

UConn

SCHOOL OF NURSING

NEWS RELEASE

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UConn School of Nursing Receives Prestigious *Future of Nursing Scholars* Grant to Prepare PhD Nurses

Multi-funder initiative aims to help reach Institute of Medicine goal to build the next generation of PhD prepared nursing leaders.

STORRS, CT – UConn School of Nursing is one of only 28 schools of nursing nationwide to receive a grant to increase the number of nurses holding PhDs. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s [Future of Nursing Scholars](#) program will provide financial support, mentoring, and leadership development to nurses who commit to earn their PhDs in three years. UConn will select one/two nursing student[s] to receive this prestigious scholarship.

“The *Future of Nursing Scholars* program is making an incredible impact in real time. These nurses will complete their PhDs in three years, a much quicker progression than is typically seen in nursing PhD programs,” said Julie Fairman, PhD, RN, FAAN, *Future of Nursing Scholars* program co-director and the Nightingale professor of nursing and the chair of the Department of Biobehavioral Health Sciences at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing.

The *Future of Nursing Scholars* program is a multi-funder initiative. In addition to RWJF, Johnson & Johnson, Northwell Health, Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center, Sharp HealthCare, Rush University Medical Center, Care Institute Group, and Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center are supporting the *Future of Nursing Scholars* grants to schools of nursing this year.

UConn School of Nursing is receiving its grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. It will select a scholar/scholars in April and she/he/those students will begin the *Future of Nursing Scholars* program this summer and her/his/their PhD studies this fall.

“We are very excited to again participate in the RWJF *Future of Nursing Scholars* program. The two scholars that began the program in 2016 are progressing well and it will be wonderful to have another cohort with two more scholars participating in the program for 2017.” Jacqueline M. McGrath, PhD, RN, FNAP, FAAN, Director of PhD Program.

In its landmark nursing [report](#), the Institute of Medicine recommended that the country double the number of nurses with doctorates; doing so will prepare and enable nurses to lead change to advance health, promote nurse-led science and discovery, and put more educators in place to prepare the next generation of nurses. The *Future of Nursing Scholars* program is intended to help address that recommendation.

“We were pleased to see that enrollment in doctorate of nursing practice programs has increased 160% from 2010 to 2014. However, we want to ensure that we also have PhD-prepared nurse leaders in faculty and research roles. In the same time period, PhD enrollment has only increased by 14.6%. The nurses funded through the *Future of Nursing Scholars* program will make important contributions to the field and be well-prepared to mentor other nurses,” said Susan Hassmiller, PhD, RN, FAAN, co-director of the program and RWJF’s senior adviser for nursing.

The 51 nurses supported in this round will join 109 *Scholars* across the three previous cohorts. The program plans to add a fifth cohort which will bring the number of funded *Scholars* to more than 200 nurses.

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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 dispatching a steady stream of competent, confident, compassionate nursing professionals-clinicians and scholars alike-into a world that desperately needs them. For more information visit www.nursing.uconn.edu