

# Unison

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**UCONN**  
SCHOOL OF NURSING

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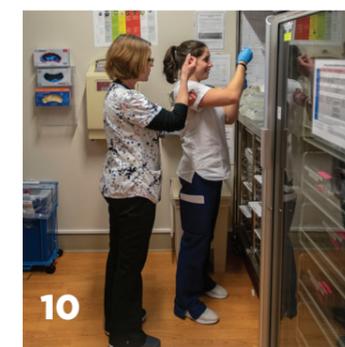
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## Welcome to *Unison* 2019 from Dean Deborah Chyun



**O**ne school. One sound. Many voices, coming together in synchrony, simultaneously, to achieve our mission of educating nursing scholars, clinicians, leaders, and health care consumers.

On these pages you will see how our faculty, students, clinical partners, alumni, and donors blend together to aid in generating and disseminating new knowledge, developed in truly innovative scholarship. While innovation is at the heart of our mission, we remain true to the vision of service and leadership instilled by our founding dean, Carolyn Ladd Widmer, and we are grateful to have her sons Eric and Michael involved in the life of the school to remind us of her legacy.

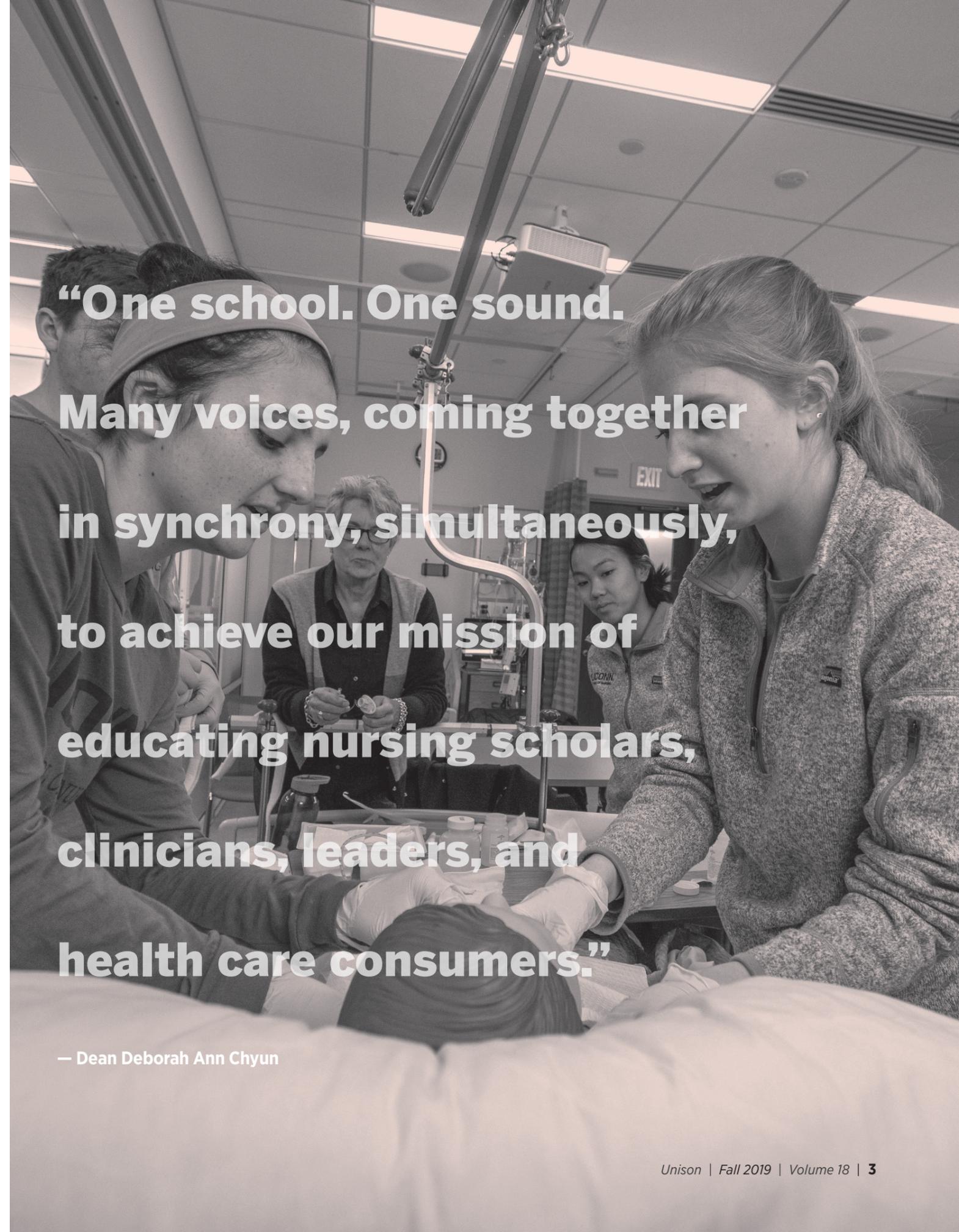
None of this would be possible without the ongoing support of our alumni and donors. Marian and Jeff Urman's endowment of the Linda Urman Rashba ('64) Memorial Scholarship commemorates Linda's own legacy of caring, as is Jeff's tireless quest to bring QBREXZA to market to advance the health of individuals.

Thanks to the generosity of alumna Liz Adomat DeLuca '69 (NUR) who established the DeLuca Foundation Visiting Professor for Innovations and New Knowledge in Nursing, the School is building on our earlier innovation efforts and establishing itself within the University as a leader in health care innovation. DeLuca Foundation Visiting Professor for Innovations and New Knowledge in Nursing Tiffany Kelley, Ph.D., MBA, RN, is not only integrating innovation throughout the undergraduate and graduate curricula, but is in the process of developing a post-master's, online certificate in Health Care Innovation that will lead to the advancement of the health of individuals, communities, and systems, both locally and globally.

Interprofessional voices are also a critical part of our choir, seen not only in our interdisciplinary faculty, but also through our highly innovative partnership with AIMS: Analytics and Information Management Solutions, a high-tech team that is stretching the boundaries of health information technology.

The chorus, of course, would not be complete without our clinical partners who play a pivotal role in educating our students.

The UConn School of Nursing is devoted to lending our voices to our partners across the state as we face the challenges of health care delivery.



**“One school. One sound.  
Many voices, coming together  
in synchrony, simultaneously,  
to achieve our mission of  
educating nursing scholars,  
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health care consumers.”**

— Dean Deborah Ann Chyun

# THE WIDMER BOYS:

## Changing Lives through a Legacy of Service and Leadership

“The apple never falls far from the tree,” according to the well-known proverb, which is demonstrated in the lives and careers of Dr. Michael Widmer and Dr. Eric Widmer, the sons of UConn School of Nursing’s founding dean.

They have followed in the footsteps not only of their mother, Carolyn Ladd Widmer, but also of their great grandfather, Cyrus Hamlin, a Congregationalist missionary to Turkey who created a bakery and laundry to supply a living wage for minority Armenian Christians in the mid-1800s. Those two enterprises became the bakery and laundry for Florence Nightingale in the 1850s at the Scutari military hospital during the Crimean War.

As Dean Widmer wrote of her maternal grandfather in 1955 in the *American Journal of Nursing*, “When Grandfather asked the chief physician why the patients could not have clean clothing, he was told that no satisfactory laundry facilities had been found, that the clothing was too filthy to be cleaned anyway, and that ‘every man had better mind his own business.’ ‘I thought,’ says the missionary, ‘that in such a scene of suffering ... it was my ‘own business’ to mitigate it.’”

Hamlin went on to found Robert College in Istanbul, and after his return to the United States became president of Middlebury College, which he saved from insolvency, partly by admitting women for the first time in the college’s history.

This spirit of service, of innovation, and of resistance to expedience and mediocrity also typified the career of Dean Widmer. A graduate of Wellesley College and Yale School of Nursing, she performed public health nursing in Colombia, was dean of the collegiate School of Nursing at the American University in Beirut, Lebanon, and founded our School. Likewise, her sons have fashioned their lives by her example.

Mike Widmer, the older of the two, was born in the United States, but he and his mother returned to Lebanon, where his brother Eric was born. Early in World War II as the Nazis threatened the Middle East, their father Robert Widmer became part of the French Resistance in the region and their mother brought the two boys back to the States. Founding a new school was not easy for a single mother, but they had a ready source of child care when needed in the nursing students.

Mike attended Windham High School, a nearby public school, while Eric later attended Deerfield Academy in Massachusetts. When he was ready for college, Mike chose Princeton and found himself to be one of the few public school men at this all-male institution. Upon graduating from Deerfield, Eric attended Williams College.

Both men continued to graduate school. Mike moved to Harvard where he earned his master’s degree in Soviet studies before continuing on to earn a Ph.D. in political science and government, specializing in American constitutional law, political theory, and Soviet politics. Eric attended Harvard as well, earning graduate degrees in history and Far Eastern languages.

Before his retirement, Mike’s career focused on politics and public policy. He was a reporter for United Press International, communications director for former Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis, and head of public affairs and human resources for Cabot Corporation. Finally, for a quarter century until he retired, Mike was president of the Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation, a not-for-profit policy research organization that focuses

on public finance, education, health care, transportation, and the economy. Among Mike’s signature accomplishments during his tenure as president was his critical role in the successful passage of the Commonwealth’s universal health care law, a model for the federal Affordable Care Act.

Eric’s career has focused on educational leadership. Starting at Brown University as a professor of Chinese history, he eventually went on to become dean of students there. He returned to his alma mater, Deerfield Academy (founded in 1797), to serve (for over a decade) as its 54th headmaster. Then, like his mother, he was tapped to start a new school. He too made a journey to the Middle East, where King Abdullah II (an alumnus of Deerfield) asked him to found and serve as the first headmaster of the King’s Academy in Madaba, Jordan.

Like their mother and great grandfather, Mike and Eric Widmer have devoted themselves to public service on behalf of education and health care, preparing themselves for this work through their own uncompromising educations, as their mother had done.

Mike recalls many conversations with UConn School of Nursing alumni from Dean Widmer’s era. “Those women

Dr. Eric Widmer, left, and Dr. Michael Widmer, right, the sons of UConn School of Nursing’s founding dean, Carolyn Ladd Widmer.



The Carolyn Ladd Widmer wing of the UConn School of Nursing.

from the early years would come up to me and they’d each have different stories. But almost to a person, they’d say, ‘Mike, your mother changed my life. Your mother changed my life.’ And then they’d tell me their story. Dozens. And if dozens have told me, there are hundreds if not thousands of women out there ... whose lives were changed because of her.”

She changed lives, as Mike and Eric Widmer have continued to do. **U**

# Making Caring Visible

Becoming UConn School of Nursing's tenth dean, Deborah Ann Chyun, Ph.D., RN, FAHA, FAAN, brings to her executive leadership a distinguished educational pedigree, a richly varied career as a clinician and educator, and a substantial contribution to nursing research in cardiac disease management.

A graduate of the diploma program of New England Deaconess Hospital, one of the oldest and most eminent hospital nursing schools in the United States, Dean Deborah Chyun earned her bachelor's degree in nursing from Boston College, a master's degree as a cardiovascular clinical nurse specialist from the Yale University School of Nursing, and a Ph.D. from the Yale School of Medicine's Department of Epidemiology and Public Health in chronic disease epidemiology. Her interdisciplinary and interprofessional education has uniquely prepared her for the complexities of today's nursing research, clinical practice, and education.

Dean Chyun's experiences as a clinician and educator have been varied, from large urban hospitals to midsize



local hospitals, from community college adjunct faculty member to tenured faculty member at an Ivy League university. In Boston, she practiced at New England Deaconess Hospital and Massachusetts General Hospital; later, she was a staff nurse and a head nurse at Bristol Hospital in Connecticut. Prior to her appointment as dean at UConn, she was the John W. Rowe Professor in Successful Aging, professor of Global Public Health, and executive associate dean at the Rory Meyers College of Nursing of New York University, where she was a leader and researcher for almost a decade.

"The challenge of making a difference, of helping, of making a small piece of the world healthier and a better place to live," Dean Chyun explains, is what has

always motivated her. "No matter how far removed I get from clinical practice, ultimately everything that I do reverts back to patient care." This global health sensibility is reflected in her research and program commitments. A grant from the U.S. Embassy in Tbilisi, Georgia, supported the Georgian Research Training Program to promote capacity development for Georgian academics in health professions. For five years she was an affiliated professor at the Tbilisi University of Georgia School of Nursing. She was a principal investigator in health projects in Rwanda and Nicaragua. She has also made scholarly presentations at international conferences in Rwanda, South Africa, China, Hong Kong, Japan, South Korea, Thailand, England, France, Italy, Argentina, Brazil, and Mexico.

Dean Chyun's research program has focused on the prevention and management of cardiovascular disease in adults with type 2 diabetes often in patients from vulnerable populations. Since 1987, she has been actively engaged in the work of the American Heart Association, as a reviewer, writing committee member, member, and most recently, chair of the Council on Cardiovascular and Stroke Nursing.

"You start out providing direct care, but then realize that your impact may be greater and more far-reaching through conducting and disseminating research, teaching, mentoring others, and creating an environment where others can be successful," she says.

Her leadership roles have spanned the spectrum from head nurse at a local hospital to a program director at Yale and to director of the Ph.D. program at NYU. In bringing this expertise to UConn School of Nursing, Dean Chyun explains, "The associate deans, the program and track directors, and the faculty themselves have a key role in our educational and scholarly mission, so I need to provide the supports and create the environment that enables them to be innovative and efficient in their

"You start out providing direct care, but then realize that your impact may be greater and more far-reaching through conducting and disseminating research, teaching, mentoring others, and providing leadership opportunities that create the environment where others can be successful."

teaching, productive in their scholarship, and empowered as leaders." Modeled after her own experience and accomplishments, moreover, she says, "it is critical that faculty be not only part of the wider university, but also engaged in service to the profession."

In recent years, the School's deans have created a theme for their tenures. For Dean Chyun, the UConn School of Nursing advances into its fourth quarter-century with three values: caring, innovation, and advocacy. "Everything that we do in nursing is predicated on caring. Physical care. Emotional care. Environmental care. Caring for ourselves. Caring for our students. Caring for our colleagues," she says. That value, of course, is a foundation for any nursing school, but innovation and advocacy are particular to a very high research activity and Land Grant university like UConn. "Both innovation and advocacy are logical extensions of caring, of wanting to make a real difference in the lives of others," she says. "I think we can care without being innovative or without advocating, but that it is difficult or impossible to be innovative or to advocate without caring.

"I would say that innovating and advocating make our caring visible." **U**

# Exceptional Gift Will Benefit Pharmacy and Nursing Schools

Dr. Jeffrey Urman '67 Pharm.D., '77 MD and his wife Marian have established two new funds in honor of his family's deep connections to the University.

When asked about his strong family ties to UConn, Dr. Urman says, "We all pretty much bleed Husky blue."

Dr. Urman completed both his undergraduate degree and his medical residency and a fellowship in rheumatology at UConn. His three siblings also graduated from the University, and they all married UConn graduates.

It makes perfect sense, then, that he and his wife Marian (a Husky by association) would choose to honor both his own academic experiences and his family's with generous gifts to UConn totaling \$1.2 million.

The Urmans' gifts will establish the Rose and Julius Urman Endowed Professorship in the School of Pharmacy, so named for Dr. Urman's late parents, and the Linda Urman Rashba Memorial Scholarship Fund in the School of Nursing, named in memory of his sister, who graduated from the School of Nursing in 1964. She succumbed to ovarian cancer in 2015.

"My dear sister Linda, with whom I was extremely close, was loved, admired, and respected by family, friends, colleagues, patients, and all who were fortunate enough to know her," says Dr. Urman. "I miss her greatly and think of her constantly. She would be very pleased to know that a scholarship fund in her name will help, in perpetuity, those nursing students needing financial assistance."

"It is impossible to overstate the significance of this gift," says Deborah Chyun, dean of the School of Nursing. "It is the largest outright gift ever given to our school, and it will enable us to increase significantly the amount of scholarship aid that we provide to students each year." For his part, James Halpert, dean of the School of Pharmacy, says that the Urmans' gift to his school is the largest ever given by private donors, and it will enable great flexibility in supporting the work of a School of Pharmacy faculty member.

"This is indeed a special gift, and it speaks to Jeff's commitment, not only to UConn but to the interest he has in research and the compassion he has for patients," says Dean Halpert.

Dr. Urman is a native of Stamford, Connecticut, but has lived in Palo Alto, California with his wife and family since 1977. There, he maintains a private practice specializing in internal medicine and rheumatology and is also an attending physician and adjunct professor of medicine at Stanford University Medical Center. In addition, he has served as medical director at the RotaCare Free Clinic for indigent patients without insurance.

Dr. Urman's interest in bench science, however, has never left him. While completing his rheumatology fellowship

at the UConn School of Medicine, he became acquainted with Dr. Arthur Bobrove, who subsequently became a close friend and business partner. The two eventually teamed up to devise a safer treatment for people who suffered from hyperhidrosis, or excessive sweating — a condition that affected Dr. Urman's mother, Rose.

"We came up with a topical application that worked like magic for my mother," he says. "It stopped the sweating completely and enabled her to lead a normal life for the remaining years of her life."

Dr. Urman and Dr. Bobrove obtained patents for the product in the United States, Canada, Australia, and Europe, and later reached an agreement with a biopharmaceutical

company to bring the treatment to market under the name QBREXZA. It received FDA approval in June of 2018 and became available in October as a prescription medication.

"Jeff Urman is a role model for our current faculty, as demonstrated by his successful efforts in bringing a treatment for hyperhidrosis to the market," says Dean Halpert. "It will be great to have him speak to our faculty about what he has accomplished and how he did it."

Dean Halpert hopes the Urmans' gifts will help to link the School of Pharmacy and the School of Nursing on a deeper level, as both schools train health care professionals for the future. Nursing Dean Chyun agrees.

"I am so grateful to the Urmans for understanding the needs of our students, and for their caring and leadership. Jeff's dedication and his desire to improve the quality of life for others could not be more consistent with our mission at the School of Nursing." **U**

**"My dear sister Linda, with whom I was extremely close, was loved, admired, and respected by family, friends, colleagues, patients, and all who were fortunate enough to know her." — Dr. Jeffrey Urman**

Opposite page, Linda Urman Rashba '64

# Nursing Partners for Life and Health

Since its founding in 1942, the UConn School of Nursing has relied on its clinical partners to prepare students for clinical practice. As its nursing research activities and graduate programs have expanded in recent decades, the School values these partners more than ever.

Nursing research is practice-based, derived from problems, deficiencies, and opportunities for improvement observed in clinical settings. Research conclusions build and modify evidence-based practice, which comes under continuous study and refinement in subsequent nursing research. This recursive process from practice to research and back requires close relationships between nursing schools and their clinical partners.

This relationship was described in 2016 by Manatt Health and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing in the report “Advancing Healthcare Transformation: A New Era for Academic Nursing.” While the report focuses on the partnerships between academic nursing and academic health centers, such as the one that the School of Nursing enjoys with John Dempsey Hospital at UConn Health in Farmington, its recommendations apply to all the strong clinical partnerships that the School has across the state. UConn School of Nursing is committed to working with its clinical partners to fully realize its mission of advancing the health of individuals, communities, and systems, both locally and globally.

The School embraces this new vision through close and frequent contact with clinical partners to better meet the health care needs of the future and to provide leadership in innovation, patient-oriented research, quality improvement, and scholarship. These clinical sites are where the integration of scholarship and application occurs. Working together, we have the opportunity to change practice for

the enhancement of quality outcomes, which is vital in the education of our students.

The School holds a unique position in the state as the only public doctoral-degree university with a very high level of research activity (as defined by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education) that also awards baccalaureate degrees in nursing. For example, the strength and breadth of the faculty’s clinical scholarship and research activity in pain, including the Center for Advancement in Managing Pain and the NIH-funded P20 Center for Accelerating Precision Pain Self-Management, demonstrate the School’s success in collaborative, interdisciplinary, and interprofessional research.

These characteristics also apply to the School’s clinicians and scholars in correctional health, aging, maternal-child and neonatal care, and chronic disease prevention and management across the state. The Center for Nursing Scholarship and Innovation and the 2018-2020 DeLuca Foundation Visiting Professor for Innovations and New Knowledge in Nursing, Tiffany Kelley, Ph.D., MBA, RN, through the annual ATHENA (Advancing Toward Health: Evidence-based Nursing Applications) Conference and the upcoming Innovation Conference with UConn Health in September, are two examples of how UConn Nursing engages with its clinical partners.

Similarly, the clinical scholarship and quality improvement expertise among the faculty benefit clinical care. The I CAN Project, funded through the federal

Jordan Young '19 is being instructed by Robin Menasian '85 RN on the preparation of a patient's medication in the oncology department at UConn Health.

UConn School of Nursing is committed to working with its clinical partners in order to fully realize its mission of advancing the health of individuals, communities, and systems, both locally and globally.

Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and directed by Ivy M. Alexander '01 Ph.D., APRN, ANP-BC, FAANP, FAAN, provided opportunities for enhancing a quarter-century partnership with Community Health Centers, Inc. (headquartered in Middletown), through increasing nurse practitioner student clinical placements, providing laptops for electronic medical record access, developing an asynchronous online onboarding system, and offering dedicated faculty support for student-preceptor dyads. The I CAN Project was designed to prepare graduate NPs to provide primary care to underserved populations.

Alexander's new HRSA grant will expand this program to Generations Connecticut and Community Health Centers, Inc., in Eastern Connecticut and add an important focus on increasing expertise for managing behavioral health needs in the primary care setting. Another HRSA-funded program, Got Care!, led by Millicent Malcolm '10 DNP, APRN, GNP-BC, AGPCNP-BC, FAANP, transformed a tertiary approach to geriatric care to a preventive and systematic approach by establishing a service model for interdisciplinary geriatric care teams. The model was not only feasible, it improved outcomes, encouraged continuity of care, and decreased emergency room visits for older adults. Malcolm continues to work with Middlesex Health on integrating system-level changes such as clinical positions, reimbursement, and coordination to support the ongoing efforts of the established interdisciplinary teams to provide community-based geriatric care.

In addition, Marianne Snyder '17 Ph.D., RN, has been involved with the School's clinical partners to help prepare undergraduate students for the transition into clinical practice in her role as director of the prelicensure program. Snyder has worked closely with UConn Health and Hartford Hospital to create a capstone experience in perioperative nursing, an area of practice that is challenging to fill. The School has well-established, dedicated education units (DEUs) with several health care facilities: Hartford Hospital, Yale New Haven Hospital, Middlesex Health (a member of the Mayo Clinic Care Network), and the Hospital of Central Connecticut. A DEU deepens the teaching and learning experience for the student and the staff, resulting in enhanced quality care for the patients and families. The

DEUs are the result of the strong clinical partnerships that the School has had with each agency. These DEUs benefit both the clinical and academic partnerships in many ways, including creating mutual trust and respect for each other, enabling students to network for future employment opportunities, building leadership skills, informing education and clinical practice, providing mentorship and a realistic perspective for nursing students, and encouraging nurses of partner agencies to help students integrate into the workflow culture.

The School has a strong commitment to integrating research into evidence-based clinical practice as demonstrated through our joint appointments with Connecticut Children's Medical Center and Middlesex Health. At UConn Health, former dean Regina Cusson, Ph.D., NNP-BC, APRN, FAAN, and former professor Robin Froman, Ph.D., RN, along with Betty Molle, Ph.D., RN,

### "Advancing Healthcare Transformation" Recommendations

1. Embrace a new vision for academic nursing.
2. Enhance the clinical practice of academic nursing.
3. Partner in preparing the nurses of the future.
4. Partner in the implementation of accountable care.
5. Invest in nursing research programs and better integrate research into clinical practice.
6. Implement an advocacy agenda in support of a new era for academic nursing.

Source: Manatt Health and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, 2016



Amanda Moreau '13 RN, left, instructs Allison Lalenaro '19 with Emergency Department procedures at UConn Health.

have been leading yearlong, intensive research fellowships for UConn Health staff. Molle will join the faculty in September in a jointly appointed role with Middlesex Health. Kelly Newlin Lew, D.N.Sc., APRN-C, CDE; Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor Cheryl Tatano Beck, D.N.Sc., CNM, FAAN; and Carol Polifroni, Ed.D., NEA-BC, CNE RN, ACEF, have been instructing new baccalaureate graduates at UConn Health over the past few summers through a nurse scholars program.

Because we listened attentively to our clinical partners' needs for advanced education, we are in the process of developing a new non-nurse-practitioner master's track with a focus on leadership. Additionally, the accessibility of our master's and Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degrees is critical. For example, our highly successful online neonatal nurse practitioner program has earned national recognition, and our DNP has successfully transitioned to an online format, with our master's programs to soon follow. Importantly, the University has supported us in implementing a fee-based structure for all our master's programs that will significantly decrease program cost, particularly for out-of-state students.

Moreover, we also have a strong interprofessional presence across the University. The School has a long history of community engagement, with Polifroni bridging partnerships between the School of Nursing and the North Hartford Promise Zone, recognized by the U.S. Department

of Housing and Urban Development in 2015. She has been instrumental in presenting the voice of nursing in the plans for a health promotion component within the Promise Zone, which would directly serve the needs of the community.

Advocacy is a major focus of the School, with several faculty, including Joy Elwell, DNP, FNP-BC, FAANP, FAAN, having leadership roles in regional and national policy arenas. Each year several of our undergraduate and graduate students accompany the dean to Capitol Hill to meet with legislative staff. This year they advocated for workforce development programs and funding for the National Institute of Nursing Research during visits to the offices of senators Richard Blumenthal and Christopher Murphy, as well as that of Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro, who serves as chairperson of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education.

In this new era for academic nursing, the UConn School of Nursing invigorates its long-standing clinical partnerships and seeks new collaborations for nursing education, research, professional development, and policy advocacy. **U**



## DeLuca Foundation Visiting Professor Stimulates Nursing Innovation

To innovate, according to the American Nurses Association (ANA), is to “to put new ideas into practice or existing ideas into practice in new ways.” Since the beginning of the 2018-2019 academic year UConn School of Nursing’s first DeLuca Foundation Visiting Professor for Innovations and New Knowledge in Nursing, Tiffany Kelley, Ph.D., MBA, RN, has been guiding students and faculty toward new ideas and new ways.

With a bachelor’s degree in nursing from Georgetown University, a master’s in nursing administration and a Master of Business Administration from Northeastern, and a doctorate in nursing informatics from Duke, Kelley brings a rare combination of clinical experience, multidisciplinary credentials, and entrepreneurial accomplishments. In addition to clinical experiences at Children’s National Medical Center, Rady Children’s Hospital, and Boston Children’s Hospital, she developed an in-depth appreciation for nursing informatics as she transitioned away from the bedside. That appreciation over the last 15 years led her to new discoveries. Kelley is the founder and chief executive officer of two companies: Nightingale Apps and iCare Nursing Solutions LLC.

Founded in 2013, Nightingale Apps develops mobile apps for nurses in clinical settings. The first patent-pending product, Know My Patient, gives nurses information about their patients from the beginning to the end of their work day. Kelley identified a significant problem affecting how nurses access and use essential information about their patients. She recognized an

opportunity to develop a mobile solution, entitled Know My Patient, to address this problem. Then in 2015, Kelley founded iCare Nursing Solutions LLC to address health care organizations’ complex challenges by providing advanced expertise in clinical and technology needs to ensure that data and information are adapted into new knowledge solutions. The company provides consulting and educational services for the contemporary informatics and health IT needs of health care organizations and individuals.

“The academic setting at Duke University challenged me to think differently and go beyond the obvious. In my Ph.D. program, I was being trained to problem solve through the scientific method,” Kelley remarks. “The creative freedom and academic training prepared me to identify the need for my first innovation, Know My Patient, and subsequently work to bring it to life after my Ph.D. While my innovation spark took place during my doctoral degree, this can occur at any stage of one’s nursing education.”

The UConn School of Nursing’s Healthcare Innovation program began in 2013 under the leadership of then-

**Kelley brings a rare combination of clinical experience, multidisciplinary credentials, and entrepreneurial accomplishments.**

dean Regina Cusson, Ph.D., NNP-BC, APRN, FAAN, in collaboration with alumna Christine Meehan ’75 MA, RN, a health care entrepreneur and angel investor. Together, they coached teams of senior nursing students in the baccalaureate degree program to identify clinical deficiencies and to develop innovative solutions. These were “pitched” at public presentations before a panel of experts during the School’s annual ATHENA research day. At one of these events, alumna Liz Adomat DeLuca ’69 had an opportunity to observe the critical thinking and ingenuity of our undergraduates, prompting her to fund the DeLuca Foundation Visiting Professor for Innovations and New Knowledge in Nursing.

Kelley continues this groundbreaking work that sets the UConn School of Nursing apart from most others. She has prepared detailed curricular proposals in order to educate our students to take their places as nursing

leaders, innovators, intrapreneurs, and entrepreneurs. Eventually, innovation principles and methods will be embedded throughout the four-year baccalaureate program and the graduate programs. She also recognizes that getting faculty on board is vital. Among her goals during her tenure in the School are to create a health care innovation certificate program for nurses and other health care professionals, to establish pathways to UConn’s generous innovation resources, and to build lasting relationships for the School of Nursing at a local and national level.

Although few nursing schools are offering this kind of education, one of ANA’s strategic initiatives is to “stimulate and disseminate innovation that increases recognition of the value of nursing and drive improvement in health and health care.” ANA had Bonnie Clipper, DNP, MBA, RN, as the first Vice President of Innovation to support this strategic initiative within the organization. Before joining ANA, Clipper co-wrote the white paper, “Innovation Road Map: A Guide for Nurse Leaders” with the support of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Executive Nurse Fellows Program.

That paper identifies five characteristics of institutional innovation cultures: divergent thinking that makes new connections; a tolerance of failure along the path to success; risk-taking that derives from tolerance of failure; agility and prompt flexibility in light of global changes; and employees’ autonomy and freedom to risk failure.

To foster innovation, institutions must provide adequate resources, such as protected time, tech support, and training. Further, the “solitary inventor” must be acknowledged as a myth. Even Thomas Edison employed dozens of men fresh out of college whom he called his “muckers,” to build and test his ideas. The nurse innovator and entrepreneur of today is part of a multidisciplinary team.

“As nurses, we can often begin our innovation journey by looking at our workarounds as a starting point. Although nurses are proud of their workarounds, they are often representative of system-level failures,” Kelley observes. “Instead of solving for an N of one patient at a time, repeating the same steps over and over again, we can begin to scale for the many thousands or millions affected by that failure. That is nursing innovation, bringing new solutions to address the unmet needs of others.”

## Kim Kim: Bringing Diverse Gifts to Coordinating Clinical Placements



The longstanding challenge of any collegiate or university-based baccalaureate school of nursing is securing clinical sites for its students. This undertaking faced founding dean Carolyn Ladd Widmer when she began in 1942 and initially secured placements for about a dozen students at Backus Hospital in Norwich, almost 30 miles from campus, and later at Yale and Hartford hospitals.

Fortunately, we now are able to place a sizable number of students at UConn Health, where our students are given preference over students from other schools. The need for clinical placements still exists, however, because we have about 230 traditional undergraduates and 120 Certificate Entry into Nursing (CEIN) students in clinicals and are now competing with community colleges and four-year colleges for clinical sites.

Stepping into the critical role of clinical placement coordinator this year is Kim Kim, MSN, RN, CDE, a graduate of the University of St. Joseph and Sacred Heart University schools of nursing. A clinical nurse leader and specialist in diabetes management, Kim had worked as a clinical nurse manager and nurse specialist in Florida, as well as a community college clinical adjunct instructor, before returning to Connecticut to undertake her position with the UConn School of Nursing.

Kim is deeply committed to providing culturally competent nursing care to diverse patient populations beginning with diversely representative nurses. “As the daughter of an immigrant from Cuba, I grew up with an appreciation for choice in education,” she says.

This also affected how she came to see her role as a teacher: “I felt called to work with students and instill hope and inspiration to be all they desire to be. I know how impactful seeing yourself in the staff and faculty can be, as seeing the only Latina professor in my undergraduate program not only increased my confidence in becoming a nurse, but also planted the seed that I could do even more.”

Kim is also engaged in educating both the next generation of UConn nursing students and her colleagues in cultural awareness. She serves on the University’s Diversity and Inclusion Council, commissioned to propose programs that will increase recruitment and retention of underrepresented groups among students, faculty, and staff. She has hosted on campus local representatives of the National Association of Hispanic Nurses and of the National Black Nurses Association.

“I took this job to increase visibility of underrepresented groups in the academic world. I am joining the School at a time when we are committed to looking at how we promote diversity and inclusion and am looking forward to working with faculty, staff, students, and alumni to start the work,” she says. “Sometimes we view diversity and inclusion as these huge mountains to climb, and while the work ahead is tall, we can affect our community through mindfulness and awareness of what we say.”

Kim is also a facilitator with the University’s RISE Program (Reaching for Inclusive Excellence), which teaches first-year students about microaggressions. “Creating a safe space as a co-learner with students is my mission for my first year,” she explains.

As our students come from an astonishing variety of social, economic, educational, and even linguistic backgrounds, Kim brings us both the awareness and the tools to help them succeed.

## Nursing Science for Nursing Mothers

Breastfeeding is not as simple and effortless as countless depictions, from Renaissance Western art to modern YouTube videos, would have us believe. Instead, it is the first conversation between mother and infant, Assistant Professor Ruth Lucas, Ph.D., RNC, CLS explains.

The language of that conversation must be learned by both infant and mother. The mother’s milk flow, the infant’s ability to suck and to pause: “Breastfeeding is dyadic,” Lucas says. “What is the mom’s system doing? What is the baby’s system doing? What is the baby regulating?” Breastfeeding is in the baby’s control, whereas bottle feeding is in the adult’s control.

But how does one empirically measure the effectiveness of a baby’s sucking at the breast without interrupting that conversation? This question is not the product of idle curiosity for Lucas.

In her research, Lucas saw a correlation between an infant’s dysfunctional breastfeeding and the child’s later biobehavioral and neurocognitive development. She has begun to explore whether an infant’s early difficulties with breastfeeding, within a few weeks of birth, might be a warning of later neurodevelopmental disease such as autism spectrum disorder.

“Because there’s no strong biobehavioral research in lactation,” Lucas explains, “figuring out problems during breastfeeding is left to ‘expert clinical opinion’ or a mother’s opinion. Unfortunately, in less than a month after birth, 30% of moms stop breastfeeding — many times due to issues that could be addressed if there were immediate help for mothers and babies.”

But even if mothers pump their breastmilk and feed it to the baby in a bottle, the full health benefits may not

be realized. “The baby at the breast modifies the quality and quantity of the milk,” Lucas says. “The infant’s saliva infiltrates the breast, and the baby’s fast or slow feeding changes the content of the milk.”

To remedy this lack of a valid and reliable means of measuring the infant’s sucking, Lucas has been developing a breastfeeding diagnostic device to measure the milk transfer from mother to baby. Working in collaboration

with engineers and a nutritionist, Lucas has taken design and prototypes through several iterations.

Her collaborators on the project are UConn Assistant Professor of Electrical Engineering Thanh Nguyen, Ph.D., nutritionist Jimi Francis, Ph.D., and electrical engineer Premananda Indic, Ph.D., both of the University of Texas at Tyler. The first and second prototypes used FDA-approved, off-the-shelf components, but the third prototype employs custom-designed sensors to measure how babies regulate intra-oral pressure, breathing, swallowing, and oxygenation.

With her creation of Dyadic Innovations LLC, Lucas has opened the way for Small

Business Innovation Research grants and commercial funding. She can also avail herself of UConn’s funding for innovative business startups.

With 90% of the work done, Lucas plans to test it in the field in summer 2019, assisted by a master’s student in UConn’s Allied Health program.

“With an accurate, valid, and reliable device,” Lucas says, “we can gather as never before important data about the first conversation between mother and child, which might predict and help us first address breastfeeding issues in real time and preempt some neurobehavioral problems later.”





## Nursing Entrepreneur Tackles Breastfeeding Anxiety

**Brittany Molkenthin '17 BS, RN took advantage of UConn's rich entrepreneurial environment to develop a device that measures the amount of milk in a baby's stomach after each feeding. Now, she's bringing her innovation to market with a little help from some fellow alumni.**

Brittany Molkenthin '17 BS, RN was shadowing a registered nurse during her labor and delivery rotation at UConn when she met a young mother who struggled with breastfeeding.

"She and her husband had done all this research on breastfeeding and prepared for this moment," Molkenthin says. But the woman became frustrated when she

couldn't tell how much her baby was actually drinking. Eventually, her deep discouragement led her to ask the nurses for formula.

The experience of watching this woman lose her confidence stayed with Molkenthin. Months later it came back to her when she took a UConn School of Nursing course called Health Innovations. She became excited about the opportunity to create a solution and dove into research about breastfeeding. She then put together a multidisciplinary team that included both nursing and bioengineering students.

The team set to work building a working prototype, which used noninvasive technology to measure the amount of milk ingested at each feeding. The information would then be sent to an app on the mother's smartphone.

"If you're seeing adequate nutrition, your confidence will grow," Molkenthin says. "And if the mother's confidence is high, she'll continue to breastfeed longer and pass on the benefits of breastfeeding to the baby."

Molkenthin was proud of what her team had been able to accomplish during the course. She was surprised, then, that they didn't win a "Shark Tank"-like competition held by the School of Nursing. What she didn't know yet was that one of the panelists, Kevin Bouley '80 (BUS), would become one of her key advisors and help her take the next steps toward success.

**"If you're seeing adequate nutrition, your confidence will grow."**

"Brittany's team was very passionate about their idea and about the nature of the marketplace problem they were addressing," says Bouley. "I saw it as a significant innovative breakthrough, and I saw Brittany as a person with the dedication to make it a reality."

Bouley, who calls himself "an evangelist for creativity, innovation, and entrepreneurship," gave the group important feedback about the marketplace, the FDA approval process, and the process of filing a patent. When Molkenthin reached out to him after the competition, she says it "stimulated the fire to go all in" with her idea. One month after her graduation, she filed the papers to create Lactation Innovations LLC.

The Health Innovations course from which Molkenthin launched her venture is just one of many activities and curriculum enhancements aimed at promoting entrepreneurship at UConn. In the School of Nursing, the goal is to embed essential innovation knowledge, skills, and attitudes directly into the nursing degree programs so that students can be prepared to solve problems within the context of their work.

"We want to teach students to identify patterns where frustration and workarounds exist as indications of problems that can be solved at scale," says Tiffany Kelley, Ph.D., MBA, RN, the DeLuca Foundation Visiting Professor for Innovations and New Knowledge in Nursing in the Center for Nursing Scholarship and Innovation. "We're also building a culture of support for their new ideas. The importance of learning how to innovate is supported at every level in the School of Nursing, and what we're doing

now is working toward a long-term foundation. UConn has the potential to be a national leader in this area."

A school-wide ethos of entrepreneurship has contributed to Molkenthin's strong support network. Entrepreneur-in-Residence Christine Meehan '74 MA, RN served as a consistent mentor. Deb Santy, small business specialist at UConn Tech Park, helped her apply for an NIH grant. And Bouley connected her with Jayme Coates '07 (ENG), '10 MBA, who now serves as the chief operating officer of Lactation Innovations.

"I knew Jayme had medical device skills that would match up with Brittany's goals," says Bouley. "Getting something like this off the ground takes a very strong team with complementary skills."

"Jayme and I are a match made in heaven," Molkenthin says.

Today, Molkenthin's device — named Manoula, the Greek word for mother — has been refined through research and market testing with end users. The company is preparing to seek FDA approval in 2020 and to bring the product to market in 2021. In Molkenthin's spare time, she is also pursuing her master's degree in the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Program at Regis College.



"Meeting the women I'm helping and hearing their stories is what motivates me," she says. "I don't plan to stop with Manoula. I hope to continue developing devices and procedures that will improve health care delivery. Being a nurse practitioner will open up whole new avenues for that."

"It's an extremely challenging path to go from idea to prototype to marketplace readiness," says Bouley. "Brittany is on that path, and she's a rock star."

## AIMS Translates Health Data for Providers, Patients, and Agencies



and information management solution architect, “the AIMS team is focused on providing innovative solutions for health information technology, working with the State of Connecticut’s Office of Health Strategy and the State Innovation Model program to design and implement the state’s Core Data Analytics Solution, which is an innovative approach to facilitating multilevel communication across the health care systems.”

Core data analytics connects physicians, hospitals, payers, and patients, bridging the gaps that often exist from one health

**W**hen professional nursing began 150 years ago, there were data.

Florence Nightingale, the first woman to be inducted into the Royal Statistical Society of England, not only kept meticulous records of patient outcomes during the Crimean War but also analyzed those data and displayed them clearly for government and military leaders in what today we might call an “infographic” or “dashboard,” her polar-area diagram. She demonstrated that most of the soldiers’ deaths were from preventable infections rather than war trauma, and her evidence-based practices reduced the death rate substantially.

Since then, nursing faculty have reminded students: If it isn’t charted, it didn’t happen. Nowadays, electronic medical records provide detailed information about patients’ conditions and treatments.

But electronic medical records are typically contained on proprietary computer systems, preventing a primary care provider’s electronic records from talking to a specialist provider’s or a health center’s.

Enabling electronic medical systems to communicate with each other is the role of UConn AIMS: Analytics and Information Management Solutions. A part of the School of Nursing, AIMS also develops ways to make data useful to a range of health care providers, institutions, and patients.

According to Alan Fontes, AIMS director and an analytics

information system to the next.

Bringing together health data, including claims and clinical data, immunization and medication histories, as well as demographic information, like race, ethnicity, home language, and other social determinants of health, “provides centralized, comprehensive, and detailed representation of the patient’s health information, enabling them to make informed decisions about their own overall health,” Fontes explains.

In addition, UConn AIMS collaborates

with other state and commercial organizations to derive advanced analytics from this wealth of information to aid in population health initiatives to promote health, deliver better quality of care, reduce health care costs, and improve the work life of health care providers, including nurses.

In a way that Nightingale would have appreciated, AIMS will provide analysis and dashboard displays via websites or mobile apps not only for patients and providers but also for health agencies entrusted with improving population well-being, without their having to be technology experts.

“As UConn AIMS grows, we hope to explore new and exciting developments within the health information technology and analytics fields,” Fontes says, “and partner across UConn’s diverse array of knowledge and resources to better serve the health care providers and patients of Connecticut.”



## Center for Nursing Scholarship and Innovation:

*Accelerating Discovery and Knowledge Application for Nursing and Health Care*

**T**he Center for Nursing Scholarship and Innovation (CNSI) is the nexus between urgent nursing and health care problems and discovering or using existing knowledge to address those problems. Comprehensive CNSI services and resources permit our faculty scholars to focus on science rather than be distracted by minutiae, contributing to a climate of excitement for discovery and knowledge application, respect for all types of scholarship, and celebration for each success along the way.

Preliminary work, whether exploring phenomena or pilot testing methods, builds stronger scholarship. Dean Deborah Chyun established the CNSI Research Fund in 2018 to accelerate research and scholarship conducted by UConn School of Nursing faculty. The inaugural grant competition resulted in \$45,000 of funding across seven projects. Projects included testing ways to enhance HPV vaccination discussions between primary care providers and young gender minority individuals and refining an interprofessional geriatrics training program that helps older adults thrive at home.

CNSI services and resources were recently expanded to meet growing demand. Tiffany Kelley, Ph.D., MBA, RN, DeLuca Foundation Visiting Professor for Innovations and New Knowledge in Nursing, now provides expert guidance for innovative approaches to nursing problems. Mock reviews for faculty grant applications to the National Institutes of Health provide vital peer feedback for refining grants and

increasing the probability of funding. Ivy Alexander, Ph.D., APRN, ANP-BC, FAANP, FAAN and Sandy Bellini, DNP, APRN, NNP-BC, CNE mentor faculty via a monthly discussion group to disseminate their practice and/or teaching scholarship.

Steve Walsh, Sc.D., our faculty biostatistician, continues to support faculty as they plan their research and analyze and interpret their data. Walsh’s astute suggestions help faculty further refine their research and ensure meaningful findings. Tom Long, Ph.D., supports writing, helping the faculty craft meticulous grant applications and disseminate their findings through published manuscripts.

Outstanding CNSI support staff provide personalized support to our faculty. Elise Bennett lends her indispensable expertise through all stages of grant preparation, from identifying new grant opportunities to budget preparation and grant submission. Bennett also oversees our graduate research assistants, who provide a myriad of research services including comprehensive research literature searches, data management, data analyses, and preparation of research presentations. Robin Wane, a valuable addition to our staff this year, supports our scholarly productivity through her work with the associate dean for research and scholarship, the DeLuca Foundation Visiting Professor for Innovations and New Knowledge in Nursing, and the CNSI Committee.



## NIH Funds \$3.5 Million for Precision Pain Management Research

If the UConn School of Nursing's Center for Advancement in Managing Pain (CAMP) seemed like a good idea when it was proposed in 2013, today in the midst of a national opioid abuse epidemic it seems like an urgently needed endeavor.

CAMP was initially developed by veteran adult pain researcher Associate Professor Deborah Dillon McDonald, Ph.D., RN, and then-Dean Regina Cusson, Ph.D., NNP-BC, APRN, FAAN, in response to the UConn administration's invitation for proposals of new faculty positions that would allow colleges and schools to do new things. Today CAMP has grown into a large multidisciplinary center with over 40 core researchers, associates, and students.

The appointment of CAMP Director Professor Angela Renee Starkweather, Ph.D., ACNP-BC, CNRN, FAAN, in 2015, recruited from Virginia Commonwealth University, guided strategic planning and hiring that has yielded both research and pedagogical results. With Starkweather's recent appointment as associate dean for academics, Professor Xiaomei Cong, Ph.D., RN, FAAN, a highly regarded neonatal pain researcher, assumed the director role.

With the appointment in 2014 of a pain geneticist and a pain physiologist, Erin Young, Ph.D., and Kyle Baumbauer, Ph.D., CAMP bolstered its multidisciplinary team. Now

its associates include researchers from kinesiology, engineering, medicine, pharmaceutical science, and the Jackson Laboratory. The multidisciplinary collaborations accelerate discovery of underlying mechanisms of pain and point the way toward more precise pain self-management. The intellectual capital and pain resources at CAMP provide an optimal environment for training nursing students to become expert pain researchers.

The installation of a wet lab and cryogenic freezer on the ground floor of Storrs Hall enables researchers to collect, prepare, and store samples. A phlebotomy biobehavioral lab created on the first floor enables CAMP student research assistants to interact with study participants.

CAMP and its researchers have been successful in securing major NIH funding from the National Institute of Nursing Research: Starkweather's P20 award for the Center for Accelerating Precision Pain Self-Management (\$1.7 million) and Cong's R01 for Multi-Omics Analysis of Pain/Stress Impact on Neurodevelopment in Preterm Infants (\$1.8 million).

According to Cong, a new biobehavioral lab in Beach Hall will expand CAMP's capacity even more. "This (Continued on page 32)

## Marking Milestones

This year, the UConn School of Nursing marks three significant anniversaries: the 25th anniversary of its doctoral degree program, the 20th anniversary of its first Ph.D. graduates, and the 10th anniversary of the first graduates from its doctor of nursing practice program.

Nursing education came late to offering a Ph.D. in nursing science. After collegiate nursing baccalaureate programs emerged in the early 20th century, in the 1920s Columbia University created an Ed.D. degree for nurse educators. When baccalaureate nursing degree schools proliferated on college and university campuses, nursing faculty found that their professional credibility and opportunities for advancement on campuses were hampered by their possessing only a master of science degree as the highest educational attainment. Nurse faculty sought doctoral degrees in schools of education or social science departments.

Beginning in the 1970s, however, the number of nursing research programs offering a Ph.D. or D.N.Sc. began to grow. By one estimate, between 1970 and 2000 the number of Ph.D. programs in nursing nearly quadrupled.

Inaugurated in 1994, UConn School of Nursing's doctoral program has graduated nearly 100 students, engaged today in research, education, and leadership. Many have been named as Fellows of the American Academy of Nursing. What is distinctive about our Ph.D. program, according to its director E. Carol Polifroni, Ed.D., NEA-BC, CNE RN, ANEF, is its "steadfast commitment to the theoretical, conceptual and empirical structures that undergird our discipline. Our graduates have expanded nursing epistemology, fused the horizons of team science, and embraced the ontology of a practice and evidence-based discipline."

The first graduate, Jean W. Lange '99 Ph.D., RN, FAAN, later left Fairfield University to become the founding dean of Quinnipiac University's School of Nursing. Geri Pearson '02 Ph.D., APRN, FAAN, has been the editor-in-chief of the *Journal of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association* and a co-chair of COPE (the Committee on Publication Ethics). Margaret Flinter '10 Ph.D., APRN, FAAN, is senior

vice president and clinical director of the Community Health Center, Inc., and founder of the Weitzman Institute, the research and development arm of CHCI. The School's Ph.D. program draws international students from as far away as Jordan, Iran, and China.

According to Polifroni, "Our Ph.D. program has produced researchers, academicians, and system leaders who have and continue to make a difference."

The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree, likewise, has become a robust component of the School's graduate education. Inaugurated just over 10 years ago, it prepares advanced practice nurses, clinical nurse leaders, and nurse executives to improve health care outcomes for individuals,

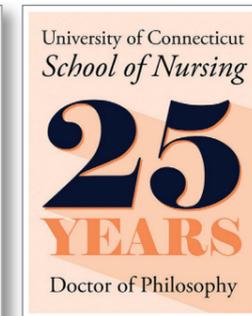
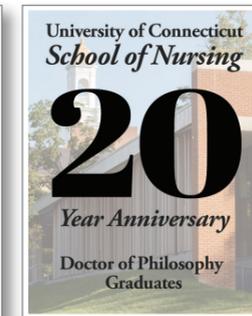
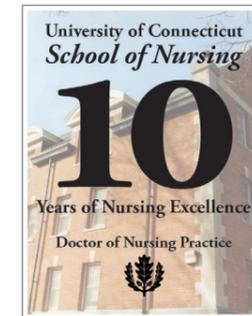
populations, and health care systems. As a practice doctorate deeply invested in quality improvement, innovation, and health policy, the School's DNP faculty has undertaken revisions and refinements, and

the program is now fully online, with intensive on-campus components in August and January.

Among the first cohort, Barbara Lakatos '09 DNP, PMHCNS-BC, APRN, is program director for the Psychiatric Nursing Resource Service at Brigham and Women's Hospital. Millicent Malcolm '10 DNP, GNP-BC, AGPCNP-BC, APRN, FAANP, is associate clinical professor in the UConn School of Nursing and project director of GOT Care!, an interprofessional geriatric program for which she secured a \$1.4 million grant from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration.

"Our graduates are making significant contributions to nursing practice at every level," says Joy Elwell, DNP, FNP-BC, APRN, CNE, FAAN, FAANP, associate clinical professor and director of the DNP Program.

Educating the next generation of nurse researchers, innovative practitioners, and talented nurse leaders, UConn School of Nursing's doctoral programs have distinguished themselves regionally, nationally, and internationally over the past 20 years.



# A New Home in Nursing



Dr. Pei Zhang and Dr. Wanli Xu both have medical degrees from Qingdao University in China. After coming to the United States, they each earned doctoral degrees from UConn and completed the UConn School of Nursing's Certificate Entry in Nursing (CEIN) program, an accelerated 11-month program for students who already have bachelor's degrees in other fields. Dr. Xu and Dr. Zhang are also husband and wife and, while studying here to earn their two nursing degrees and two research doctoral degrees, they had two children.

Now a postdoctoral fellow, Dr. Xu is a project manager in the UConn School of Nursing, having completed her Ph.D. in 2018. Her research focuses on understanding pain mechanisms using biobehavioral and multiomics

measurement, especially in patients with chronic conditions, such as premature birth, irritable bowel disease, and cancer. Dr. Xu is interested in the role of pain and stress in brain-gut-microbiome signaling systems. Using state-of-the-art analytic and computational methods, she incorporates clinical nursing research, molecular and cellular biology, and big data science into her research to understand the relationship between pain/stress and the microbial community and their impact on human health. Her research has been funded by the American Nurses Foundation, the National Association of Neonatal Nurses, and the Oncology Nursing Foundation.

Recently graduated from the CEIN program, Dr. Zhang is a medical neurobiologist who earned his Ph.D. from the UConn Department of Neurobiology and Physiology in 2016, with the focus of his research on adenosine effects on neocortical synaptic transmission in layer 2/3 pyramidal neurons. His research has been published in the *Journal of Physiology and Neuroscience*. Dr. Zhang has taught in the UConn physiology and anatomy labs, as well as in general biology and anatomy and physiology courses at Capital Community College in Hartford.

Although they each have different clinical practice and research goals, Dr. Xu and Dr. Zhang found studying in the United States attractive because of their shared commitment to quality health care. Dr. Xu is turning to a study of oncological pain. She has been working in the School's Center for the Advancement of Managing Pain (CAMP) on the bioenvironmental context of pain, including the relationship of the microbiome to immunology. "We have to understand the culture of pain," Dr. Xu observes, "treating the cause, not just the symptoms, with less reliance on opioid pain relief."

Dr. Zhang's doctoral research using animal studies to understand the cortex has applications in exploring the excitation-inhibition (E-I) balance in the human brain. The mechanism of E-I balance may answer questions regarding sleep regulation and neurological diseases. It will also provide him with the basis for clinical practice, "opening a variety of career options from work on a health center neurology floor to teaching," he says. Already having taught as a college instructor, Dr. Zhang envisions a career as a nurse educator, clinical practitioner in a neurological intensive care unit, and researcher in neurology nursing.

# Next Generation of Clinical Partnerships

An exciting nurse-led partnership called Primary Care Nurse Practitioners Caring for Underserved Populations — An Innovative Clinical-Academic Partnership to Enhance NP Preparation for Practice (PCNP CUPS) has won a nationally competitive grant award from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

"Connecticut has many underserved populations and a significant shortage of primary care providers. This funding will help both to increase the number of nurse practitioners prepared to provide primary care for these populations and to improve effective identification and management for behavioral health concerns in those primary care settings," says Ivy Alexander, Ph.D., APRN, ANP-BC, FAANP, FAAN, the primary investigator for the program.

The HRSA funding will provide the foundation for a sustainable, enhanced partnership with three community health center organizations across Connecticut. PCNP CUPS has three goals: first, to increase primary care nurse practitioner student training capacity with underserved populations; second, to support primary care identification, management, and appropriate referral for behavioral health; and finally, to leverage communication with and expertise of community health partner clinicians and telehealth to

promote graduate readiness for the clinical complexity of high-performance practice.

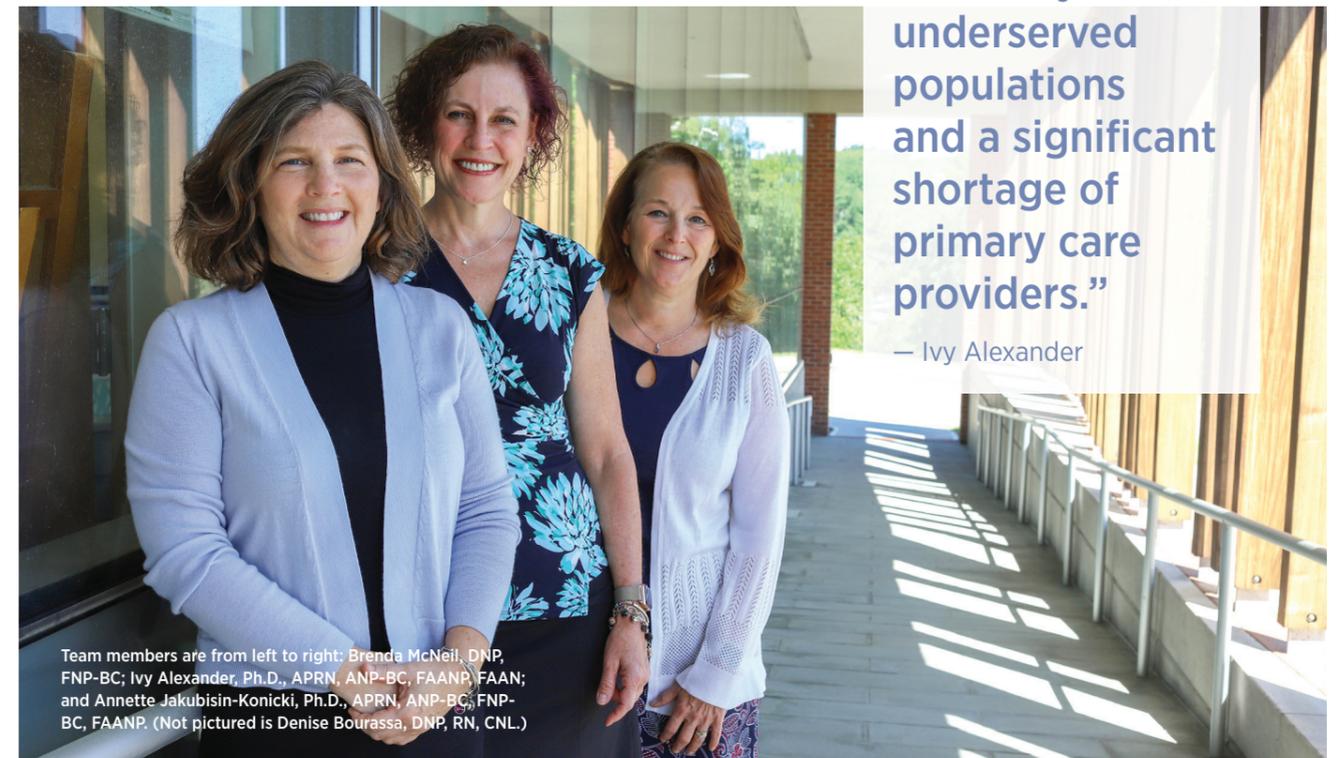
The partnership expands existing relationships, incorporates telehealth, integrates ongoing rapid cycle quality improvement processes to identify and implement needed modifications for sustained success, leverages communication across partners to provide ongoing access to online behavioral health care, and includes best practices developed through HRSA Advanced Nursing Education 2016 funding of the I CAN Project.

During the funding period, Alexander will lead a team in broadening the clinical partnerships and training of primary care nurse practitioner students with co-investigators Annette Jakubisin-Konicki, Ph.D., APRN, ANP-BC, FNP-BC, FAANP, Director of Education; Denise Bourassa, DNP, MSN, RN, CNL, Director for Quality Improvement; and Brenda McNeil, Ph.D., RN, Program Manager.

"We look forward to the expanded partnerships with Generations, Community Health Services, and Community Health Centers, Inc. that this grant will support," Alexander says.

**"Connecticut has many underserved populations and a significant shortage of primary care providers."**

— Ivy Alexander



Team members are from left to right: Brenda McNeil, DNP, FNP-BC; Ivy Alexander, Ph.D., APRN, ANP-BC, FAANP, FAAN; and Annette Jakubisin-Konicki, Ph.D., APRN, ANP-BC, FNP-BC, FAANP. (Not pictured is Denise Bourassa, DNP, RN, CNL.)

# 2018 Publications & Presentations

## Advanced Practice and Acute Care Publications

Johnson-Mallard, V., Curry, K., Chandler, R., **Alexander, I.**, Kostas-Polston, E., Orsega, S., Woods, N. F. (2018). Recommendations for managing sexually transmitted diseases: Beyond the 2015 guidelines. *The Nurse Practitioner*, 43(8), 28-34.

**Moore, A. K.** (2018). My People, 2014. *American Journal of Nursing*, 118(5), 72.

**Starkweather, A. R.**, Coleman, B., Barcelona de Mendoza, V., Hickey, K. T., Menzies, V., Fu, M. R...Informatics and Technology Expert Panel. (2018). Strengthen federal and local policies to advance precision health implementation and nurses' impact on healthcare quality and safety. *Nursing Outlook*, 66(4), 401-406.

Roberson, A. R., **Starkweather, A.**, Grossman, C., Acevedo, E., & Salyer, J. (2018). Influence of muscle strength on early mobility in critically ill adult patients: Systematic literature review. *Heart & Lung*, 47(1), 1-9.

## Presentations

**Alexander, I. M.** (2018, January). COPD: Current diagnosis, management, & treatment. MidlevelU Continuing Education Program, National Webinar for NPs and PAs.

**Alexander, I. M.** (2018, June). Headache. MidlevelU Continuing Education Program, National Webinar for NPs and PAs.

## Childbirth, Maternal Health, and Pediatric Nursing

### Publications

**Beck, C. T.** (2018). Traumatic childbirth: The ever widening ripple effect. (Parto traumatico: Un effetto onda in continua espansione.). In P. Grusso & R. M. Quartraro (Eds.). *Psicologia clinica perinatale dalla teoria alla pratica (Perinatal clinical psychology: From theory to practice)*, pp. 267-294). Trento, Italy: Erickson Publishers.

**Beck, C. T.** (2018). The slippery slope of birth trauma. In M. Muzik & K. L. Rosenblum (Eds.). *Motherhood in the face of trauma: Pathways towards healing and growth* (pp. 55-68). New York, NY: Springer Nature.

**Beck, C. T.**, Watson, S., & Gable, R. K. (2018). Traumatic childbirth and its aftermath: Is there anything positive? *Journal of Perinatal Education*, 27, 175-184.

Tobin, C. L., Di Napoli, P., & **Beck, C. T.** (2018). Refugee and immigrant women's experience of postpartum depression: A meta-synthesis. *Journal of Transcultural Nursing*, 29, 84-100.

**Beck, C. T.** (2018). A secondary analysis of mistreatment of women during childbirth in healthcare facilities. *Journal of Obstetric, Gynecologic, and Neonatal Nursing*, 47, 94-104.

Wang, Y., Briere, C.E., **Xu, W.**, & **Cong, X.** (2018). Factors affecting breastfeeding outcomes at six months in preterm infants. *Journal of Human Lactation*, 35, 80-89.

Romisher, R., Hill, D., & **Cong, X.** (2018). Neonatal abstinence syndrome: Exploring nurses' attitudes, knowledge, and practice. *Advances in Neonatal Care*, 18(2), E3-E11.

**Kelley, T.**, Brandon, D. & McGrath, J. (2018). Workarounds as a catalyst to drive innovation in neonatal care. *Advances in Neonatal Care*, 18(3), 163-164.

**Vittner D.**, McGrath J., Robinson J., Lawhon G., **Cusson R.**, Eisenfeld L., **Walsh S.**, **Young, E.**, & **Cong, X.** (2018). Increase in oxytocin from skin-to-skin contact enhances development of parent-infant relationship. *Biological Research in Nursing*, 20(1), 54-62.

## Presentations

**Beck, C. T.** (2018, December). *The ever widening ripple effect of traumatic childbirth. Project 62- Building perinatal mental wellness parent support networks and safety nets in 62 New York counties.* Lisa Mary Reilly Visioning Educational Series, Nassau County, NY.

**Beck, C. T.** (2018, May). *Traumatic childbirth: The ever widening ripple effect.* Keynote, Annual Christine Cameron Symposium on evidence based practice and quality care, Burlington, MA.

**Beck, C. T.** (2018, May). *Secondary traumatic stress: Is there a cost of caring?* Project 62- Building perinatal mental wellness parent support networks and safety nets in 62 New York counties. Lisa Mary Reilly Visioning Educational Series, Rochester, NY.

**Beck, C. T.** (2018, May). *The slippery slope of traumatic childbirth.* Project 62- Building perinatal mental wellness parent support networks and safety nets in 62 New York counties. Lisa Mary Reilly Visioning Educational Series, Rochester, NY.

**Beck, C. T.** (2018, April). *Bringing visibility to the invisible phenomenon of traumatic childbirth through qualitative research.* 2018 Cox Health Research Day, Springfield, MO.

**Beck, C. T.** (2018, April). *Secondary traumatic stress in OB clinicians: What mixed methods revealed.* 2018 Cox Health Research Day, Springfield, MO.

**Beck, C. T.** (2018, March). *Vicarious posttraumatic growth: Is this a possibility for clinicians?* Keynote, American Psychiatric Nurses Association and APNA Kentucky Chapter 2018 Annual Conference, Louisville, KY.

**Beck, C. T.** (2018, March). *Secondary traumatic stress and posttraumatic growth in obstetrical caregivers: What does mixed methods reveal?* Keynote, NYU Winthrop Hospital's 5th annual nursing research day, Mineola, NY.

**Cong, X.** (2018, October). *Early life experience, brain-gut-microbiome mechanism, and neurobehavior in infant health.* Peking University International Nursing Conference, Beijing, China.

## Chronic Disease Management

### Publications

Caceres, B.A., Brody, A. Halkitis, P., Dorsen, C., Yu, G., & **Chyun, D.A.** (2018). Sexual orientation differences in modifiable risk factors for cardiovascular disease and cardiovascular disease diagnoses in men. *LGBT Health*, 5, 284-294.

Caceres, B.A., Brody, A. Halkitis, P., Dorsen, C., Yu, G., & **Chyun, D.A.** (2018). Cardiovascular disease risk in sexual minority women (18-59 years old): Findings from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (2001-2012). *Women's Health Issues*, 28(4), 333-341.

Melnyk, B., Orsolini, L., Tan, A., Arslanian-Engoren, C., Melkus, G.D., Dunbar Jacob, J., Rice, V.H., Millan, A., Braun, L.T., Wilbur, J., **Chyun, D.A.**, Gawlik, K., & Lewis, L. (2018). A national study links nurses' physical and

mental health to medical errors and perceived worksite wellness. *JOEM*, 60, 126-131.

**Newlin Lew, K.**, Maclean, Y., Beyers, S., Taylor, H., & Cayasso, K. (2018). Combined diabetes prevention & disease self-management intervention for Nicaraguan ethnic minorities: A pilot study. *Progress in Community Health Partnerships: Research, Education, and Action*, 11(4), 357-366.

**Newlin Lew, K.**, Dorsen, C., & **Long, T.** (2018). Prevalence of overweight, obesity, pre-diabetes, and diabetes in sexual minority men: Findings from the 2014 BRFSS. *The Diabetes Educator: TDE*, 44(1), 83-93.

**Newlin Lew, K.**, Wagner, J., & Braizat, O. (2018). Quality of life in ethnic minorities with diabetes: Findings from the 2014 BRFSS. *Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities*, 5(6), 1293-1304.

**Newlin Lew, K.**, Dorsen, C., Melkus, G., & Maclean, M. (2018). Prevalence of obesity, pre-diabetes, and diabetes in sexual minority women of diverse races/ethnicities. Findings from the 2014-2015 BRFSS. *The Diabetes Educator: TDE*, 44(4), 348-360.

Piano, M.R., Artinian, N.T., DeVon, H.A., Pressler, S.T., Hickey, K.T., & **Chyun, D.A.** (2018). Cardiovascular nursing science priorities: A statement from the American Heart Association Council on Cardiovascular and Stroke Nursing. *Journal of Cardiovascular Nursing*, 33(4), E11-E20.

Sadarangani, T.R., **Chyun, D.A.**, Trinh-Shevrin, C., Yu, G., & Kovner, C. (2018). Cardiovascular disease risk among older immigrant in the United States: A comparison of risk measures. *Journal of Cardiovascular Nursing*, 33, 554-550.

**Xu, W.**, Luo, Z., Alekseyenko, A., Martin, L., Wan, Z., Qin, Z., Kilby, J. M., Heath, S., **Cong, X.**, & Jiang, W. (2018). Distinct systemic microbiome and microbial translocation are associated with plasma level of anti-CD4 autoantibody in HIV infection. *Nature Scientific Reports*, 8(1), 12863.

## Education & Culture

### Publications

**Chen, J.**, Yang, J., Hu, F., Yu, S., Yang, B., Zhang, Q., Liu, Q., & Zhu, X. (2018). Standardised simulation-based emergency and intensive care nursing curriculum to improve nursing students' performance during simulated resuscitation: a quasi-

experimental study. *Intensive & Critical Care Nursing*, 46, 51-56.

**Long, T. L.** (2018). From doc to post-doc to career: The transition from nursing student to nursing scholar. *Nurse Author & Editor*, 28(1), 5.

**Long, T. L.** (2018). Southern gothic and the queer male body. In A. S. Mangham, & G. Depledge (Eds.), *The Male Body in Medicine and Literature* (pp. 221-239). Liverpool, UK: Liverpool University Press.

Pillai, S., **Manister, N. N.**, Ducey, M., McManus-Penzero, J., & Coppola, M. (2018) Evaluation of a nurse residency program. *Journal for Nurses in Professional Development*, 34(6), E23-E28.

**Van Hoof, T. J.**, & Doyle, T. J. (2018). Learning science as a potential new source of understanding and improvement for continuing education and continuing professional development. *Medical Teacher*, 40, 880-885.

Meehan, T. P., Abrishamian, M., **Van Hoof, T. J.**, et al. (2018). Small practices struggle to maintain elements of the Patient-Centered Medical Home. *Connecticut Medicine*, 82(1), 15-21.

## Presentations

**Hawkins, S.**, & Lawson, R. (2018, December). *Evaluating and improving faculty performance.* National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF) Fall Conference, Bethesda, MD.

Likes, W., & **Hawkins, S.** (2018, November). *Integration of standards across accrediting bodies into a master evaluation plan.* Poster, Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA.

**Hawkins, S.**, Boucher, J., O'Sullivan, A., Dumas, M., Doherty, C., & Todd, B. (2018, April). *Navigating the role of the program director: Essential knowledge, skills, and abilities.* Invited, Pre-Conference at 44th NONPF Annual Conference, Indianapolis, IN.

Appling, N., Pace, D., & **Hawkins, S.** (2018, April). *A paradigm shift: An evolution to university-based RNFA education for APRNs.* Poster, 44th NONPF Annual Conference, Indianapolis, IN.

Appling, N., Pace, D., **Hawkins, S.** & Wadas, T. (2018, March). *A place at the table: Developing an RNFA program.* Poster, AORN

Global Surgical Conference & Expo, New Orleans, LA.

**Hawkins, S.** (2018, January). *DNP faculty and preceptor perspectives for developing student clinical site evaluation guidelines.* Poster, AACN 2018 Faculty Practice Pre-Conference, Naples, FL.

**Hawkins, S.**, Bellflower, B., Reed, L., & Likes, W. (2018, January). *Academic strategies to facilitate retention of Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) advanced practice nursing students.* Poster, AACN 2018 Doctoral Education Conference, Naples, FL.

Reed, L., Bellflower, B., **Hawkins, S.**, & Likes, W. (2018, January). *Phone/video clinical site visits: Student responses to a technology-based evaluation process.* Poster, AACN 2018 Doctoral Education Conference, Naples, FL.

**Long, T. L.** (2018, March). *Aesthetic ways of knowing: Theory and practice in nursing education.* Opening Doors: From the Medical to the Health Humanities, Drew University Medical Humanities Symposium, Madison, NJ.

**Long, T. L.**, & **Beck, C. T.** (2018, June). *Thinking like a nurse to write like a nurse: Crafting a discipline-specific writing guide in nursing.* International Writing Across the Curriculum 25th Annual Conference, Auburn University, Auburn, AL.

**Long, T. L.** (2018, January). Presider and respondent, *Writing nursing: Translating practice into literature.* Modern Language Association 133rd Annual Convention, New York, NY.

## Geriatric Nursing

### Publication

Schain, A., Rees, C., Medina, C., Eyler, R., Glenney, S., Rodko, E., Cassese, J., **Shellman, J.**, & **Malcolm, M.** (2018). Reducing risks for older adults with an interprofessional community-academic partnership: A case study exemplar. *Home Health Care Now*, 36(6), 362-362.

## Presentations

**Malcolm, M.** (2018, June). *An interprofessional solution to enhance training for the healthcare workforce and improve outcomes for vulnerable older adults.* Invited, World Congress for Advanced Nursing Research, Dublin, Ireland.

**Malcolm, M.**, & Rees, C. (2018, October). *GOT*

Care! Enhancing geri workforce & improving older adult outcomes. 2018 ANCC National Magnet Conference, Denver, CO.

**Moore, A. K.,** & Poehlmann, K. (2018, February). *Innovative solutions in community health nursing for the aging population: An integrative nurse coach model*. Integrative Healthcare Symposium Annual Conference, New York, NY.

## Pain Management

### Publications

Nair, L. S., Khanal, M., Gohil, S. V., Kuyinu, E., Kan, H. M., Knight, B. E., **Baumbauer, K. M.,** Lo, W. H., Walker, J., Laurencin, C. T., & Nair, L. S. (2018). Injectable nanocomposite analgesic delivery system for musculoskeletal pain management. *Acta Biomaterialia*, *74*, 280-290.

**Cong, X., Perry, M., Bernier, K. M., Young, E. E., & Starkweather, A.** (2018). Effects of self-management interventions in patients with irritable bowel syndrome: Systematic review. *Western Journal of Nursing Research*, *40*, 1698-1720.

**Cong, X., Ramesh, D., Perry, M., Xu, W., Bernier, M., Young, E. E., Walsh, S., & Starkweather, A.** (2018). Pain self-management plus nurse-led support in young adults with irritable bowel syndrome: Study protocol for a pilot randomized control trial. *Research in Nursing and Health*, *41*(2), 121-130.

**McDonald, D. D.** (2018). Predictors of gastrointestinal bleeding in older persons taking nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs: Results from the FDA adverse events reporting system. *Journal of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners*, doi:10.1097/JXX.000000000000130.

**McDonald, D. D.,** Coughlin, S., & Jin, C. (2018). Older adults' response to analgesic adverse drug reactions: A pilot study. *Pain Management Nursing*, *19*, 333-339.

**Perry, M.** (2018). "I thought I was going to die." A meta-synthesis exploring pediatric pain after scoliosis surgery. *International Journal of Orthopaedic and Trauma Nursing*, *31*, 5-12.

**Perry, M.,** Tan, Z., **Chen, J.,** Weidig, T., **Xu, W., & Cong, X.** (2018). Neonatal pain: Perceptions and current practice. *Critical Care in Nursing Clinics of North America*, *30*, 549-461.

**Perry, M., Starkweather, A., Baumbauer, K., & Young, E.** (2018). Factors leading to persistent

postsurgical pain in adolescents undergoing spinal fusion: An integrative literature review. *Journal of Pediatric Nursing*, *38*, 74-80.

**Ramesh, D., D'Agata, A., Starkweather, A. R., & Young E. E.** (2018). Contribution of endocannabinoid gene expression and genotype on low back pain susceptibility and chronicity. *Clinical Journal of Pain*, *34*(1), 8-14.

Lyon, D.E., **Starkweather, A.,** Yao, Y., Garrett T., Kelley, D. L., Menzies, V., Derenzinski, P., Datta, S., Kumar, S., & Jackson-Cook, C. (2018). Pilot study of metabolomics and psychoneurological symptoms in women with early stage breast cancer. *Biological Research for Nursing*, *20*(2), 227-236.

Page, G. G., Corwin, E. J., Dorsey, S. G., Redeker, N. S., McCloskey, D. J., Austin, J. K., Guthrie, B. J., Moore, S. M., Barton, D., Kim, M. T., Docherty, S. L., Waldrop-Valverde, D., Bailey D. E. Jr., Schiffman, R. F., **Starkweather, A. R.,** Ward, T. M., Bakken S., Hickey, K. T., Renn, C. L., & Grady, P. (2018). Biomarkers as common data elements for symptom and self-management science. *Journal of Nursing Scholarship*, *50*(3), 276-286.

### Presentations

**Cong, X., Xu, W., Ramesh, D., Perry, M., Bernier, K., Young, E., & Starkweather, A.** (2018, May). *Precision pain self-management in young adults with irritable bowel syndrome*. Poster, 2018 NINR Center Directors Meeting, Bethesda, MD.

**Cong, X., Xu, W.,** Yong, E., **Starkweather, A., & Henderson, W.A.** (2018, May). *Chronic painful stressors and the gut microbiome in infant health: Brain-gut-microbiota axis and host genetic factors*. Poster, NIH Pain Consortium Symposium: 13th Annual Symposium on Advances in Pain Research, Bethesda, MD.

**McDonald, D.** (2018, March). *Older adults' adverse drug events from non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs*. Poster, Annual Scientific Meeting of the American Pain Society, Anaheim, CA.

**McDonald, D.** (2018, April). *Predictors of gastrointestinal bleeding in older adults: Results from the 2016 FDA Adverse Event Reporting System*. Eastern Nursing Research Society Conference, Newark, NJ.

**Perry, M.** (2018, April). *Assessing the management of pediatric postsurgical pain with genetics*. Eastern Nursing Research Society, Newark, NJ.

**Starkweather, A.** (2018, October). *Advancements in managing pain: The role of nursing research*. International Nursing Conference, Peking University, Beijing, China.

**Starkweather, A.** (2018, October). *Decoding the management of pain: Identifying psychosocial and genomic predictors of chronic pain to improve pain self-management*. Fudan University School of Nursing, Shanghai, China.

Menzies, V., Thacker, L., Yao, Y., **Starkweather, A.,** & Lyon, D. E. (2018, October). *Metabolomic analysis and comparison of women with fibromyalgia with healthy controls*. ISONG World Congress, Building Connections to Genomic Health, Orlando, FL.

**Starkweather, A.** (2018, September). *Sensory and genetic aspects of sensitisation in low back pain*. International Association for the Study of Pain. Boston, MA.

**Starkweather, A.** (2018, August). *Topics in pain management*. International Association of Nurse Editors. Boston, MA.

**Starkweather, A.** (2018, April). *Precision pain self-management across populations*. Eastern Nurses Research Society, Newark, NJ.

**Starkweather, A.** (2018, March). *Biobehavioral mechanisms underlying the development and persistence of distressing symptoms: Genomic and metabolomic alterations*. National Nursing Round Table, Bethesda, MD.

Knight, B. E., Yasko, J. R., Crocker, S. J., **Young, E. E., & Baumbauer, K. M.** (2018). The role of cell-specific TIMP-1 *modulating mechanical hypersensitivity in a subcutaneous inflammatory model*. Annual Meeting of the American Pain Society, Anaheim, CA.

McKearney, N. A., Yasko, J. R., **Young, E. E.,** Knight, B. E., Glidden, N., & **Baumbauer, K. M.** (2018). *Transcriptional profiling in colon following spinal cord injury*. Annual Meeting of the American Pain Society, Anaheim, CA.

Yasko, J. R., Drzewiecki, K., **Young, E. E., & Baumbauer, K. M.** (2018). *Contribution of ASIC3 to spinal cord injury induced nociceptor sensitization*. Annual Meeting of the American Pain Society, Anaheim, CA.

## Research Methods and Theory

### Publications

**Beck, C. T.** (2019). *Secondary qualitative data analysis in the health and social sciences*. New York: Routledge Publications.

**Delaney, C.,** McCaffrey, R., Barrerre, C., **Moore, A. K.,** Dunn, D., Miller, R., Molony, S., Thomas, D., Twomey, T., & Zhu, S. (2018). Trends in contemporary holistic nursing research 2010-2015. *Journal of Holistic Nursing*, *36*, 385-394.

### Presentations

**Beck, C. T.** (2018, April). *The research journey: The road not taken*. Keynote, 2018 Cox Health Research Day, Springfield, MO.

Barrett, E. A. M., **Chinn, P. L., Polifroni, E. C.,** Sieloff, C., **Moore, A. K.,** & Fawcett, J. (2018, October). *Thoughts about nursing and power theorists*. Society of Rogerian Scholars International Conference, New York, NY.

**Moore, A. K.** (2018, October). *Holistic theory of unpleasant symptoms*. Society of Rogerian Scholars International Conference, New York, NY.

## Women's Health

### Publications

**Alexander, I. M., Jakubisin-Konicki, A.,** Cauty, L., **LoGiudice, J., McKelvey, M., & McNeil, B.** (2018). Women's health. In J. J. Fitzpatrick (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of Nursing Research, 4th Edition* (pp. 788 - 794). New York, NY: Springer Publishing Company.

Royce, C. F., Johnson-Mallard, V., Burke, P., **Alexander, I. M.,** Taylor, D., Greenburg, C. S., & Czubaruk, K. (2018). The American Academy of Nursing on policy proposed healthcare policy changes threaten women's health. *Nursing Outlook*, *66*, 586-589.

### Presentations

**Alexander, I. M., Bourassa, D., Jakubisin-Konicki, A., McNeil, B.,** Blankson, M., & Gammie, L. (2018, February). *Innovative academic-clinical practice partnership*

to enhance quality and safety in NP care for underserved populations. American Association of Colleges of Nursing Master's Education Conference, Garden Grove, CA.

**Alexander, I. M.** (2018, August). *Osteoporosis*. MidlevelU Continuing Education Program, National Webinar for NPs and PAs.

**Alexander, I. M.** (2018, May). *Care of the female patient in midlife: Menopause*. MidlevelU Continuing Education Program, National Webinar for NPs and PAs.

**Alexander, I. M.** (2018, May). *Osteoporosis prevention, identification, & management*. Community Health Center, Inc. Residency Program. Middletown, CT.

# 2018 External Grant Awards

**Alice Anderson (PI)/Angela Starkweather (Co-PI), Self-Management of Cancer Pain Survey Study** (\$5,000, Oncology Nursing Society Foundation)

**Kyle Baumbauer (PI), Targeting ASIC3 to Disrupt Nociceptor Sensitization Following Spinal Cord Injury** (\$433,579, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS)/ R21)

**Annette Jakubisin-Konicki (PI), CVS Health Foundation Scholarship Program 2019** (\$4,000, CVS Health Foundation/ Scholarships for Nurse Practitioners)

**Ruth Lucas (PI)/Divya Ramesh (Co-PI)/Heather Evans (Co-I), Antenatal Cannabis Use: Implications for Symptom Management and Risk-Taking** (\$15,000, American Nurses Foundation/ Research Grant)

**Mallory Perry (PI)/Angela Starkweather (Co-PI), Assessing the Management of Pediatric Postsurgical Pain (AMP3) with Genetics** (\$2,000, International Society of Nurses in Genetics/ Research Grant)

**Carol Polifroni (PI), Nurse Faculty Loan Program** (\$106,771, Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) Bureau of Health Professions (BHP)/Nurse Faculty Loan Program)

**Carol Polifroni (PI), Veteran's Health Care Scholar and UConn Jonas Scholar** (\$20,000 Jonas Foundation/American Association of Colleges of Nursing/ Jonas Scholars)

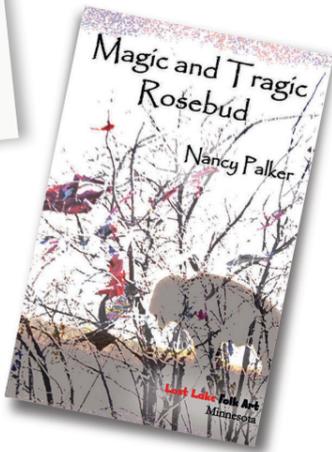
**Angela Starkweather (PI)/Cynthia Renn (Co-PI)/Susan Dorsey (Co-I), Physiological, Psychological, and Genomic Factors that Predict the Transition from Acute to Chronic Pain in Patients with Traumatic Lower Extremity Fracture** (\$3,073,811, University of Maryland National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR)/ R01)

**Wanli Xu (PI), The Impact of Stress and Gut Inflammation on Neurodevelopmental Outcomes in Extremely Preterm Infants** (\$5,000, National Association of Neonatal Nurses (NANN)/Research Grant)

**Erin Young (PI), The Lifelong Impact of Stress & Allostatic Load in Adolescents with Food Allergy & Celiac Disease: A Pilot & Feasibility Study** (\$11,331, University of Wisconsin - Madison)



From left to right: Judy Neiderwerfer Kelly '73 (in navy) and Nancy Brander Palker '73 (in blue)



## Remembering Life at Rosebud

*Nancy Brander Palker '73, CRNP has written a moving book, "Magic and Tragic Rosebud," about the time she and fellow UConn graduate Judy Niederwerfer Kelly '73, '83 MS spent as nurses on a Sioux Lakota reservation in South Dakota.*

In 1973, two graduates of UConn's School of Nursing were itching to journey west of the Mississippi River.

But Nancy Brander Palker '73 and Judy Niederwerfer Kelly '73 were not prepared for the culture shock of their first nursing job at the Rosebud Public Health Service Indian Hospital in South Dakota.

"Living in rural pockets of Connecticut, we'd seen poverty, but nothing like the level of poverty that the Native Americans there suffered," says Palker. "It wasn't just financial poverty; it was poverty of the spirit. What we saw were the repercussions of that — racial tensions, distrust, anger turned inward and outward."

From their first day at the hospital, they treated a continuous flow of mental health problems, alcohol-induced and domestic violence incidents, and hygiene-related outbreaks. The reservation was highly isolated from broader society and the people had little access to stable housing, plumbing, or education.

But both Palker and Kelly remember the lack of material resources as their greatest obstacle.

"There was the total lack of supplies," says Kelly. "People died for this reason. Once, we couldn't intubate a 9-year-old girl because we didn't have the right size tube. And she died."

The Indian Health Service had been underfunded from its inception and often suffered additional budget cuts. As a result, the Rosebud hospital was understaffed, and it was difficult to maintain sterile conditions. At times, staff went without working EKG machines, X-ray film, and basic cleaning materials.

"At the time, I didn't have a whole lot to compare it to. Now I'm just appalled," says Palker. "Problems were ignored. We were thrown into situations we had never covered in class. We were just trying to keep our heads above water."

Both Kelly and Palker have been back to the reservation, where there is a new hospital but many of the same persistent problems. For example, the hospital's maternity ward is closed because they can't find someone to run it.

Palker has included a section in "Magic and Tragic Rosebud" that lists organizations that help on the reservations in the area, and she intends to give her proceeds from the book back to Rosebud's people.

"Writing this book has been useful to reframe the time we spent there," she says. "When we were there, it was all about survival. Now, the story has a bigger purpose."

Both Palker and Kelly visited the Storrs campus on April 3, 2019 for a reading and discussion about the book.

## Barbara J. Hatcher '67

*The career-long advocate for social justice, public health equity, and evidence-based practice in nursing is not slowing down.*

An early Christmas present inspired Barbara J. Hatcher '67 to become a nurse.

"I started getting the Cherry Ames books," she says. "[Cherry Ames] was a nurse who did just about everything. She was an Army nurse, a flight nurse, a visiting nurse. She didn't restrict nursing to the bedside, showing me the opportunity to grow in the profession."

Hatcher felt that becoming a nurse was the perfect way to give back and pursue the social justice principles that were a large part of her upbringing. But her parents had one caveat.

"They told me I had to attend a four-year collegiate program. At the time, people went straight from high school to hospital-based nursing programs. But my pediatrician told my mother that four-year programs would be the future of nursing."

A native of Waterbury, Connecticut, Hatcher sought out UConn's nursing program. There, she had the opportunity to work with Kate Hyder, who was a pioneer in nurse-midwifery, and Josephine Dolan, UConn's first professor of nursing and a well-respected health care historian.

"I think UConn's program prepared us well for the future," Hatcher says. "At least 40 years before there was an emphasis on social determinants of health, UConn stressed the need to meet clients where they lived."

Following graduation, Hatcher worked with the Visiting Nurse Association of Washington, D.C., in primarily low-income neighborhoods, including those destroyed during the 1968 riots after the death of Martin Luther King Jr. Desperate addicts tried to steal nurses' syringes, families didn't have enough to eat, and seniors were living in deplorable conditions. "It took everything you learned in school plus an understanding of place and context to provide care," she says. "But I loved this job, and I felt I made a difference."

Hatcher, who also holds Master of Public Health degree from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill and a Ph.D. in Nursing Administration and Health Policy from George Mason University, went on to become one of the first pediatric nurse practitioners in the District of Columbia and the United States.

She also served in the Army National Guard, becoming the assistant chief nurse for clinical nursing services at a



300-bed combat support field hospital in Saudi Arabia when her unit was called to participate in Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm in 1990.

"We learned survival skills and became well-versed in things like shock-trauma care and nuclear, biological and chemical warfare," she says. "These were things a nurse wouldn't usually get to do."

Over the course of her career, her commitment to public health from a programmatic and policy level has only strengthened.

"Health policy and practice is important, because you have a constantly revolving cycle of people who cannot reach their full potential due to systemic stressors in their lives. Nurses work around the barriers that exist for certain populations, but the aim should be to improve the system for the whole population."

Among her myriad contributions to public health, she founded the D.C. Department of Health's multimillion-dollar Healthy Start project to reduce infant mortality and barriers to prenatal care; served as chair of the District of Columbia Board of Nursing, where she worked to establish rules and regulations for expanded nursing practice; and oversaw

*(Continued on next page)*

## Barbara Hatcher, Continued from previous page

the American Public Health Association's (APHA) national efforts to promote evidence-based public health practices.

She was later tapped to serve as the APHA's chief science officer, director of the Center for Learning and Global Public Health, and secretary general of the World Federation of Public Health Associations. She was the first woman, the first nurse, and the first African American to serve in the capacity of secretary general.

Dr. Hatcher has been recognized as a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing and honored with the National Black Nurses Association's Trailblazer Award and UConn's Josephine Dolan School of Nursing Award for Distinguished Service.

In 2018, she retired from teaching at George Mason University after eight years. But she continues to provide leadership through her consulting firm, Hatcher-DuBois-Odrick Group, LLC, where she is focused on helping emerging health care leaders and organizations in developing countries.

"The Code of Ethics for Nurses compels us to 'practice with compassion and respect for the inherent dignity, worth, and unique attributes of every individual,'" she says. "Nurses must be part of the broader fabric of society in order to make certain we can eliminate health disparities for good."

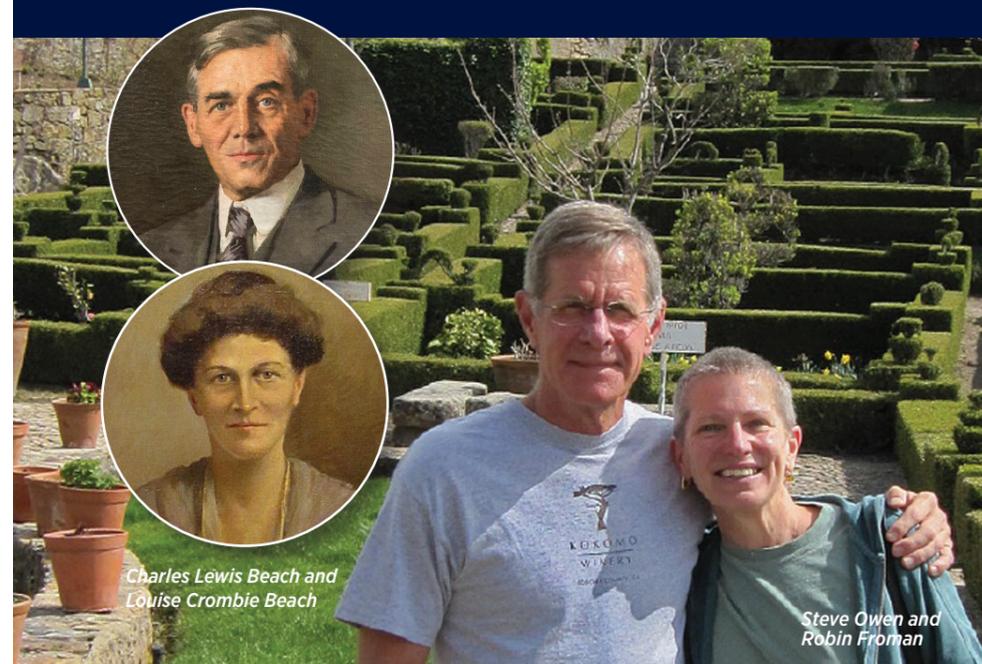
## CAMP, Continued from page 22

1,300-square-foot wet lab and participant involvement space for biological and psychosocial research is equipped with freezers, a biosafety hood, and other equipment and instruments," Cong explains. Two private rooms will enable participant data collection, such as interviews, physical assessments, and bio-sample (e.g., blood, stool, saliva, and buccal samples) collection, as well as quantitative sensory testing.

The discovery of new knowledge, both foundational and clinical, is essential to CAMP's success. This value was on display at its second annual pain symposium in November 2018, A Precision Medicine Approach to Pain, which attracted clinicians and researchers from around the U.S. Presenters came from the University of Florida School of Nursing, Virginia Commonwealth University, West Virginia University, and Boston Children's Hospital, as well as UConn.

True to nursing's commitment to holistic care and healing, CAMP looks for safer, more precise therapies by examining underlying physiology, genetic predispositions, and the microbiome, with the ultimate aim of guiding precision pain management and reducing the negative outcomes of poorly managed pain.

# Planned Giving for the UConn School of Nursing



Charles Lewis Beach and Louise Crombie Beach

Steve Owen and Robin Froman

## Charles Lewis Beach Society Membership Benefits

There are no dues, obligations, or solicitations to join the CLB Society. It's our way of thanking you for making a planned gift to UConn. As a member, you will receive:

- An invitation to the Annual CLB Society Luncheon
- Invitations to special events & seminars
- A subscription to our newsletter

Once you inform us that you have included a gift for UConn in your plans, you will be recognized as a member of the Charles Lewis Beach Society. For more information, visit [plannedgiving.uconn.edu](http://plannedgiving.uconn.edu).

The collective gifts the School of Nursing receives annually provide essential support for scholarships, as well as our mission of caring, innovation, and advocacy in patient care. However, estate gifts can create a lasting legacy for our donors while truly transforming the lives of our nursing students and our nursing programs. Have you considered including a gift to UConn School of Nursing in your estate plans? Those who intend to support UConn with a lasting commitment are invited to join the "CLB Society."

The Charles Lewis Beach Society is the namesake of Charles Lewis Beach (president 1908-1928). President Beach is remembered in part for his role as teacher and leader of what was, in 1908, the young Connecticut Agricultural College. He was a man of foresight and good works whose philanthropy, concern, and love for the University of Connecticut and its students extended far beyond his lifetime and created

a personal legacy. Through his will, he also honored his late wife Louise by providing support for student enrichment and for the institution that was to grow into the University. Today, the Louise Crombie Beach Memorial Collection of Art and the Louise Crombie Beach Memorial Foundation, made possible through lifetime and planned gifts by President Beach, continue to enrich the lives of students and the University community alike.

In so honoring Charles Lewis Beach, we recognize those who similarly make provisions in their wills and other estate and planned gifts to The University of Connecticut Foundation, Inc. for the benefit of the University.

### First Chair in Nursing to Be Endowed Through Bequest

Recently, Robin Froman '74 (NEAG), '75 MA, '81 Ph.D., '84 (NUR), '85 MA, and her husband, Steven Owen, received Neag Medals in honor of their

philanthropy. In 2014, they pledged \$2.3 million to establish the first endowed faculty chair at UConn's School of Nursing through their estate.

Froman is a multiple UConn alumna, completing her bachelor's, master's and doctor of philosophy degrees in education before discovering her affinity for nursing and completing her bachelor's and master's degrees. She later served as a department chair and interim associate dean, and in 1991, Froman established UConn's Center for Nursing Research. Owen is professor emeritus in the Neag School of Education's Department of Educational Psychology, where he taught and conducted research for nearly 30 years. He later served as a professor in the School of Nursing at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston and as professor and statistical scientist in the School of Medicine at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio.

## WELCOME

### Meet the President of the School of Nursing Alumni Board

Elaine McLeod '78 is a retired pediatric nurse. In 2004, McLeod and her husband Chris established the McLeod Family Endowed Scholarship, their first of several gifts to UConn. McLeod was an integral part of the School of Nursing 75th Anniversary celebrations. As co-chair of the School's 75th Anniversary efforts, she was involved in the planning of the 75th Anniversary Gala and the Colloquia Series showcasing Nursing faculty. In 2018, McLeod became the School of Nursing Alumni Board President. She felt passionate about continuing her involvement with the School of Nursing and working with other alumni. As president, her goals are to focus on increasing alumni engagement at alumni events and with the students, as well as to encourage alumni giving.



To discuss your interests in supporting the School of Nursing, please contact Becky Salustri at 860-486-6851 or [bsalustri@foundation.uconn.edu](mailto:bsalustri@foundation.uconn.edu)

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- Long-Term Health Care

#### Research Centers

- P20 Center for Accelerating Precision Pain Self-Management
- Center for Advancement in Managing Pain
- Center for Nursing Scholarship and Innovation
- Analytics and Information Management Solutions

#### Programs

- Doctor of Philosophy, Doctor of Nursing Practice
- Master of Science, RN to MS, Post-MS Certificates
- Bachelor of Science, CEIN/BS Accelerated Second Degree

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Caring | Innovating | Advocating