infant/child outcomes, and depression in children born preterm. Specifically, I am interested in how depression affects maternal-child sleep patterns, cognition and child development. I am also concerned with preterm birth and its relationship with depression, cognition, academic achievement, transition to adulthood and quality of life in adolescence and maternal depression.

Clinical: Pediatric ICU, Pediatric ER, Neonatal ICU

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Dorothy J. Wiley, PhD, RN

Research: Interests relate to HPV infection across the lifespan: in children (juvenile laryngeal papillomatosis), adolescents and young adults (HPV infections, genital warts, neoplasia) and middle- to older-adults (cancers and neoplasia). Additionally, our group focuses on developing effective screening strategies for detecting precancers and cancers, and we examine associations between HPV infection characteristics, neoplasia and molecular biomarkers across the lifespan are important to understanding the natural history of HPV-related cancers (HPV methylation. Sexual health, sexuality and sexually transmitted infections that influence the natural history of HPV-infections and -related neoplasia are our concern. Vaccine prevention strategies and uptake of vaccine campaigns in the community are key interests (HPV-16 monovalent, 4-valent and 9-valent HPV vaccines). Our research also characterizes the intersection of HPV and HIV infections, including high-risk and population surveillance for cervical, oropharyngeal and anal cancer and screening activities. The Wiley group evaluates risk factors for HPV-disease progression; especially related to HIV in human populations. Dr. Wiley uses epidemiological methods to identify health- and disease- patterns in human populations.

Significance: Nearly 500,000 women, worldwide, are diagnosed with cervical cancer each year and nearly 250,000 will die from disease annually. A major aim of our work centers on developing and testing screening interventions and early treatments to prevent invasive cancers caused by HPV. These include improved clinical specimen collection techniques, and identifying biological markers that are associated with higher risk for precancers.

Clinical: Community-based and public health practice; adolescent females and adult women, adult men, older adults and high-risk populations; prevention strategies to decrease morbidity and mortality in diverse communities.

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Mary Woo, PhD, RN, FAAN, FAHA

Research: Brain-heart interactions and their impact on sudden death and cognition, with an emphasis on heart failure and sleep apnea. Current studies are designed to identify areas of brain damage and interventions to protect or re-grow regions of brain injury. Research methods include brain magnetic resonance imaging, sleep studies (overnight polysomnography), heart rate variability, autonomic testing, and cognitive evaluation.

Significance: The primary aims of my research are to identify and develop interventions to protect high risk patients (heart failure, persons with obstructive sleep apnea) from brain injury.

Clinical: Critical Care
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Emeriti Faculty

Nancy Anderson, PhD, RN, C-ANP, FAAN

Research: Adolescent health beliefs and decision-making, adolescent perceptions of risk including HIV, substance abuse and violence, qualitative methods. Dr. Anderson has identified perceptions of risk among teens in juvenile detention. Current work as Director of the Social Policy and Dissemination Core for the Center for Vulnerable Populations Research centers on employing participatory research and ethnographic methods in community based research.

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Betty Chang, DNSc, RN, C-FNP, FAAN

Research: Functional status and self-care in the elderly, and their caregivers, health services research on outcomes of nursing care, telehealth and distance learning in integrative east-west medicine. Dr. Chang studies intervention to reduce the burden of family members who care for persons with chronic illnesses in the home. Growth in the older population makes this issue critical in maintaining the health of our middle-aged adult "children" and their parents in the comfort of their homes. She is also looking at the role of self-care (non-physician prescribed), and the use of technology in the improvement of health in adults in their middle and older years.

Clinical: Gerontological nursing, integrative East-West medicine
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Jacquelyn Flaskerud, C-FNP, RN, FAAN

Research: AIDS prevention in vulnerable populations; Culture, ethnicity and mental illness. Dr. Flaskerud's research emphasizes the influence of cultural beliefs and practices on the prevention and treatment of AIDS and mental illness as well as the utilization of health services by ethnic and vulnerable populations.

Clinical: Neuropsychiatric nursing; community mental health nursing.

Deborah Koniak-Griffin, EdD, RN, WHCNP, FAAN

Research: Testing of nursing interventions to reduce risk behaviors and promote the health of pregnant and parenting adolescents and their children has led to the development of three evidence-based models. These focus on home visitation by public health nurses and prevention of HIV/AIDS/. Home visitation by public health nurses was shown to decrease infant morbidity, improve maternal health outcomes and reduce repeat pregnancy rates. Young parents in two HIV preventions programs demonstrated decreased sexual risk-taking behaviors, thereby reducing risk for repeat, unplanned pregnancy. In a recent study, overweight/obese Latino women in a lifestyle behavior intervention reported improved dietary habits and had favorable changes in waist circumference and physical activity. Ongoing works involves promoting healthy lifestyle behaviors (physical activity) in middle school students and involvement with the UCLA CTSI. Dr. Koniak-Griffin is Chair of the Health Promotion Science Section and Director of the Center for Vulnerable Populations Research.

Significance: Dr Koniak Griffin's program in the area of adolescent health promotion has led to the development of three intervention programs that are evidence-based models of care being promoted by the federal government for dissemination and replication across the United States. These interventions have been shown to reduce risk-taking behaviors associated with unplanned repeat pregnancies, sexually-transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS as well as improve the infant health in pregnant and parenting adolescents and their children.

Clinical: Maternity nursing, women's health nurse practitioner

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Donna McNeese-Smith, EdD, RN

Research: Organizational factors affecting quality of care processes and outcomes. Specifically, Dr. McNeese-Smith is studying the effect of managed care on substance abuse treatment processes, including methods, intensity, and duration; and patient outcomes such as substance use and employment, and organizational outcomes including costs of care. Another area of research is nurse and manager factors (i.e., leadership, power motivation, development and career stage) that influence staff job satisfaction, productivity, organizational commitment, and patient satisfaction.

Clinical: Administration of health care services

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Joyce Newman Giger, EdD, APRN, BC, FAAN

Research: Focuses on genetic indices and other physiological predictors of coronary heart disease among premenopausal African-American women (18-45) as they relate to designing culturally competent interventions to stop the phenotypical expression of risk indices for the development of coronary heart disease among this vulnerable population. Dr. Giger's research specifically takes into account gene-environmental interactions, diabetes, hypertension, and obesity, the metabolic syndrome in relations to the development of coronary heart disease in this vulnerable population.

Clinical: Transcultural nursing

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Linda Phillips, RN, PhD, FAAN

Research: Family caregiving for frail elders; Strategies for improving transitional care of elders from emergency department and hospital to home; Care of frail elder in institutions; Elder abuse in homes and in institutions; Late-life domestic violence; End-of-life caregiving; Ethno-gerontological nursing studying the intersect of aging and transcultural nursing. **Significance:** The US has a rapidly growing older population, particularly among those in ethnically unique groups. Developing and testing nursing interventions to reduce frailty and functional decline and enhance care at home has significant cost and quality of life implications.

Factors that influence students in pre-licensure nursing programs to choose research careers in nursing. **Significance:** Most nurse researchers, particularly those in ethnically unique groups, have very short research careers because they tend to pursue doctoral education after age 40. National nursing leaders and nursing organizations have set a goal to increase the length of research careers in nursing by promoting early-entry into scientific careers. The goal of lengthening research careers has the potential to significantly increase the impact nurses can make in the health of the nation. This research is designed to gain the knowledge needed to design interventions to entice nurses into science early in their nursing careers.

Clinical: Gerontology, long term care, community health nursing
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Research and Clinical Expertise of Other Faculty

Adjunct Faculty (Can Co-Chair Dissertations)

Mary-Lynn Brecht, PhD

Research: Recent projects have focused on patterns and correlates of methamphetamine (meth) use; treatment outcomes and HIV risk behaviors for meth users; the application of longitudinal statistical methods to substance abuse and health research; needs assessment (for substance abuse treatment, for training among service providers related to problem gambling), evaluation of treatment for drug abuse, substance use prevalence estimation, community indicators of drug abuse problems.

Statistical expertise: multivariate statistical methods, especially for longitudinal studies; secondary analysis of large administrative datasets

Significance: research outcomes have been important in identifying long-term patterns and correlates of health-related behaviors and outcomes; the application of statistical methods are important in facilitating the examination of complex health phenomena.

Clinical: N/A

Mary Cadogan, DrPH, RN, GNP-BC, FAAN, FGSA

Research: Improving quality of care for older adults and improving quality and safety of transitional care for older adults. Past projects include transitional care for older adults seen in the emergency department and discharged home without a hospital admission. Another area of focus is improving quality of care through practice redesign. Projects include improving care for nursing home residents with depression and a new focus on improving sleep in nursing homes through practice redesign and behavioral restructuring.

Clinical: Advanced Practice Gerontology Nursing; Community based health promotion and disease prevention for diverse populations. Care towards the end of life.

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Catherine Carpenter, PhD, MPH

Research: Malnutrition, represented by over and under nutrition, has a global impact on human health and disease. I have a dual research interest in both obesity and malnutrition. My current research areas include: the effect of protein on muscle mass gain among women living with HIV in rural India; examining the dual impact of diet and exercise on glucose metabolism in relationship to heart disease risk; diet and exercise intervention studies for breast cancer prevention; and candidate genes associated with appetite and food craving in development of obesity. Future research directions include studies of protein intake in relationship to reduction of food craving and addictive behavior in alcoholics, and healthy nutrition and prevention of cervical cancer among women living with HIV in rural India.

Significance: The impact of nutrition in improving the health of vulnerable populations is critically important and vastly understudied.

Clinical Research: Design and analysis of randomized nutritional intervention trials.

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Anna Gawlinski, RN, PhD, ACNP-BC, CNS-BC, FAAN

Research: Dr. Gawlinski's areas of research focuses on determining accurate measurement of hemodynamic and oxygenation variables, as well as testing interventions to improve nursing care and outcomes of acute and critically ill patients. In addition, her research focus has expanded to include investigating the nurses' role in improving safety and the recovery of errors. Dr. Gawlinski is part of a national investigative team that uses eye-tracking technology as an innovative teaching-learning approach that can be used to evaluate and improve student and practicing nurses' safety behaviors during simulation sessions of high risk and/or complex clinical activities. Dr. Gawlinski's expertise also includes the implementation of infrastructures that supports research and evidence-based practice in the hospital micro- and macro-system setting. Her clinical expertise coupled with knowledge of research methodology has provided Dr. Gawlinski with the unique ability to energize clinicians and students at all levels about their professional commitment to research, innovation, and evidence-based care.

Clinical: Cardiovascular Acute and Critical Care

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Colleen Keenan, PhD, RN

Research: Reduction of high-risk behaviors and strategies to promote physical and mental health adapted for use in homeless adolescents, adults and families.

Clinical: Primary Care, Women's Health, Family Planning, Homeless Health Care

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Mary Baron Nelson, PhD RN CPNP

Research: long-term effects of childhood cancer and its treatment on the central nervous system, using magnetic resonance imaging techniques to define areas of injury, related to neurocognitive outcomes and quality of life. My long-term goal is to identify predictive biomarkers and develop interventions to improve outcomes.

Clinical: pediatric nurse practitioner specializing in the care of children with cancer, specifically brain tumors, the long-term effects of cancer and its treatment, and pre-anesthesia assessment and evaluation.

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Maria Elena Ruiz, PhD, RN

Research: Racial/ethnic minority health and aging, with an intergenerational family focus. Particular emphasis on Latinos, health disparities, social epidemiology, and the intersection of place, culture, and language in urban and rural areas. Special focus on mixed qualitative and quantitative methods and community based participatory designs. Research projects include studies on familismo, chronic illness and caregiving, homelessness, farmworkers and workplace violence, as well as underrepresented Hispanic/Latino nurses.

Leadership: Recognized national nurse leader, Latina Spanish language/culture leader, and community advocate for underrepresented nurses and underserved communities; cross cultural expertise. Faculty Affiliate with the Chicano Studies Research Center, UCLA (Associate Director, 2020-2012); and the Latin America Institute.

International Health Programs: Coordinator for the Latin America-Cuba Project (international health experiences for nursing students in Cuba, Mexico, and other Latin American countries).

Significance: In the US, as worldwide, we are facing serious health, aging, culture/language, and environmental health issues. My clinical, teaching, research and service allows me to integrate these areas, with an international perspective, in order that we may share resources and strategies to decrease health disparities and to improve health outcomes.

Clinical: Clinical focus: Primary Care in underserved communities with interdisciplinary teams, Advanced Practice, and Community/Public Health in underserved urban/rural communities.

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Benissa Salem, PhD, RN, MSN

Research: Utilizing community based participatory methods (CBPR) to address needs of middle age and older homeless and otherwise vulnerable populations; characterizing frailty among middle age and older homeless men and women; development of health promotion interventions to address health needs among middle age and older homeless women; reduction of drug use and risky behaviors among older homeless adults at risk for HIV and other infectious diseases.

Significance: Primary goals include developing multidisciplinary interventions to address frailty, drug use and dependency and HIV risk behaviors at the individual – level and structural level.

Clinical: Community and public health nursing, Gerontology, Health disparities/vulnerable populations

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