It is a pleasure to share this year’s Annual Report highlighting a number of our accomplishments. This issue focuses on the scholarship of our faculty, staff and students and the leadership provided by our three Centers: The Csomay Center for Gerontological Excellence, the Center for Nursing Classification and Clinical Effectiveness, and the Center for Advancing Multimorbidity Science. Even during a global pandemic, our College of Nursing has continued to advance nursing science, translate evidence to nursing practice and improve patient outcomes. Research and scholarship begin with our undergraduate students in the Nancy Stence Creason Young Scientist Program and are carried into our master’s and doctoral programs.

I am deeply appreciative of the support you have provided to the college in the past year. We have been uplifted by the stories you have shared about how you were impacted by COVID-19 and how you responded.

You will be proud to know the college remains a leader in nursing and continues to provide an outstanding education, the foundation of our 123-year history. As we go to press with this issue, I am pleased to announce that the University of Iowa College of Nursing is ranked as one of the top ten BSN programs in the country by U.S. News and World Report.

Go Hawks!

Julie Zerwic, PhD, RN, FAHA, FAAN
Kelting Dean and Professor
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THE CENTER FOR ADVANCING MULTIMORBIDITY SCIENCE (CAMS) is in its third year of National Institutes of Health funding and recognized as an official Center of Excellence by the Board of Regents.

CAMS is the only center on campus to focus specifically on improving the care of patients with multiple chronic conditions. With two new pilot studies and an administrative supplement funded this past year, the center currently supports five active projects by the following faculty:

- **Stephanie Gilbertson-White**, PhD, APRN-BC
- **Catherine Cherwin**, PhD, RN
- **Anna Krupp**, PhD, RN
- **Julie Vignato**, PhD, RNC-LRN, CNE
- **Nai-Ching (Allison) Chi**, PhD, RN

CAMS is in the process of selecting two more pilot projects to fund this year and has launched a collaboration with the Iowa Initiative for Artificial Intelligence (IIAI) to compare different approaches to measure multimorbidity using the classification scheme of chronic conditions developed by Calderón-Larrañaga (2016). This measure was selected after center faculty conducted a scoping review of multimorbidity measurements (manuscript in process). CAMS also finalized a Memorandum of Understanding with the Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center’s Biospecimen Procurement and Molecular Epidemiology Resource (BioMER) Core to provide pilot PIs of the center a centralized system for biospecimen procurement, processing, and storage.

Despite the challenges associated with the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, CAMS hosted virtual visits from scholars Suzanne Bakken from Columbia University and Kathi Mooney from the University of Utah. The center also organized nearly 50 seminars, forums, and special interest groups that were attended by individuals from the university and across the country.
Housed in UI’s College of Nursing, the Csomay Center for Gerontological Excellence is leading the way in supporting and improving the care of older adults throughout Iowa and the country. As the only gerontological center at UI, the Csomay Center is built on a strong, 20-year foundation of funding and stands as a national model for centers of its kind.

The center advances research and practice by providing scholarship funding to students who demonstrate a commitment to gerontological excellence, and by offering pilot project funding and collaborative partnerships within the university and community. This year, The Csomay Center funded student pilot projects, Advancing Methods of Measurement and Education for Communication in Dementia Care by Clarissa Shaw and Heather Blair; and Designing an Art Making Intervention for Older Persons with Chronic Pain by Postdoc Kyung Soo Kim. In addition, one faculty pilot grant was awarded to Daniel Liebzeit for his project, How Older Adults and Their Caregivers Identify and Utilize Community Resources and Other Support Following Illness and Hospitalization.

This past year, Dr. Marianne Smith retired as center director and Dr. Harleah Buck transitioned into this leadership role. Dr. Buck brings more than 30 years as a gerontological clinician, researcher, and leader. Under Dr. Buck’s leadership, the Csomay Center is launching several new initiatives this fall—the first is strategic planning which involves gathering a group of key university and community gerontological leaders to assess the center’s current operation, determine future directions, develop a strategic map and prepare the center for implementation of the new strategic plan. The second fall initiative is the Csomay Community of Scholars—a network of individuals who promote research and practice by advancing interdisciplinary and community engagement.

The Csomay Center remains mission driven during these unprecedented times. With the help of its students, alumni, community partners, and donors, the center continues to support and improve the care of older adults.

In 1987, a visionary team of nursing faculty at the University of Iowa College of Nursing began the development of two nursing care relevant classification systems to name the interventions that nurses perform and related patient outcomes. Originally funded by the National Institute of Health, in 1995 the Center for Nursing Classification and Clinical Effectiveness (CNC) was established by the Iowa Board of Regents with the goal toward sustaining this work.

After 28 years at the University of Iowa, much of which was spent on Nursing Outcome Classification terminology development, Dr. Sue Moorhead retired as the CNC’s director and Dr. Karen Dunn-Lopez transitioned into this leadership role. Dr. Dunn-Lopez brings more than a decade of experience as a leader and researcher using standardized language to aid in health decision-making.

Last year, Dr. Dunn-Lopez, CNC members and staff, and leaders from the college, university, and outside experts developed a new strategic plan. One initiative resulting from the strategic planning is to focus the center’s efforts on research that includes the use of Nursing Interventions Classification (NIC) and Nursing Outcome Classification (NOC) in nursing science. In addition, Dr. Dunn-Lopez plans to focus the CNC’s efforts on a specific set of strategic initiatives beginning with creating a multipurpose nursing data repository.

In response to the pandemic, CNC faculty proposed guidance on relevant NICs and NOCs with patients, families, and communities affected by COVID-19 in the form of three peer-reviewed articles. Currently, the team is validating the proposed NICs using real-world electronic health record data, providing an important foundation for the team’s ongoing focus to understand the role of nurses in patient outcomes.

In addition to the COVID articles, there were 16 NIC and NOC related publications, two international PhD dissertations, one DNP project, and 21 presentations given by faculty and trainees in the past fiscal year.
When Catherine Cherwin was 16 years old, she was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma. Part of her treatment plan included chemotherapy, which left her with some negative gastrointestinal (GI) related side effects. Fast forward 20 years and now Assistant Professor Catherine Cherwin, PhD, RN, has dedicated her professional research career to understanding how differences in GI microbiota—the community of microorganisms that live in the GI system—changes in women cancer patients who have undergone chemotherapy.

“I experienced a lot of symptoms as a result of chemotherapy, but the ones that bothered me the most were the GI symptoms,” explained Dr. Cherwin.

Years later, as a practicing oncology nurse, Dr. Cherwin would see acute GI symptoms in some of her patients. She also observed that despite giving her patients medications to help manage those symptoms, some of them still experienced very severe GI symptom burden.

“These experiences made me aware of the need to better understand how GI symptoms develop, including assessing why some people experience worse symptoms than others and determining if other treatment options, in addition to standard cancer care medication therapy, were available” she said.

By collecting symptom reports and stool samples from study participants, Dr. Cherwin has been analyzing how differences in women’s GI microbiome after chemotherapy can influence the levels of symptom burden and interference.

Through her research, she hopes to provide practitioners with the tools to help eliminate or reduce these bothersome GI symptoms, ultimately improving the quality of life for this patient population.

To help researchers improve or eliminate symptom burden, patients must be willing to share their experiences, and Dr. Cherwin has been consistently surprised and grateful at how well received her research has been, including their willingness to participate in her study.

“Cancer is a frightening disease and understandably, those going through chemotherapy may be too overwhelmed to even think about participating in a research study,” she said. “Yet, when I go to recruit in the cancer clinic, a lot of the people I speak to are very supportive and they are surprisingly interested in learning more about the microbiome. As a result, I have had a really good response rate to my invitations to participate.”

In an effort to reduce symptom burden, Catherine Cherwin is studying how the gut microbiome changes in women with breast cancer after they receive chemotherapy.
“I believe microbiome research will be an important part of the future of symptom management in people with cancer.”
A Team Effort

FROM GRANT APPLICATION ASSISTANCE from the Office for Nursing Research and Scholarship to faculty mentors to student mentees, Iowa’s College of Nursing has played in an integral role in supporting Dr. Cherwin, providing her with resources to help ensure that her research endeavors are a success.

Her faculty mentor is Professor Sue Gardner, PhD, RN, FAAN, co-director of the Center for Advancing Multimorbidity Science. Doctoral student Jemmie Hoang, RN, has also been conducting research with Dr. Cherwin for years.

“I try to incorporate nursing students into my work as much as I can. I have them recruit participants, collect samples, and analyze the results,” said Dr. Cherwin. “When possible, we work together on a research project of their own that can be taken to research conferences like the Midwest Nursing Research Society (MNRS) or Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) annual meetings.”

Dr. Cherwin is grateful for students like Hoang and colleagues like Dr. Gardner, both of whom have helped her process various aspects of her research. They have given her a sounding board to bounce ideas off and direction to gather new and compelling ideas and theories about the microbiota.

Having the opportunity to work with Dr. Cherwin has been a tremendously positive influence,” said Hoang. “She is very supportive and cares about my success as a graduate student. In addition, she is willing to do whatever she can to give me opportunities to grow as a nurse scientist.”

Hoang received a Bachelor of Science in Biology from the UI in 2008 and then worked as a research assistant at the university for several years before becoming a registered nurse. This exposure to the nursing profession is what ultimately connected her to Dr. Cherwin's research.

“Working as a staff nurse, I often observed patients with poor symptom relief from clostridium difficile infections (CDIs). This prompted me to dive into the literature and understand the causation of CDIs, and really sparked my interest in the symbiotic relationship of gut microbiota,” said Hoang.
What’s Next?

HOANG IS CURRENTLY GAINING VALUABLE EXPERIENCE analyzing and interpreting GI microbiome and symptom data of cancer patients. She will be able to apply this information to her research interests, which help identify how chronic stress influences GI dysbiosis and symptom experience of cancer patients.

Dr. Cherwin’s next study will involve notable changes to sample collection. Specifically, she will collect samples from the mouth and the bowel over key periods throughout cancer treatment (before treatment begins, at the mid-point, and after it concludes) to look for long-standing changes in the microbiome.

Her current work only involves samples from one period in time, allowing her to look at general differences in the microbiome between women with cancer and healthy women. This next phase, with samples collected over time, will allow Dr. Cherwin to look at long-standing changes that occur as a result of cancer treatment.

End Goal

ULTIMATELY, DR. CHERWIN HOPES THAT HER RESEARCH will lead to a better understanding of how the GI microbiome changes as a result of cancer and cancer treatment, resulting in more manageable, personalized interventions that significantly reduce or even eliminate negative GI symptoms.

“I see the future of cancer care including an assessment of the patient’s microbiome, along with all the other laboratory work that is standard as part of cancer care, so the clinical team can look for harmful changes in the microbiota and address them before GI symptoms become worse,” she explained. “Sometimes patients need to stop their cancer treatments due to severe GI symptoms. If we can find better ways to prevent or manage those symptoms, not only does the patient’s quality of life improve, but we can keep them from having to stop potentially helpful treatments.

“I believe microbiome research will be an important part of the future of symptom management in people with cancer.”
Emma Tews | BSN Student

Emma Tews, a Bachelor of Science in Nursing student from Bettendorf, Iowa, found her passion for incorporating adaptive movement for college students to combat anxiety.

In summer 2021, Tews decided to apply for the Iowa Center for Undergraduate Research summer fellowship where she submitted a proposed study alongside her mentor Assistant Professor Dr. Catherine Cherwin. Once accepted, her research was supported by friends of the university Gary and Ruthann Papke, and she could turn her vision into reality.

Tews has always been an active person and understands the importance of mindful body movement. She has a dance minor, is training for a marathon, is a certified yoga instructor, and played a variety of sports throughout high school. When the COVID-19 pandemic forced the University of Iowa to operate remotely, she witnessed her classmates’ increased anxiety and decreased activity.

"Students weren’t getting the daily movement that they were used to doing by walking to class or a dining hall," said Tews. “With this project, I wanted to emphasize that exercise doesn’t mean going to the gym—adding another thing to your to-do list—it is as simple as moving your body. It shouldn’t be a stressor; it should be an outlet used to counteract life’s chaos and celebrate the ability to move.”

For her research, Tews gathered seven students from different academic programs on campus and led them through a movement series. She instructed them to complete this series independently and analyze their anxiety levels. She is currently working to obtain surveys as evidence for a reduction in students’ anxiety levels.

The next phase of the research is to focus on nursing students, implementing a movement series into their day-to-day lives and determining the effects it may have on their mental health. In addition to her in-class experience, Tews is using this evidence-based research to start her journey practicing holistic nursing.

Alaa Albashayreh | PhD Student

PhD student Alaa Albashayreh wants to build a more compassionate and effective model for delivering palliative care. As a nurse, he has cared for patients with serious illness such as advanced cancer. Albashayreh, who is from Irbid, Jordan, noticed that this patient population often experienced symptom burdens along with psychological and emotional distress caused by the nature of their illness and the intensity of the treatments delivered to them.

“I have seen many patients who suffer during the advanced stage of their illness, particularly near death, and I believe, as a health care community, we can change this by providing relief of symptoms, focusing on the quality of life for patients and their families, and involving patients in care planning,” he said. “Because we know that palliative care is often underutilized, I became passionate about promoting its integration in a timely and proper manner and studying the impact of palliative care on patient outcomes.”

Working under the guidance of his mentor and faculty advisor, Dr. Stephanie Gilbertson-White, Albashayreh’s dissertation research focuses on using electronic health records data to understand the variations in end-of-life care outcomes in adult patients with advanced cancer. Specifically, he employs data science applications such as natural language processing and machine learning to measure palliative care elements, including assessment of symptoms, spiritual and religious concerns, and discussion of treatment preferences, and assesses whether those preferences were honored.

“The long-term goals of this research are to better understand how the early integration of palliative care and use of primary and specialty palliative care models influence outcomes of patients with advanced illness, and to develop clinical decision support tools to promote timely and proper integration of palliative care in the disease trajectory.”

Albashayreh hopes his research will better inform clinicians about palliative care elements that should be integrated into care plans for patients with serious illness. Given the richness of data provided by electronic health records and the value of natural language processing and large-scale machine learning, he believes that more specialized, evidence-based palliative and end-of-life care plans will become standard practice.
Caitlyn Shilling's Nursing Journey began with the goal of one day becoming a neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) nurse. The Knoxville, Iowa, native was inspired after observing nurses at Mercy as they provided extraordinary care to her niece who was born prematurely at 28 weeks.

Once her profession of choice became clear, Shilling, who is currently a registered nurse at Knoxville Hospital and Clinics, started to focus on specific areas of care that piqued her interest. She was initially drawn to the idea of working in labor and delivery. Then, after providing medical assistance at a motor vehicle collision, she wanted to work in the fast-paced world of the emergency department.

But as they say, the third time is a charm. After clinical rotations at a penitentiary and psychiatric facility, Shilling discovered a zeal for psychiatric-mental health nursing.

“Out of all the areas I’ve practiced in, it turns out that my passion in nursing is rooted in the diagnosis and treatment of mental health disorders,” she explained.

With a specific career objective identified, it was time to focus on her education. After completing her associate degree from Des Moines Area Community College, Shilling transferred into University of Iowa's RN-BSN program.

“The University of Iowa provides me with the experience and knowledge base to further develop my passion for nursing,” she said. “The nursing program emphasizes the importance of interdisciplinary connections and provides meaningful clinical opportunities.”

Schilling continues to further her education. She plans to graduate with a Master of Science in Nursing – Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL) degree from UI in 2023.

“I am excited to explore the curriculum this program has to offer as I try to navigate what role I would like to eventually play in the health care field. I’ve been interested in a role as a nurse educator for some time; however, I have always envisioned myself in a hospital leadership position,” said Shilling.

After graduation, Shilling hopes to pursue a role that would allow her to combine her passion for psych-mental health nursing with nursing leadership, ideally as a CNL in a mental health unit.

Tyneisha Orr, a dual track Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) student obtaining specialization as a Family Nursing Practitioner and Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, expects to graduate in May 2022. She is an active member of the Association of Graduate Nursing Students, serves as the student representative on the College of Nursing MSN/DNP Forum, and a member of the Diversity Committee.

Orr currently works as a pediatric emergency room nurse in Des Moines, Iowa. The four-year dual-track program is what led her to the university.

“I aspire to be a diverse provider who can identify and provide specialty services for my patients,” stated Orr.

Through the support of mentors DNP Family Practice Director Dr. Andrea Achenbach and DNP Pediatric Primary Care Director Dr. Daniel Crawford, she began her research focusing on supporting underrepresented women and children of low-income communities.

“Mothers of this community were my primary focus because they are generally the ones seeking out supportive assistance for their children,” said Orr.

As a single mother, Orr discovered that Iowa requires separate applications for each individual program when applying for social service benefits for children. She hopes her comparison study between Iowa and Texas Health and Human Services will determine the benefits of having a stream-lined, one-step application process.

She is currently working with the Department of Public Health to improve process changes efficiently, with special considerations toward underrepresented minority applicants.

Orr’s evidence-based project leads her to affirm that practitioners who provide medical care to low-income families must understand the importance of engaging social service resources beneficial to their patients’ needs.
Iowa City, Iowa, native Dr. Claire Shaw chose to enroll at the University of Iowa for its national reputation. As a student researcher, she was interested in identifying strategies for communicating among individuals with Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias.

Shaw’s interest in this research stems from witnessing her grandmother’s experience with Alzheimer’s and the challenges accompanying this disease.

Her program of research focuses on pivoting an intervention on person-centered communication from the nursing home setting to the hospital setting for individuals with dementia. As a student, she collected and analyzed data to understand the impact of elderspeak (baby talk to older adults) on the behavior of hospitalized patients with this diagnosis. Prior research completed at the college has demonstrated that elderspeak to nursing home residents with dementia leads to resistiveness to care. Shaw’s goal is to find easy ways to prevent or manage aggressive behaviors with non-pharmacological interventions in the hospital setting.

“This area of research is really important for people with dementia. When they are hospitalized, they often experience resistiveness to care which can limit how nurses help them heal,” said Shaw.

Shaw’s research suggests changing the way nurses talk will make care encounters more person-centered.

Shaw’s dissertation research was supported by private donor scholarships, foundation grants, and the highly competitive and prestigious National Institutes of Health predoctoral fellowship. Her dissertation chair and mentor was Dr. Keela Herr.

Shaw is now an assistant professor at the College of Nursing and looks forward to the next stage of her study as she analyzes whether changing communication impacts behavior.
Madelyn Bodin  
BSN, RN

CLIVE, IOWA, NATIVE MADELYN BODIN GRADUATED in May 2021 and feels prepared to work and advocate for her patients in a professional setting.

“Madelyn displayed exemplary leadership, service and mentorship at the College of Nursing and was always willing to go above and beyond in all aspects of her nursing education,” said Professor and Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs Dr. Anita Nicholson. “She was also chosen to present at the American Journal of Nursing webinar, “How COVID-19 pandemic impacted nursing education this past year.”

“I was part of the Young Nurse Leader Program where I followed numerous clinical leaders at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics,” said Bodin. “During my time at Stead Family Children’s Hospital, I worked on central line associated bloodstream infection prevention. I learned about the different teams and research that goes into patient care.”

Her experience taught her a lot about behind the scenes processes and protocols to improve patient experiences and how collaborative interdisciplinary teams work together to provide exceptional care.

“I recommend students reach outside their comfort zone and get involved in topics and ideas that they don’t know much about to discover new passions. It is so helpful to learn how to work together in teams and on research processes,” Bodin added.

Tessa Meisner  
DNP, PNP-PC, FACULTY MEMBER

AFTER RESEARCHING NURSING GRADUATE PROGRAMS, TESSA MEISNER CHOSE TO ATTEND the College of Nursing because of mentorship opportunities.

Dr. Susan Van Cleve served as Meisner’s mentor and encouraged her to do an internship in the University of Iowa’s Center for Disabilities and Development (CDD), a federally funded program that trains providers how to care for individuals and families with disabilities.

She completed her Doctor of Nursing Practice degree along with a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner – Primary Care specialization in summer 2021. Meisner also participated in the graduate global health exchange with Fontys University in the Netherlands in 2019, was an active member of the Association of Graduate Nursing Students, and served as the student representative to the College of Nursing Council on Curriculum. Meisner completed graduate coursework for a nursing education certificate and obtained an interprofessional traineeship at the Iowa Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities at the CDD.

Meisner’s DNP project, “Understanding the Maternal Experience Raising a Child with Autism” analyzed early environment for predictors, the stressors and how to better serve and support families.

Since graduating, Meisner joined the University of Iowa College of Nursing as an instructional track lecturer, teaching pediatric clinical practicum for pre-licensure BSN students.

“One thing I’ll take from my internship and research to my teaching role is encouraging the need to care for various individuals, ensuring that students feel comfortable providing equitable care to anyone and helping undergraduate students become connected in research early.”

BY THE NUMBERS

Student enrollment reached 909 in academic year 2020-2021
Chooza Moon started her career as a cardiac intensive care unit nurse in South Korea. With an interest in different roles for nurses, she moved to the United States to pursue a degree as a nurse practitioner. She had a patient with heart failure and sleep apnea, causing him to sleep all day and become inactive. This sparked her interest in learning more about sleep and what affects it.

Moon began the PhD program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She was interested in how sleep was related to structural and cognitive brain outcomes in individuals with heart failure. She found that sleep apnea can modify and intensify the brain atrophy and more ischemic changes in individuals with heart failure.

When completing her postdoctoral program, she analyzed bigger datasets consisting of older adults and more than two decades of information about sleep, cognition, and cardiovascular issues. Through the data, she found that hypertension can impact sleep, especially deep sleep.

Today, Moon’s research focuses on two areas: sleep/circadian rhythm and their connections to brain circuits using neuroimaging techniques in people with cardiovascular comorbidities and sleep issues, and how it relates to neuropsychiatric symptoms and brain health.

Funding from the Alzheimer’s Association, the University of Iowa Clinical Translational Science Award, University of Iowa Center on Aging, and the Barbara and Richard Csomay Center for Gerontological Excellence allows Moon to continue her research at the University of Iowa’s College of Nursing and collaborate with the neuroscience, psychology, and psychiatry departments to prevent or delay Alzheimer’s disease onset.

“The theme in my research is sleep and circadian rhythm in aging, how we can identify characteristics of sleep and circadian rhythm that may impact cognition and brain health leading to Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias.”

Chooza Moon
PhD, RN, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR MARIANNE SMITH’S JOURNEY to the College of Nursing (CON) followed many years of clinical practice and collaboration with Dr. Kathleen “Kitty” Buckwalter. Working with Dr. Buckwalter on diverse geriatric research and training projects helped Smith gain knowledge and skills about complex mental health issues older adults face and inspired her to return to school. Building on her years of practice, Smith adopted a dual focus on research to build new knowledge and training to advance adoption of best practices in daily care and treatment of older people.

After becoming a faculty member at the college in 2007, she secured research funding related to dementia care and clinical depression. Her passion for depression identification and treatment is based on how common, disabling, and misunderstood late life depression is.

“Depression is too often accepted as an ‘understandable’ result of age-related loss and change,” Smith stated. “Too many people think ‘That’s what happens when you get old’ and suffer needlessly.”

Smith also pursued training funding to advance workforce expertise in geriatric best practices. She directs funding that supports all levels of learners – from students to practicing faculty and health providers, through the Iowa Geriatric Education Center. Two national social movements, Age-Friendly Health Systems, and Dementia Friendly Communities are a key training focus.

Dr. Smith notes she is dedicated to practice change where most care occurs – the community.

“I couldn’t have done what I have without my many community partners who are as dedicated to best practices as I am. I’ve been very lucky that way.”

Dr. Sue Gardner, professor and co-director for the Center for Advancing Multimorbidity Science, understands the importance of developing a tool to aid in pain management while changing wound dressings.

“Dressing wounds is a common procedure nurses have to perform,” said Gardner. “There are times when you walk in to do a dressing change, and it causes so much pain in the patient that you’re rushing through it and you’re giving your patients opioids trying to get on top of the pain.”

Painful dressing changes has been an issue for a long time, but only recently addressed in research. With approximately 36 percent of patients experiencing severe pain during a dressing change, Gardner’s impetus for this research is to help nurses identify which patients will have a severe pain experience and alleviate that experience.

Gardner’s funding for her research came from the National Institute of Nursing Research, allowing her to analyze the biological mechanisms that indicate why only some patients experience severe pain. She hopes to identify a mechanism to detect biological mechanisms and develop interventions that target these mechanisms in order to decrease the pain. Gardner anticipates the completion of this study by the end of the year.

47 faculty, postdocs and students held roles as principle or co-investigator on a variety of active grants

BY THE NUMBERS

Research team pictured left to right: Cate Fiala, Linda Abbott, Maria Hein, Lynn Nakad, Barb Rakel, Jessica Wolfe, and Sue Gardner
NURSING GENERATED DECISION SUPPORT TOOLS TO HELP PROVIDERS MAKE BETTER DECISIONS

"When I came to the clinic, it was a beautiful meshing of three areas – drug and alcohol counselors, therapists, and the psychiatric prescriber."

Dr. Larry Newman
DNP, RN, PMHNP-BC, AGPCNP-BC
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR (CLINICAL), DIRECTOR, AG-PCNP PROGRAM

Assistant Clinical Professor and Director of the Adult/Gerontological Acute Care Nurse Practitioner program

Dr. Larry Newman’s passion resides in preparing and offering future nursing professionals with experience in caring for marginalized communities.

In 2016, Newman collaborated with Howard Cowen, the director of geriatric and special needs dental program and the College of Dentistry to streamline efforts and offer an interprofessional practice and educational Primary Care and Dental Clinic.

While at the clinic, adult geriatric primary care and dental students conducted a review of systems and family history of the patients. By pairing these students, patients benefited from a student expertise from the two disciplines. While Dr. Newman was collaborating with the College of Dentistry, it offered positive experiences for students and prepared them for future careers.

As a long-term volunteer at the Free Medical Clinic (FMC) in Iowa City, Iowa, Newman saw an opportunity for students to learn alongside a nurse practitioner. After receiving a grant from an anonymous donor, he started a weekly chronic and acute care clinic. The grant required students to be part of this clinic, and he worked each week with two nurse practitioner students.

“We diagnosed and treated chronic diseases on a weekly basis, including diabetes and high blood pressure,” said Newman. “All the clinical decisions were based on the person in front of you and what they could or could not afford. This really gave students insight to the importance of knowing what they’re prescribing for the person and if they can afford it.”

The program continues to succeed. Since the inception of the FMC, number of visits has increased by more than 400 per year.

In 2019, Newman decided to pursue a psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner certification. As he was nearing the end of his coursework, he contacted the Meskwaki Tribal Behavioral Health Clinic to express his interest in providing his services.

He joined a team including licensed therapists and alcohol and drug abuse counselors to assist with all types of mental health issues. Prior to Newman’s arrival, patients had to travel to Marshalltown, Iowa, to receive psychiatric mental health care.

Starting this fall, a student will be working alongside Newman to gain experience with the Meskwaki tribal members. Although Newman is enjoying his time and learning from the Meskwaki Tribe, he looks to the horizon for his next adventure.
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR BARBARA ST. MARIE found a challenging health condition experienced by 12 percent of the United States population and developed a potential solution. She and her research team created a decision support tool for facial and headache pain to assist health care providers in accurately diagnosing and developing a safe and effective treatment plan based on risk stratification for opioid use disorder.

“Studies show that around 50 percent of people who go to the emergency department with a migraine are prescribed an opioid,” said St. Marie. “However, opioids are not usually beneficial for most people with a migraine. This has been a really important feature of all my research projects on pain: Finding safe and effective ways to manage pain while minimizing risk for opioid misuse.”

Reflecting on her clinical experience as a nurse practitioner, St. Marie found that facial and headache pain was particularly challenging and created great suffering. Furthermore, guidelines in place for pain management did not address the issue of prescribing opioids in a clinical setting while considering the risk for problems associated with opioids, such as opioid misuse or opioid use disorder.

After collaborating with her mentors (Drs. Keela Herr, Barbara Rakel, Stephan Arndt, and Prakash Nadkarni) on a National Institute of Health funded project, they were able to develop algorithms of headache and facial pain diagnoses beginning with patient symptoms, history of the facial or headache pain, their environment or exposures, then examination and workup findings to get to the diagnosis and evidence-based treatment options.

The algorithms for facial and headache diagnoses successfully passed initial testing among the research team. Using these algorithms, a decision support prototype was created. Testing occurred with 24 interdisciplinary healthcare providers using case scenarios. Revisions of the prototype occurred based on their feedback. Results indicated the decision support tool was easy to use, efficient, accepted, and would be recommended to their colleagues. The diagnoses and treatment options were found to be accurate and useful, and study participants recommended this decision support tool be incorporated into the electronic health record. Currently, she and her colleagues are preparing for the next testing phase.
INSTRUCTIONAL TRACK LECTURER KATIE KNOX SERVES as the director of simulation and interprofessional education and co-directs the Nursing Clinical Education Center (NCEC) at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics (UIHC). During the COVID-19 pandemic, Lorraine Femino, also an instructional track lecturer, served with Knox as the interim leadership team for the NCEC. The partnership between the college and UIHC affords continuing education to students and the hospital’s practicing nurses.

“Last year, we had to be creative because we needed to distance students,” said Knox. “We developed a hybrid approach where fewer students worked with the high-fidelity simulators. Students assigned to the observer role were able to view the simulation from home and participate in debriefing with their classmates who worked with the simulators.”

This active-learning approach provided students the opportunity to experience the simulation through a hybrid class environment. Knox and Femino chose the simulation teaching approaches based on real-life situations students will experience in a hospital such as breathing and respiratory issues.

Femino added, “Having the use of high-fidelity mannequins during the pandemic allowed students to experience a realistic patient assessment while maintaining social distancing guidelines.”

During remote learning, Knox and Femino found a way to integrate students’ hands-on learning, their knowledge about what to expect at a hospital, and incorporate technology to ensure student progress was not hindered due to the pandemic.

NEW FACULTY

Jennifer Birlson, MSN, RN
Lecturer

Harleah Buck, PhD, RN, FPCN, FAHA, FAAN
Professor

Sena Chae, PhD, MSHI, RN
Associate

Daniel Crawford, DNP, ARNP, CPNP-PC, CNE
Associate professor (clinical)

Heather Dunn, PhD, ARNP, ACNP-BC
Assistant professor (clinical)

Kathleen Fear, DNP, ARNP, CRNA
Lecturer

Anne Gentil-Archer, DNP, ARNP, AGNP-C, PMHNP-BC
Assistant professor (clinical)

Emily Griffin, MSN, ARNP, FNP-C
Lecturer

Molly Frommelt-Kuehle, PhD, RN, CNE
Associate professor of instruction

Katie Halbmaier, DNP, ARNP, FNP-C
Lecturer

Daniel Liebzeit, PhD, RN
Assistant professor

Juliana Sousa-Talerico, PhD, RN
Associate professor

Betty Mallen, MSN, RN
Lecturer

Brandy Mitchell, DNP, ARNP
Lecturer

Amanda Richardson, MSN, RN, CMSRN
Lecturer

Haley Stoll, DNP, APRN, CPNP-AC/PC
Lecturer

Allison Tesensky, MSN, RN
Lecturer

Erica Watkinson, PhD, RN
Lecturer

BY THE NUMBERS

U.S. News & World Report ranked the University of Iowa BSN program among the nation’s best in the 2022 edition
Val Garr Receives Hancher-Finkbine Medallion Award

The Hancher-Finkbine Medallion is awarded to an individual who demonstrates leadership, learning, and loyalty. This year, the College of Nursing’s Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Coordinator Val Garr is the recipient of this prestigious award.

Garr exemplifies characteristics of learning by leading workshops on cultural competence and health care disparities, privilege and power, diversity and leadership, student success strategies, and co-writing grants to promote diversity.

Originally from Davenport, Iowa, Garr moved to Iowa City, Iowa, in 1979 as a student pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism and Mass Communication. After graduating, she started her career at the University of Iowa where she has influenced many offices including the Office of Student Financial Aid, Support Service Programs and the Provost Office–Opportunity of Iowa, two offices that eventually merged to become the Center for Diversity and Enrichment.

In 2004, Garr became the university’s first director of diversity for undergraduate admissions in the Office of Admissions while also serving on the College of Nursing Diversity Committee, and later became the college’s DEI coordinator. In addition to her duties at the college, Garr is an adjunct instructor for the university, teaching leadership to undergraduate students.

Since 1989, she has cultivated learning at the University of Iowa. She joined the College of Nursing in 2008, and since 2011, has been coordinating the Nursing Educational Support Team where she tutors early admission and pre-nursing students.

A naturally curious person, Garr always searches for answers and brings light to others. She gives credit to her parents, who taught her patience and rightfulness.

“I grew up with a mom who was very active in the community with things like cultural festivals,” explained Garr. At the dinner table, they would take something written in the newspapers about what was happening during the civil rights times and talk to us about it in a way we could understand.”

Garr emphasizes that the future of nursing education is bright as discussions about health equity, social racism, and social determinants of health are integrated in coursework and research.

“We have great potential to help future nurses be more culturally responsive to their patients as well as their fellow colleagues”, she said. “It’s important for nurses to be able to connect what is going on in society to health care.”

On Aug. 1, 2021, the University of Iowa College of Nursing announced the appointment of Dr. Sandra Daack-Hirsch to the position of executive associate dean.

“I feel fortunate to call the College of Nursing home, and this past year, although challenging, reinforced what a fantastic college we are with outstanding faculty, world-class staff, dedicated alumni, and top-notch students,” Dr. Daack-Hirsch said. “I am excited for the college’s future and thankful for the opportunity to continue to serve the college and university in this leadership role.”

Dr. Daack-Hirsch joined the college in 2007 and holds bachelor’s, master’s, and doctorate degrees from the University of Iowa. In addition to her faculty role, she is a senior faculty affiliate in the Public Policy Center and has served as the director of the CON PhD program, president of the UI faculty senate, and interim executive associate dean.

She is nationally and internationally recognized scholar for her research, teaching, and service in clinical genetics, and has consulted on numerous national projects to promote the education of nurses in genetics. Daack-Hirsch is the recipient of the James N. Murray Teaching Award and the highly prestigious University of Iowa Michael J. Brody Award for Faculty Excellence in Service.

“Sandy has been a strong leader for the college as well as the university,” said Dean Julie Zeric. “In the last year, she led our COVID response team as well as co-chaired the search committee for the university president. I look forward to continuing to work with her as a key member of the executive leadership team.”

Dr. Daack-Hirsch began her new role on Aug. 1, 2021, and continues to positively impact the current and future nursing community.
1940s
Edith (Evans) Petersen, GN ’42
Margaret (Williams) Loghry, BS ’43 GN ’43
Edith (Bowe) Eaton, GN ’44
Marcia (Bogardus) Eyler, GN ’44
Lenore (Johnson) Fonda, BS ’46 /GN ’46
Janice (Huey) Hunter, GN ’47
Delores (Newell) Little, GN ’47
Della (Hanson) McCroskey, BS ’47/GN ’47
Berdena (Wells) Mulford, GN ’48
Carole (Grandfield) Schulze, GN ’48
Shirley (Moyer) Eaton, GN ’49
Gloria (Olson) Grimmer, GN ’49
Audrey (Lenz) Upmeyer, GN ’49

Carleen (Granskou) Grandon, GN ’54
Marilyn (Fenn) Schumacher, GN ’54
Sara (Bouslog) Fishel, BSN ’55
Mary Lou Newnam, BSN ’55
Betty (Rice) Phillips, BSN ’55
Joan (Wilson) Ringdahl, BSN ’55
Loah (Lunan) Stallard, BSN ’55
Dolores (Klemper) Rose, BSN ’56/MA ’82
Karen (Robertson) Klontz, BSN ’57
Meridean (Speas) Maas, BSN ’57/MA ’60
Delores (Den Beste) Dick, BSN ’58
Jane (Bender) Baldwin, BSN ’59
E. Sue (Martin) Fisher, BSN ’59
Marilyn Shaver, BSN ’59
Kay (Hansen), Stralow BSN ’59

1950s
Lillian Cooper, GN ’50
Gloria (Oetting) Jensen, GN ’51
Lillian (Berger) Moessner, GN ’51
Mary Lou (O’Toole) Eitzman, BSN ’53
Irene (Schmarje) Evans, BSN ’53
Eileen (Paulsen) Klein, GN ’53
Mary Lou (Wadsworth) Ludwig, GN ’53
Donna (Kress) McCall, BSN ’53
Barbara (Johnson) Miller, GN ’53
Jane (Tabor) Proctor, BSN ’53

1960s
Bette Joan (Honken) Mathis, BSN ’60
Jean (Johnson) Torgerson, BSN ’60
Carla (Schmacker) Stewart, BSN ’63
Joan (Lane) Bharucha, BSN ’64
Cheryl (Mayer) Clow, BSN ’66
Helen Leary, MA ’66
Mary Nicholas Vincelli, MA ’66
Joyce (Falk) Aspinall, BSN ’68
Mary Glenn Hadley, BSN ’68

1970s
Paula Saupe, BSN ’68/MA ’70
Dorothy Peters, MA ’70
Phyllis (Knox) Diemart, BSN ’71/MA ’82
Joan (Mogler) Rudin, BSN ’71
Mary (Braun) Smith, MA ’71
Joyce (Tibben) Hinkel, BSN ’72
Loree (Grassley) Hill, BSN ’74
Ruth Ryan, MA ’74
Margaret Rankin, MA ’75/PhD ’90
Gail (Paulsen) Isen, BSN ’77
Karen (Goetzman) Reisetter, BA ’77/SE ’77/BSN ’81
Kathleen Mertes, BSN ’78

1980s
Maureen Hickey, BSN ’84
Scott Madden, BSN ’84
Linda (Langehough) Jarnow, BSN ’85
Trudy (Griffeth) Laffoon, BSN ’85/MA ’94/DNP ’19
Posey Hagarman, BSN ’86
Julie Debok, BSN ’87

1990s
Michelle Mead-Salley, BSN ’95

IN MEMORIAM
IOWA NATIVES GIVE BACK

Iowa natives Jerold Dock (BSME ’53) and Jacqueline Dock will always have fond memories of the Hawkeye State. In 2016, inspired by their love of Iowa and by the memory of Jerold’s late sister, Patraella “Jane” Dock, they made their first gift to the University of Iowa College of Nursing.

“Her whole life was nursing,” Jerold said of his sister. “And I thought she deserved to be recognized.”

Jane was a bedside nurse and provided diabetes education at Mercy Medical Center in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, for more than 20 years. She was promoted to a supervisor before moving to Nashville, Tennessee, to complete her nursing career.

After careful consideration, Jerold and Jacqueline elected to name a space within the Nursing Clinical Education Center, located on the fourth floor of the General Hospital at University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, in Jane’s honor. The Patraella Jane Dock Patient Simulation Room is 1 of 11 clinical simulation labs used to train health care staff and students in providing safe, effective and compassionate care, and now serves as a fitting tribute to her memory and to Jane’s many years of service as a bedside nurse.

“The Patraella Jane Dock Patient Simulation Room was an important addition to the Nursing Clinical Education Center,” said Katie Knox, co-director of the Nursing Clinical Education Center. “University of Iowa students at the undergraduate and graduate levels use this simulation space to practice essential nursing skills, such as patient communication, teamwork, cooperation, and prioritizing patient care needs. The room provides the necessary psychologically safe space for students to practice, learn, and stretch their critical thinking skills in the simulation environment.”

Jerold and Jacqueline were so pleased with the space that they funded a second simulation room in memory of a childhood friend, Dr. Thomas Schueller. The Dr. Thomas and Mary Ann Schueller Patient Simulation Room includes a classroom and multiple patient simulation beds.

When the College of Nursing kicked off its 35,377-square-foot facility renovation project in 2017, Jerold and Jacqueline wanted to support the enhancements. The Docks provided funding to renovate two spaces within the College of Nursing building: transforming an old auditorium into a state-of-the-art classroom and the back patio into a functional and relaxing outdoor retreat. During the pandemic, the Jerold O. and Jacqueline R. (Peterson) Dock Terrace has become a beautiful space to gather, study, teach, and relax in a safe, socially distanced, and open-air environment.

“The Dock Classroom and Terrace have created transformative spaces in the College of Nursing where students can study, collaborate, and relax between classes,” said Dean Julie Zerwic of the named spaces provided by the Dock family.

The Docks have furthered their support of Iowa by creating a retained life estate. They were able to transfer ownership of their home to the University of Iowa but retain lifetime use. It’s a win-win for the Docks. They not only receive an income tax deduction that they can use immediately, but they retain control over their home as long as either one is still living. When received, their estate gift will establish the Jerold O. Dock & Jacqueline R. (Peterson) Dock Nursing Graduate Fund. This fund will be used to support one or more annual scholarships to deserving students enrolled in the College of Nursing. The endowment established for this scholarship fund will provide a sustainable source of support for generations of future leaders in Iowa Nursing.

Jerold and Jacqueline’s friendship, generosity, and persistent demonstration of confidence in the College of Nursing through support of facilities and students is greatly appreciated. The Dock family has established an Iowa Nursing legacy that will benefit students, faculty, and staff as well as the patients and families they serve for generations to come.
**DONOR STORY**

**NANCY STENCE CREASON**

**YOUNG SCIENTIST PROGRAM**

**DR. NANCY STENCE CREASON (BSN ’60)** is a long-time friend and benefactor of the College of Nursing. A little more than twenty years ago, during a conversation between Dr. Stence Creason and the University of Iowa College of Nursing Dean Melanie Dreher, Dean Dreher discussed the pressing need for more nursing faculty. She described her vision to establish a program to encourage and nurture an interest in research in nursing students, with the end goal of producing nurse scientists to help fill the need for nursing faculty and researchers. Dr. Stence Creason, who was serving as the dean of Milikin University School of Nursing, recognized the need and appreciated Dean Dreher’s vision. As a result, she established the Nancy Stence Creason Young Scientist Program to support and promote undergraduate nursing student research and the mentoring of exceptional students with high potential for careers as nurse scientists and nursing faculty.

To date, **58 students have participated in the Nancy Stence Creason Young Scientist Program, each having played a significant role in research projects at the College of Nursing for at least two semesters.**

Claire Shaw, BSN ’13, MSN ’17, and PhD ’21, a former participant and current assistant professor at the College of Nursing stated, “Participating in the Young Scientist Program showed me that research is fun and exciting. Working with faculty mentors and presenting our research at conferences inspired me to pursue a career in nursing research.”

Dr. Shaw’s research focuses on the care of older adults with dementia via the use of person-centered communication.

Currently, the Young Scientist Program is supported via a non-endowed account, sustained by gifts from Dr. Stence Creason on an annual basis. The non-endowed status of the account makes each of her annual gifts available for immediate use by the College of Nursing and ensures that new students are given the opportunity to participate in the program each year. In 2005, Dr. Stence Creason established a bequest to the Young Scientist Program in her estate. This estate gift will increase the funding for this program to a level that allows for a permanent endowment. Her bequest will be invested and generate enough interest each year to ensure that the Nancy Stence Creason Young Scientist Program is perpetuated indefinitely for the benefit of future nurse scientists at the College of Nursing. The endowment established by her estate gift will ensure that Dr. Stence Creason’s Iowa Nursing legacy will last for generations to come.

This unique philanthropic model demonstrates how a donor can enjoy seeing the immediate benefits of annual giving via a non-endowed account during their lifetime and add a larger estate gift to their giving strategy in order to establish a permanent endowment and ensure that the programs and initiatives near and dear to them are sustainable in perpetuity.

Dr. Stence Creason’s impressive career includes tenures served as the dean of the nursing schools at Milikin University, Southern Illinois University, and the University of Alaska Anchorage. Additionally, she served as a nursing faculty member at the University of Michigan, University of Utah, University of Illinois Urbana–Champaign, and East Tennessee State University. During her career, her research and practice interests included the validation of nursing diagnoses, the functional abilities and self-care behaviors of patients, financial aid, and economic issues in nursing, interdisciplinary health science education and nursing workforce issues.

To learn more about how to establish your legacy in Iowa Nursing, please contact Director of Development Dayna Ballantyne at Dayna.Ballantyne@foriowa.org or by phone at (319) 331-4135.

**BY THE NUMBERS**

$480,000 donor-sponsored scholarships awarded in academic year 2020-2021.
We are grateful to the nearly 1,000 individuals, corporate partners, and foundations who supported the students, faculty, facilities, and research efforts of the College of Nursing during the course of fiscal year 2021.

It was an unprecedented year as the students, faculty, and staff adapted to the demands of providing a world-class nursing education while navigating the growing challenges and unique needs imposed by the global pandemic. Private support enabled us to establish a 24-hour mental health line for our students, support our faculty as they migrated to a virtual format, and offer resources and equipment that otherwise would have been unavailable to our students. It also led to the completion of the Jerold O. and Jacqueline R. (Peterson) Dock Terrace, a beautiful new outdoor space that provides a quiet refuge to students seeking a peaceful place to study and an alternative classroom setting allowing our instructors to hold lessons in the open air.

Each of our donors is a member of the Iowa Nursing family, and your support has given us desperately-needed resources to help our students pursue their educational dreams and fuel cutting-edge research to enhance patient care and health care delivery during one of the most challenging times in history. Your giving is a vote of confidence in our students, faculty, and staff, and it enables us to maintain our standard of excellence in research, discovery, and the preparation of the next generation of Iowa nurse leaders.

For more information about ways you can support the College of Nursing, contact:

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101 College of Nursing Building
50 Newton Road
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We want to know! Send your news to the College of Nursing Director of Strategic Communication and External Relations Katie Machovsky at kathryn-machovsky@uiowa.edu.

DID YOU START A NEW JOB, HAVE A BABY, OR MOVE TO A NEW CITY?

The new Jerold O. and Jacqueline R. (Peterson) Dock Terrace

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