



NEWS RELEASE

UConn School of Nursing Director Starkweather Receives NINR \$1.6 million Center in Self-Management of Symptoms (P20) Award

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STORRS, CT – UConn School of Nursing Professor and Director, Center for Advancement in Managing Pain, Angela Starkweather, PhD, RN, ACNP-BC, CNRN, FAAN, and her team have secured a 5 year, \$1.6 million Center in Self-Management of Symptoms (P20) award from the National Institute of Nursing Research, entitled the “Center for Accelerating Precision Pain Self-Management.”

The CAPPS-M proposes to provide the infrastructure for pilot studies to implement interventions for patients suffering from chronic pain to help them self-manage their symptoms. The Center will receive guidance from an internationally renowned group of investigators who comprise the external advisory council including Drs. Rachel Schiffman and Kathleen J. Sawin both from the University of Wisconsin-Madison Self-Management Science Center; Dr. Susan Dorsey from the University of Maryland Center for Genomics of Pain; Dr. Cato Laurencin Director of the Connecticut Institute for Clinical and Translational Science; Dr. Jeff Fisher, Director of the Institute for Collaboration on Health, Intervention and Policy; and Dr. Jeff Seemann, UConn Vice President for Research. Individual pilot investigators will have the opportunity to interact with external advisory council members and receive mentorship from core investigators.

“We are very excited about this P20 award and the opportunity to expand our infrastructure to support interprofessional research teams focused on pain self-management. With less resources within our healthcare system and in the community for advancing innovation in pain management, this is an important area for patients and their family members who are affected by chronic pain,” said Dr. Starkweather.

The Center has two cores, administrative and pilot core. Each core will provide various aspects of oversight of the Center and pilot projects. Dr. Michael Fendrich will join Dr. Starkweather as Co-I of the Administrative Core. On the pilot core, Dr. Jacqueline McGrath, Dr. Stephen Walsh and Dr. Howard Tennen are providing mentorship for pilot project investigators. Dr. Erin Young will also be providing pain genetics expertise and will oversee the coordination of genetic aspects of each pilot project. We are already working on the launch of the first pilot study, led by Dr. Xiaomei Cong in the School of Nursing.

“Dr. Starkweather has assembled an exceptional team of scientists to address a health care challenge which has an impact on many people’s lives. Precision pain management will help alleviate a stress that interfaces with all aspects of individual and families’ everyday function,” said E. Carol Polifroni, Dean of UConn School of Nursing.

With the overarching goal of advancing and generating new knowledge of pain mechanisms and improving the delivery of safe and effective methods to promote pain relief across populations and settings, the Center for Advancement in Managing Pain (CAMP) provides a collaborative infrastructure for pain management professional and academic researchers from across disciplines to establish translational programs of research, implement interdisciplinary pain education, and develop innovative approaches for advancing the practice of precision pain management

For additional information on the Center for Advancement in Managing Pain visit:

<http://painresearch.uconn.edu/>

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NINR is one of 27 Institutes and Centers that comprise the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and funds studies that address symptom science, wellness, self-management of chronic conditions, and end-of-life and palliative care. NINR P20 Exploratory Research Centers focus on building research expertise and teams for the future. The awards support shared resources and exploratory research projects. The Centers are expected to lead to increased capability to conduct research in a specific area of study; an increased number of investigators involved in interdisciplinary research of importance to NINR; and larger scale research projects.

UConn’s [School of Nursing](#) has a timeless commitment to wellness and provides the exceptional education needed to succeed and lead in the rapidly evolving healthcare professions. The school is fully

approved, accredited and committed to quality research and public service. Its faculty members advance knowledge through excellence in scholarship and research into the healthcare needs of the world's diverse population. It seeks to earn the support of Connecticut taxpayers by educating a steady stream of competent, confident, compassionate nursing professionals – clinicians and scholars alike – into a world that desperately needs them. For more information, visit nursing.uconn.edu.