

# Grant News

**UConn** | SCHOOL OF NURSING

Awarded **\$1.6 million Center in Self-Management of Symptoms (P20) Award**  
from the National Institute of Nursing Research



Dr. Cong

Dr. Fendrich

Dr. McGrath

Dr. Starkweather

Dr. Tennen

Dr. Walsh

Dr. Young

**D**r. Angela Starkweather, PhD, RN, FAAN, Professor in the UConn, School of Nursing has secured a 5 year, \$1.6 million Center in Self-Management of Symptoms (P20) award from the National Institute of Nursing Research, entitled the “*Center for Accelerating Precision Pain Self-Management.*” The CAPPS-M proposes to provide the infrastructure for pilot studies to implement interventions for patients suffering from chronic pain to help them self-manage their symptoms. The Center will receive guidance from an internationally renowned group of investigators who comprise the external advisory council including Drs. Rachel Schiffman and Kathleen J. Sawin both from the University of Wisconsin-Madison Self-Management Science Center; Dr. Susan Dorsey from the University of Maryland Center for Genomics of Pain; Dr. Cato Laurencin Director of the Connecticut Institute for Clinical and Translational Science; Dr. Jeff Fisher, Director of the Institute for Collaboration on Health, Intervention and Policy; and Dr. Jeff Seemann, UConn Vice President for Research. Individual pilot investigators will have the opportunity to interact with external advisory council members and receive mentorship from core investigators.

The Center has two cores, administrative and pilot core. Each core will provide various aspects of oversight of the Center and pilot projects. Dr. Michael Fendrich will join me as Co-I of the Administrative Core. On the pilot core, Dr. Jacqueline McGrath, Dr. Stephen Walsh and Dr. Howard Tennen are providing mentorship for pilot project investigators. Dr. Erin Young will also be providing pain genetics expertise and will oversee the coordination of genetic aspects of each pilot project. We are already working on the launch of the first pilot study, led by Dr. Xiaomei Cong in the School of Nursing. We hired Dr. Divya Ramesh as program director and aim to begin recruitment in the next month (<http://www.painresearch.uconn.edu>). We are very grateful for the support of Dean Polifroni as we work toward implementing the pilot projects and will continue to work closely with her throughout the funding period.

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