

The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston School of Nursing

CARINGMinds





THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER AT HOUSTON (UTHealth) SCHOOL OF NURSING

Endowed Faculty Positions

CHAIR

Lorraine Frazier, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN
Huffington Foundation Endowed Chair
in Nursing Education Leadership

Seeking candidates

Isla Carroll Turner Chair in Gerontological Nursing

DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR

Kristen Starnes-Ott, Ph.D., CRNA
Bette P. Thomas Distinguished Professorship
in Innovative Health Care Delivery

Sandra K. Hanneman, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN
Jerold B. Katz Distinguished Professorship
for Nursing Research

Seeking candidates

John P. McGovern Distinguished Professorship
in Addiction Nursing

Lorraine Frazier, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN
John P. McGovern Distinguished Professorship
in Nursing

Seeking candidates

John S. Dunn Distinguished Professorship
in Oncology Nursing

Janet C. Meiningner, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN
Lee and Joseph Jamail Distinguished Professorship
in the School of Nursing

Seeking candidates

Lee and Joseph Jamail Distinguished Professorship
in the School of Nursing

Seeking candidates

Lee and Joseph Jamail Distinguished Professorship
in the School of Nursing

Seeking candidates

Nancy B. Willerson Distinguished Professorship
in Nursing

PROFESSOR

Joan C. Engebretson, Dr.PH., R.N.
Judy Fred Professorship in Nursing

Deborah J. Jones, Ph.D., M.S., R.N.
Margaret A. Barnett/PARTNERS Professorship
in Nursing

Seeking candidates

PARTNERS Endowed Professorship in Nursing

Cathy L. Rozmus, Ph.D., R.N.
PARTNERS Professorship

Joanne V. Hickey, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN, FCCM
Patricia L. Starck/PARTNERS Professorship
in Nursing

Seeking candidates

Theodore J. and Mary E. Trumble Professorship
in Aging Research

Deanna E. Grimes, Dr.PH., R.N., FAAN
Suzie Conway Endowed Professor in Nursing

(As of September 30, 2016)

ON THE COVER:

“Shiloh” and canine colleagues from FaithfulPaws
Pet Therapy of Houston came to the school to
paws-a-tively impart stress relief to hardworking
students like Shelbie Henry (a BSN grad this past
August). Visits by therapy pets were hosted by
“Students Against Stress” and Dr. Stacy Drake.
(Photo by D.R. Bates)

Photo at left by Christa Denning

FY 2016-17 School of Nursing Advisory Council

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UTHealth

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CARINGMinds is the annual publication of the UTHealth School of Nursing that celebrates achievements in philanthropy, research, faculty excellence and other areas of interest. For additional copies, please e-mail: David.R.Bates@uth.tmc.edu or call 713.500.2111.

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DESIGN: Denning & Denning Design

PHOTOGRAPHY by: David R. Bates,
Dwight C. Andrews, Todd Taylor, Rhonda
Whitmeyer, Leah Overstreet, Priscilla Dickson,
Holly Reed Photography, Lauren Marek, Felix
Sanchez Photography and Christa Denning.

PRINTER: Southwest Precision Printers

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and opportunities, please see our
website: nursing.uth.edu

Greetings from Dean
**LORRAINE
FRAZIER**

At the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth) School of Nursing, much of the past year was productively spent in self-examination, discussion and planning for our future as one of the top nursing schools in the United States.

We now are finalizing our next five-year Strategic Plan – and I thank the faculty for its thoughtful input and the detailed work that has gone into identifying the resources needed to achieve a bold, bright future.

Our recently-adopted Mission Statement reads “Uniquely positioned to advance the health and well-being within our diverse communities, we develop tomorrow’s leaders in nursing practice, education and research.”

Our Vision is: “To be sought out as a thought leader for creating health solutions.”

To make those pledges a reality, we must excel at our own professional work and thoroughly prepare nurses to achieve advanced degrees at all levels so they are ready for the healthcare leadership positions of the future.

At the start of our 2016-17 academic year, we opened our doors to more students than ever before in the 44-year history of the school: some 1,475 total students, nearly 60 percent at the graduate level (including 200 doctoral students). UTHealth has been working hard to educate more bachelor’s-prepared nurses to meet this ongoing critical need in health care, while also encouraging graduate education for more nurses.

However, the biggest single obstacle to meeting the growing demand for better-educated nurses is the related shortage of nursing school faculty members who can prepare the nurses of the future to practice and lead. As you will see on page 5 of this magazine, we are making every effort to put more doctorally-prepared educators in place to prepare the next generation of nurses and nursing leaders.

Keeping our students’ well-being and success at the forefront, our Academic Success Center provides academic counseling services on an individual basis to both undergraduate and graduate nursing students. Dr. Linda M. Brown and new faculty member Dr. Olivia M. Fitch are meeting one-on-one with students and

also energetically leading activities that include orientation “boot camps,” expanded tutoring, skill-development seminars, NCLEX and HESI test preparation, plus employment services for BSN students and all new alumni. The new Ambassador Program (see page 7) is targeting future nurse leaders for training.

Faculty members have proactively tackled student wellness as a priority and organized stress-relief events such as “Take 10” health fairs, pet therapy visits, playing with “kinetic sand,” meditation and even tango lessons! We have reconfigured spaces throughout our eight-story home to maximize areas available for student collaboration, study and peer-tutoring.

All of our work in education, research and patient care must, I believe, go forward as an expression of who we are and how we should behave. Our ambitious five-year goals must reflect, not just our mission and vision, but also our mutually agreed-upon *values* of Respect, Innovation, Integrity, Collaboration and Accountability.

These values should inform everything that we do. In fact, colorful new banners asserting these values now hang in our building’s foyer and above the third-floor lobby – outside our big lecture rooms – where students, staff and faculty can see them every day and remember what we strive to be about at the UTHealth School of Nursing. Let’s all take them to heart...



Lorraine Frazier, PhD, RN, FAAN, FAHA

John P. McGovern Distinguished Professor and Dean
Huffington Foundation Chair for Nursing Education Leadership
October 2016

♦ RESPECT ♦

♦ INNOVATION ♦

♦ INTEGRITY ♦

♦ COLLABORATION ♦

♦ ACCOUNTABILITY ♦

Our ambitious five-year goals must reflect, not just our mission and vision, but also our mutually agreed-upon values of Respect, Innovation, Integrity, Collaboration and Accountability.

Mission Statement: Uniquely positioned to advance the health and well-being within our diverse communities, we develop tomorrow's leaders in nursing practice, education and research.



Two of the three \$1,000 scholarships awarded by the Houston Chronicle's 2016 "Salute to Nurses" program went to UTHealth nursing students: Kevin M. Schultz in the DNP in Nurse Anesthesia program; and Haley Edmiston, now an Aug. 2016 BSN graduate. (Photo by D.R. Bates)

The Hamill Foundation: A brightly shining legacy

by John D. Powell, Development

Texas, like the nation, is facing a critical nursing shortage. In fact, nursing schools across the state turn away thousands of qualified applicants each year because the programs do not have enough faculty members, adding to the growing trend that could result in a shortage of 70,000 nurses by the year 2020.

In 2010, Sandra M. Branson, Ph.D., R.N., became a Hamill Foundation Scholar in the Patricia L. Starck Accelerated PhD Scholars Program in the UTHealth School of Nursing. Now a national model for enhancing nursing faculty training and recruitment, the Accelerated PhD Scholars Program helps doctoral students in nursing earn their degrees more quickly so that they can start teaching sooner.

“The Hamill Foundation’s contribution to support my doctoral education is indeed shining brightly through the students that I teach in our R.N.-B.S.N. program,” says Branson who is now an assistant professor in the School of Nursing.

The Accelerated PhD program is just one of the many ways that The Hamill Foundation has helped improve the quality of health care through philanthropy at UTHealth. Since 1999, the foundation has given \$1.3 million to the university to advance heart health and stroke prevention initiatives at McGovern Medical School and support many diverse education programs in the School of Nursing.

“Our support of the School of Nursing is especially meaningful to us,” says Tom Brown, The Hamill Foundation’s Grants Director. “We know better patient outcomes are directly attributable to better nursing care.”

Claud and Marie Hamill established their foundation in 1969 as a way to continue their philanthropic legacy after the death of their only child. Brown is one of a small group of staff and directors who worked directly with the Hamills and who now dedicate themselves to uphold their philanthropic practices. “They gave almost exclusively to groups in the Houston area, so we’ve kept that tradition,” Brown says.

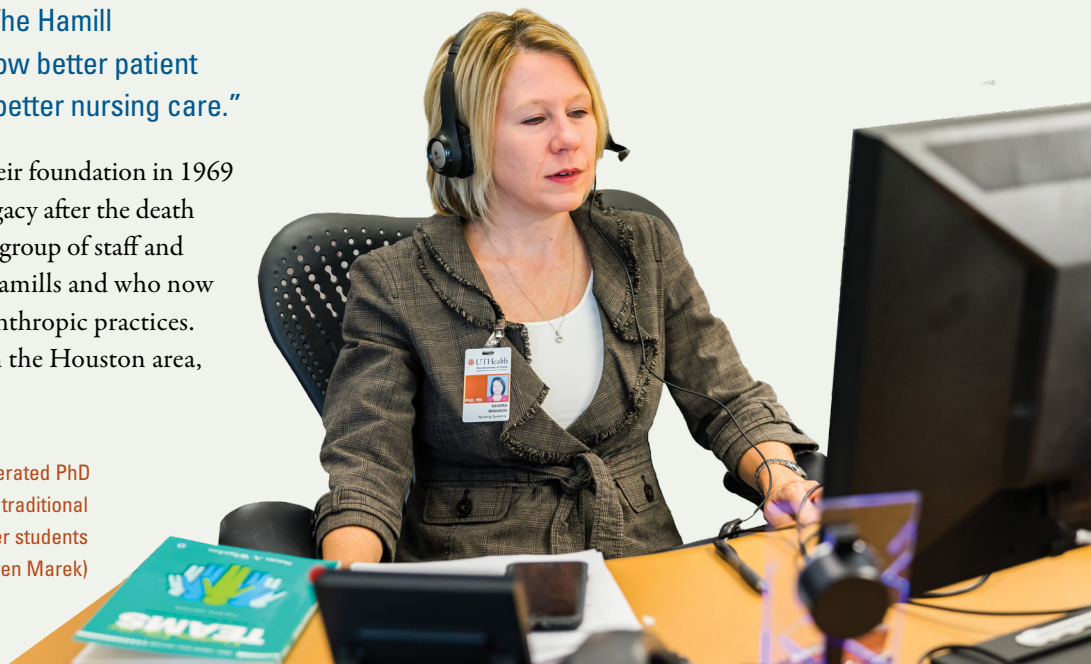
Dr. Sandy Branson, Hamill Foundation Accelerated PhD Scholar (2010-13), does not teach from the traditional classroom lectern, but rather connects with her students exclusively online. (Photo by Lauren Marek)

“The Hamill Foundation’s investments allow us to continue providing excellence in nursing education while graduating the best healthcare professionals with the least debt,” says School of Nursing Dean Lorraine Frazier. “The success of our students is our absolute top priority, and The Hamill Foundation provides the resources to help our students achieve their full and most brilliant potential.”

The foundation is hands-on and highly engaged with its philanthropy, which means the directors meet personally with applicants and recipients. Brown says the directors want to see four things: leadership, management, mission and impact. “UTHealth’s School of Nursing certainly measures up in all four areas. We trust you’re going to do what you say you’re going to do. That’s really key to us.”

Branson says she now has a greater appreciation of the legacy left by the Hamills as she watches her students’ final semester of work in the program. “The students develop a quality-improvement project that will initiate a change in a process, policy or procedure in a practice setting. These projects will have an impact on countless patients.”

And that brightly shining legacy is leading the way to better health care for Texans.



Accelerated doctoral programs are delivering on promise, fast-tracking new nursing educators and clinicians

Seema Aggarwal gave a wonderful farewell address for the Class of May 2016 at Commencement after receiving her PhD in Nursing degree. Photo by Dwight C. Andrews



In the innovative 2010 model for UTHealth's Accelerated Ph.D. Scholars Program, support from area philanthropic organizations like The Hamill Foundation (see opposite page) provided highly qualified and motivated candidates with annual stipends to help offset the costs of the program and cover basic living expenses.

The stipends enabled full-time study so that the scholars could complete their degrees much sooner than the eight years of part-time study it generally takes to complete the rigorous doctoral curriculum. In exchange the doctoral students agreed to provide at least three years of service, after graduation, as faculty members at a nursing school in the Texas Gulf Coast region.

Supported by a successful \$1.3-million fundraising initiative in 2013, a second group of Accelerated Ph.D. students now has completed their degrees. Building on 2010's model for growing nursing school faculty, five scholars will join the first AccPhD cohort of 10 as much-needed nursing educators.

Commencement in May 2016 also celebrated the graduation of the Accelerated F.N.P.-D.N.P. cohort, which was sustained by local philanthropic gifts totaling \$1.5 million. That project sought local gift funding to produce fast-track family nurse practitioners who immediately would go on to complete the Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.) program.

Fourteen students entered the master's program in fall 2012, and 14 graduated with their D.N.P. degrees this year, ready to improve the availability of health care in our community. (On average, it takes nine years – four undergraduate and five at the graduate level – to educate a family nurse practitioner with the D.N.P. degree.)

The Future of Nursing Scholars

Starting in 2014, **Geri L. Wood**, Ph.D., R.N., coordinator of the school's Ph.D. in Nursing program, has won several prestigious grants for UTHealth from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) *Future of Nursing Scholars* program. The initiative provides financial support, mentoring and leadership development to help increase the number of nurses holding Ph.D. degrees.

UTHealth School of Nursing was one of only 32 nursing schools nationwide – and one of only two in Texas – to receive a third-cohort grant in 2016 under the *Future of Nursing Scholars* program. Two well-qualified students – **Hillary Touchett** and **Cary Cain** – started their doctoral studies in fall 2016 with RWJF support.

UTHealth's two second-cohort *Future of Nursing* students – **Nipa P. Kamdar** and **Heather Vincent** – began the Ph.D. program in 2015. In fall 2014, **Latia Wade Hickerson** was UTHealth's inaugural grantee under the RWJF program.

"Accelerated programs like ours and the *Future of Nursing Scholars* are presenting incentives for nurses to start Ph.D. programs earlier, so that they can have long careers in leadership and discovery after earning their degrees," said Dean Lorraine Frazier. "We are making every effort to put more educators in place to prepare the next generation of nurses and to encourage graduate education for nurses who will develop nurse-led science and innovations in clinical care."

Both Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Scholars from cohort two of the AccPhD Scholars program – Drs. Chukwudi "Chudi" Ekwemakor (left) and Seema Aggarwal – joined the School of Nursing's faculty in fall 2016. (Photo by D. R. Bates)



“We never stop learning” – UT Health Services nurse practitioners “really cover the whole spectrum”

To view one aspect of the changing face of health care, take a look at UT Health Services (UTHS) in the heart of the Texas Medical Center.

Nurse practitioners at UTHS provide comprehensive primary care across the life span, occupational health, diabetes education and travel medicine services. The UTHS model of care emphasizes health promotion, illness prevention and health restoration.

Awarded a Level 3 recognition by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) Patient-Centered Medical Home 2011™ program, UTHS holds the highest recognition NCQA provides for patient-centered, coordinated care that supports access, communication and patient involvement.

The nurse-managed clinic logs more than 12,500 patient visits a year.

Senior nurse practitioner Angela M. Rutherford, M.S.N., R.N., started at UTHealth in 2013 and likes the busy pace and variety in the clinic. “We get to spend time with our patients and we also precept nurse practitioner students here, so most of the time I have students with me,” she says. “That’s an aspect that I enjoy – to give back with the clinical side of teaching.”

Delorean Alexander, M.S.N., R.N., was one of those students whose preceptorship was at UTHS (in summer 2014). She joined the clinical staff in December 2015, attracted by the working environment and “the opportunities to participate in new projects with the organization.”

“We do a lot of contract work for employers throughout Houston, so I often see those spur of the moment walk-in patients,” Alexander explains. “My day can be busy or steady, filled with sick visits or annual physicals or diabetes management or chest pains – we really cover the whole spectrum.”

Asked about the most important lesson she has learned so far from her clinical practice, she says: “It has to be to *listen* – listen to people and actually *hear* what they are saying, because



Delorean Alexander (left) and Angela Rutherford are two of the nurse practitioners now seeing patients at UT Health Services, 7000 Fannin St. (Photo by Michelle Ray)

everyone has a story and everyone is trying to tell you something just in different ways. It’s very rewarding when you can find that one small detail a patient mentions that helps figure out what they’ve been going through.”

George Deltos, M.D., professor in the Department of Epidemiology, Human Genetics and Environmental Sciences of UTHealth School of Public Health, is the collaborating physician. He periodically is available in the clinic to meet additional medical needs and for consultation.

“You never stop learning,” Rutherford says. “Every day you’re learning something new and if you stop learning, you’re giving up a great opportunity to explore.”

The School of Nursing recently renovated the clinic space in Suite 1620 at University Center Tower, 7000 Fannin Street. With input from patient focus groups, hours have been extended. The clinic is now open from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Nutrition counseling services and certified diabetes education classes are offered by a UTHS registered dietician.

Assistant Professor of Clinical Nursing Susan Y. Parnell, Ph.D., M.P.H., R.N., Department of Family Health, is director of occupational health contracts for the practice.

“Nurse practitioners are awesome and good listener,” says Rutherford. “We really try to take the time to listen to our patients’ concerns and take good care of them.”

To learn more, visit the website: uthealthservices.com

– reported by Michelle Ray & Angie Meus, Public Affairs

Rutherford greets patient Naila Ghorbel in the UTHS clinic at 7000 Fannin, Suite 1620. (Photo by D. R. Bates)



New Ambassador Program selects five nursing students for leadership training

Five outstanding Pacesetter B.S.N. students are the first members of the new Ambassador Program at UTHealth School of Nursing. The aim of the program is to offer professional development activities to select students that will help make them into confident, competent and empowered nursing leaders who will contribute to improving health and health care. This cadre of student nurse leaders will represent the School in various functions during their last two semesters. Chosen for the Ambassador Program in fall 2016 are:

1. **Veronica Arroyo Reed** – an honor student at Austin Community College, she has work experience in insurance, real estate and retail.
2. **Penelope “Penny” Frierson** – holder of a B.S. in Psychology from Louisiana State University who has years of experience working with Child Advocates, Inc.
3. **Emily Graham** – a Texas A&M University grad who recently was a student intern at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.
4. **Kaleen Timon** – a 2014 honor grad of UT Austin with a concentration in speech language pathology, proficient in American Sign Language (ASL).
5. **Jasmine Green** – a participant in the 2016 Deans’ Honors Colloquium in Interprofessional Collaboration and recipient of a T-STEM Challenge Scholarship.

Faculty members associated with this new program are Drs. Deborah Jones, Debra Fowler and Linda Brown. Donors who established endowments to support the Ambassador program are: the Deborah Garrett Adams Leadership Development Fund and the Emily and the Jordan Marye Leadership Development Fund.



Ambassadors seated in the first row (left-right)

Veronica Reed, Emily Graham & Jasmine Green; standing, second row – Penny Frierson & Kaleen Timon. Faculty members are (left-right): Drs. Fowler, Brown and Jones.

(Photo by Lauren Marek)

Jones believes in embracing new challenges

• INNOVATION •



It has been not just a banner year, but a *billboard* year for **Deborah J. Jones**, Ph.D., M.S., R.N.

Starting in March 2016, Jones has been one of the handpicked educators, researchers and clinicians featured by the ongoing “Many Faces of UTHHealth” campaign on eye-catching billboards towering above Houston freeways. The billboard states: “Dr. Jones’ research helps reduce ICU infections nationwide.”

Jones, who also is a nurse research consultant at the Memorial Hermann Hospital-Texas Medical Center, seeks to improve outcomes in acute and critically ill patients through evidence-based oral health practices and interprofessional education.

“We owe congratulations and thank-yous to Dr. Jones for allowing her image, research and words to put such a positive face on UTHHealth School of Nursing and the work we all do together!” says Dean Lorraine Frazier.

The “Many Faces” role is just one way that Jones’ visibility and responsibilities at the School of Nursing have increased in the past year.

Already serving as assistant dean and chair of the Department of Nursing Systems, Jones was honored last November among “25 Outstanding Nurses of 2015” by the Texas Nurses Association (TNA) District 9 Foundation.

In December 2015, Jones was named to the new administrative position of Associate Dean for Professional Development and Faculty Affairs. As an associate dean, Jones will be responsible for providing leadership, advocacy and support in improving the quality of teaching, while also developing or enhancing the faculty’s communications and academic skills, providing for professional development, promoting faculty retention, ensuring effective mentoring, encouraging cultural diversity and overseeing continuing education activities.

“It is a wide-ranging charge, but I am certain that Dr. Jones is very much up to this opportunity and more than capable of excelling in her new position to the benefit of the school,” notes Dean Frazier.

Effective from April 1, 2016, Jones became holder of the Margaret A. Barnett/PARTNERS Professorship in Nursing. She started the FY 2017 academic year with a promotion to associate professor (tenure track).

Jones was one of only 40 candidates selected to participate in the American Association of Colleges of Nursing’s 2015 Leadership for Academic Nursing Program.

Jones joined the nursing school’s faculty in January 2008, when she was a participant in the New Investigator Development Program of UTHHealth’s Center for Clinical and Translational Sciences (CCTS). She also was a 2008 recipient of a PARTNERS grant in support of faculty research in challenging areas.

Dr. Jones’
research
helps reduce
ICU infections
nationwide



The many faces of
UTHealth
School of Nursing
at Houston

Q&A with an emerging leader in academic nursing

Last spring, Edgar Veliz from Public Affairs sat down with Dr. Deborah Jones for a Q&A session, during which she called the climate of UTHealth “perfect” for innovative thinkers and people who have the desire and drive to make impactful contributions to health care.

What is something you wish people knew about your department/area of work?

Our School of Nursing faculty are expert educators, brilliant scientists and competent clinicians. They make contributions to so many aspects of health and health care across the globe but because they are motivated by altruistic reasons, they do it humbly. I have to bug them constantly to let me know about accomplishments, because I think it is important to recognize and appreciate them for what they love to do and do so well.

What is your greatest professional accomplishment?

My greatest professional accomplishment at this time is to have obtained my Ph.D. at a relatively early age [in 2007], because this has opened up doors for me to have a wider span of influence and many years to capitalize on this influence. It has also provided me the tools that I need to make a difference in the lives of others. For instance, I am proud of my contributions to research that have led to new knowledge in oral health and systemic health in mechanically ventilated adults, in fact this work is one of three studies cited by the Institute of Healthcare Improvement and used to develop the nationally known ventilator-associated pneumonia bundle.

What brought you to UTHealth?

I came to UTHealth immediately after completing my doctoral program. While in the program I met two faculty from here at a national nursing research conference and over lunch they convinced me to at least consider UTHealth. Coincidentally enough, one of those faculty at the time is now our new dean. I fell in love with the Texas Medical Center when I visited.

What is something very few people know about you?

I was a pretty good athlete in my younger years. I played softball beginning in grade school and through most of high school and won a few related awards.

What is the most interesting thing about your job?

I love the variety in my job. For example, I love the ability to start the day with planning department goals or upcoming faculty development, by mid-day I can be delivering a lecture to eager, dynamic nursing students, and by the end of that same day I can be in the hospital collecting data for my research grant on hospital-acquired pneumonia prevention. I love it!

Describe your perfect Saturday.

My perfect Saturday would be to take a spontaneous day trip with my husband and a few friends to a warm, sunny location. Good conversation, good company, beautiful weather and lovely scenery.

“I find there are numerous opportunities to contribute and collaborate that are just not found in many other places.” – Dr. Deborah Jones

Philanthropic Highlights

fiscal year 2016

New philanthropic gifts and pledges to UTHealth School of Nursing during FY 2016 totaled **\$3,179,374**. The School received **665** gifts (an increase of **28%** over last fiscal year) from **534** individuals, foundations, corporations, employees and alumni.

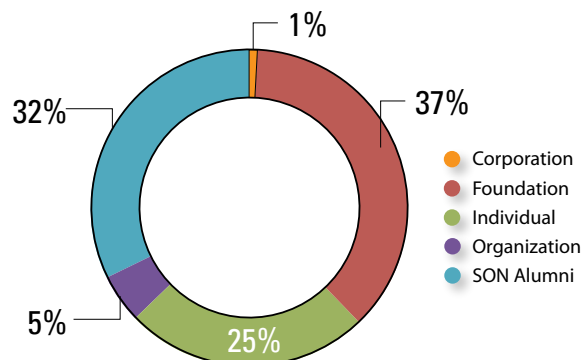
UTHealth created the **Game Changer Initiative** to lay a foundation for increasing new and current endowments with an incentivizing one-to-one match to endowed gifts of \$100,000-\$1 million by qualified individual donors. The following donors have partnered with UTHealth to attract and retain the best and the brightest students and faculty through endowed gifts:

- Bridges Family Nursing Excellence Fund
- Deborah Garrett Adams Leadership Development Fund
- Emily and Jordan Marye Leadership Development Fund
- Helen Jimenez Dichoso, RN Endowed Scholarship
- Judy E. and Rodney H. Margolis Scholarship benefiting the UTHealth School of Nursing and Graduate School of Biomedical Science
- Martha C. Gooding Foundation for Compassionate Nursing Scholarship

In addition, two generous donors made planned gifts through their estates.

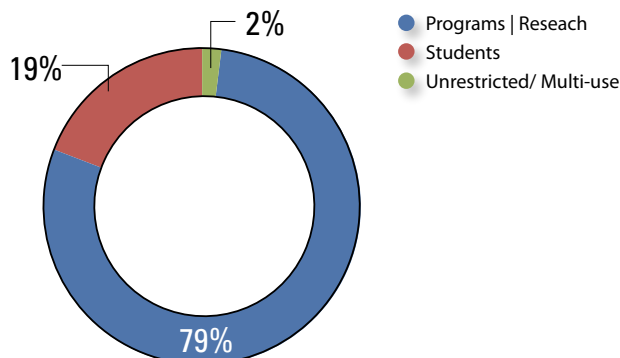
Sources of Philanthropic Funding

Percentages for fiscal year 2016



Areas of Philanthropic Support

Percentages for fiscal year 2016





Building on a Veteran-to-Veteran Connection

New program in first year of helping veterans earn BSN degrees

A three-year federal grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and a grant from the Vivian L. Smith Foundation are helping to support the new Veterans' Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing (VBSN) program. The initiative facilitates the transition of U.S. Armed Forces veterans into professional nursing by providing an opportunity for up to 10 veterans per semester to receive academic credit for prior military training and experience while also addressing the unique needs of veterans.

The project – directed by Associate Professor of Clinical Nursing Bridgette R. Pullis, Ph.D., R.N. – seeks to provide veterans with the knowledge, skills and support needed to successfully complete a B.S.N. degree.

Pullis observes in her own clinical work – much of it at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center – the healing power of the “veteran-to-veteran connection” in nursing care. “When a nursing student is caring for a veteran and the veteran finds out that the student is also a veteran, the air in the room changes, a common bond enables trust and hope,” she says.

A well-attended opening ceremony on Jan. 22, 2016 for the VBSN program featured special guest Georgeann McRaven, wife of University of Texas System Chancellor Bill McRaven.

Nursing student Estela Barras looks after a patient at the inaugural “Give Vets a Smile Day” at UTHealth School of Dentistry. The Nov. 2015 event provided free dental care and health screenings to about 50 Houston-area veterans during a first-ever collaboration among United States Veteran Initiative-Houston (U.S. VETS) and the two UTHealth schools. (Photo by Rhonda Whitmeyer)



“Dr. Pullis and her team are doing a great job with this program!” says School of Nursing Dean Lorraine Frazier. “The School is strongly committed to the VBSN and enthusiastically supports our veterans.”



VBSN program director Dr. Bridgette Pullis with (from left) veterans/nursing students Laterria Anderson, Robert Duran and Jason Crume greeted guest at the opening ceremonies for the new program, which will facilitate the transition of U.S. Armed Forces veterans into professional nursing. (Photo by Dwight C. Andrews)

Harris County ranks 5th in the number of veterans residing in U.S. counties...

As a military spouse for more than 37 years and mother of a serving Air Force officer, McRaven talked enthusiastically about her “appreciation, respect and reverence for nursing” and the “intangible attributes” that veterans offer employers. She expressed admiration for UTHealth’s “dedication to the welfare and advancement of our vets,” as exemplified by the VBSN program and noted that “education is the absolute key to making a successful transition to civilian life.”

The first class of VBSN students were admitted in the spring 2016 semester: U.S. Navy retiree Jason Crume, U.S. Army veteran Laterria Anderson and retired U.S. Air Force master sergeant Robert Duran.

A dedicated case manager, Tina Doyle-Hines, works with the veterans throughout the four-semester VBSN program to connect them with needed resources and help them as they adjust to the rigors and challenges of nursing school. (Doyle-Hines is an Air Force veteran and a Licensed Professional Counselor.)

Each VBSN student is matched with a mentor from the U.S. Veteran’s Initiative who has successfully reintegrated into civilian life to address issues important to the student, such as résumé development, social skills and career assistance. In addition, nursing school faculty members are receiving military cultural awareness training.

The Albert & Ethel Herzstein Charitable Foundation recently provided a \$15,000 grant to help support VBSN student scholarships.

“We look forward to growing our VBSN program and to contributing to UTHealth’s commitment to serving our veterans,” Pullis says. “We welcome our future cohorts of students by serving those who have served us.”

Veterans interested in the VBSN program can get information at: go.uth.edu/vbsn



Mrs. McRaven offers a hug to VBSN student Laterria Anderson as Jason Crume and UTHealth President Giuseppe N. Colasurdo, MD, look on. (Photo by Dwight C. Andrews)

Calvin receives prestigious Regents' Outstanding Teaching Award

The University of Texas System Board of Regents' awarded its highest honor in recognition of a faculty member's performance in the classroom and laboratory to UTHealth School of Nursing Associate Professor of Clinical Nursing Amy O. Calvin, Ph.D., R.N. The Regents' Outstanding Teaching Awards (ROTA) – among the most competitive in the nation – recognize faculty members at University of Texas System institutions who have demonstrated dedication to innovation and advancing excellence.



Left to right: Steve Leslie, Ph.D., UT System executive vice chancellor for academic affairs; William McRaven, UT System Chancellor; honoree Amy Calvin; Paul Foster, UT System Board of Regents Chairman; Ray Greenberg, M.D., Ph.D., UT System executive vice chancellor for health affairs.

(By Holly Reed Photography)

Only three other UTHealth School of Nursing faculty members have won since 2012, which was the inaugural year of the health institution ROTA awards.

Each distinguished ROTA recipient earns a \$25,000 award given to their home institution for disbursement directly to them or for use in their school's department or program.

Calvin was one of seven exceptional UTHealth faculty members who received the Regents' honor in 2016.

"These faculty members – our many faces of UTHealth – represent the very best in healthcare education," said UTHealth President Giuseppe N. Colasurdo, M.D. "We are truly fortunate that we have such a talented and committed community of educators serving our students."

Each of the ROTA winners and their guest were honored during an August presentation and dinner hosted by the Board of Regents in Austin.

Calvin is lead faculty member in the Pacesetter B.S.N. program's third and fourth semester of "Management of Patients in High Acuity Settings" (N4528). In 2012, undergraduate nursing students chose Calvin for the John P. McGovern Outstanding Teacher Award.

"To me, teaching is synergistic – when I expend energy and enthusiasm in making something complex simple, I am energized by students' expressed comprehension and self-efficacy," Calvin says about teaching. "I consistently encourage students to care for their own minds, bodies and spirits so that they, in turn, can provide first-rate holistic nursing care to patients and their families."

Johnson is new associate dean for research and scholarship

• ACCOUNTABILITY •



Dr. Constance Johnson is now Associate Dean for Research and Scholarship.

In October 2016, health informatician Constance Johnson, Ph.D., M.S., R.N., FAAN, joined UTHealth School of Nursing as Associate Dean for Research and Scholarship. She previously served as a tenured associate professor and a member of the senior research faculty in the Center for Nursing Research at Duke University School of Nursing.

Before her full-time move to Houston, Johnson already was an adjunct associate professor at UTHealth's School of Biomedical Informatics (SBMI), where she earned her Ph.D. in 2003 and her M.S. in 2001.

"Dr. Johnson is a co-recruit with SBMI," said Dean Frazier, who is committed to all six UTHealth schools working together for greater impact. "Informatics is a crucial discipline that will grow in importance as healthcare systems are designed and the resulting data are used to understand health outcomes."

Johnson has over 25 years of experience in research and informatics in the area of health promotion and disease prevention. She has more than 50 publications to her credit. Her current research interests include human-computer interaction, and how the representation and visualization of information affects healthcare decisions.

In her new position, Johnson will be accountable for facilitating research and other forms of scholarship at the School of Nursing. Responsibilities include establishing a robust research environment for faculty and students; developing, implementing and evaluating long-range plans for the Center for Nursing Research; overseeing financial, human and infrastructure resources for research; and fostering continuous quality improvement.

Janet C. Meininger, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN, had served throughout FY 2016 in an interim role as the school's associate dean for research.

Faculty Accolades



The leadership position of Cathy L. Rozmus, PhD, RN, as head of Academic Affairs was elevated to the Vice Dean level in June 2016. "Going forward, Dr. Rozmus will be the 'go to' person for all academic issues," said Dean Lorraine Frazier.



The Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation selected Associate Professor Jing Wang, PhD, MPH, RN, Department of Nursing Systems, as one of five Macy Faculty Scholars for 2016, chosen from a national applicant pool of 74 medical and nursing educators.



In May 2016, Assistant Professor of Clinical Nursing Myron Arnaud, DNP, CRNA, became director of the Nurse Anesthesia Division, a program ranked in the Top Ten in the country. He also practices clinically as a staff nurse anesthetist.

Commencement highlights innovation and humanity in health care

New degree-holders at UTHealth School of Nursing's May 2016 commencement event were inspired by the keynote speaker's challenge "to lead in the re-invention process of our healthcare delivery system." University of Texas System Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation **Patricia D. Hurn**, Ph.D., encouraged the proud new graduates to consider "the big I's" of Innovation, Information and Inter-disciplinarity.

"A cousin to innovation is nursing entrepreneurship, which is very under-developed at present and offers great opportunity," she said. "We need to harness and expand our own capacity to invent – not just technologies, but processes."

Closing her message to the Class of May 2016 at the end of National Nurses Week, Hurn reminded everyone that those in the nursing profession "bring integrity to health care, as well as its most human face."

Participants who "walked" to receive their degrees included 176 new Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.S.N.) graduates and another 105 scholars collecting graduate degrees (including 30 at doctoral level).

In its 43rd anniversary as an institution, UTHealth School of Nursing has granted more than 10,440 nursing degrees to its graduates.



Keynote Dr. Patricia D. Hurn urged May 2016 nursing graduates to "lead in health care's re-invention process." (All Commencement photos are by Dwight C. Andrews)

"A cousin to innovation is nursing entrepreneurship, which is very under-developed at present and offers great opportunity."



The current chair of the School of Nursing Advisory Council (and a BSN alumna, Class of '84), Debbie Adams of Houston, was presented with the 2016 Dean's Award, which recognizes special individuals who have contributed to the school's growth and success.



Wood and Ownby are students' choices for 2016 McGovern outstanding teachers

The graduate teacher of the year for 2016 is Professor **Geri L. Wood**, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN, Department of Nursing Systems. She was joined by undergraduate teacher of the year **Kristin K. Ownby**, Ph.D., R.N., when UTHealth School of Nursing Dean Lorraine Frazier announced graduating students' selections for the John P. McGovern Out-standing Teacher Award during May 13 commencement ceremonies at the George R. Brown Convention Center downtown..

Appreciative graduate students described Wood as "highly motivated" as a teacher, "very patient and understanding" and "very accessible." Her nominators wrote about being impressed by and benefitting from her "excellent mastery of her subject matter."

Wood has served as coordinator of the Ph.D. in Nursing program since September 2013. In 2007 she was chosen as a Fellow of the University of Texas Kenneth I. Shine, M.D., Academy of Health Science Education.

Ownby was lauded by many of her students in Pharmacology and Adult Care II for her clinical experience and ability to apply "practical, real-life scenarios" in her teaching. "Dr. Ownby makes pharmacology 'doable' for all of her students," a student wrote. "It is a difficult subject in and of itself but with her expertise, it is much easier to comprehend and break down."

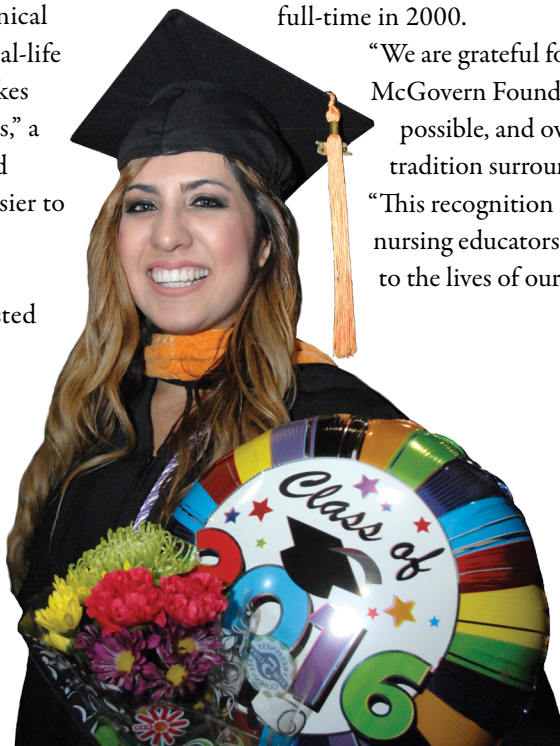
"It is very apparent that Dr. Ownby is teaching because it is a *passion* of hers," attested a student. "We are very lucky to have learned from the best."



Graduate faculty recipient of this year's John P. McGovern Outstanding Teacher Award is Dr. Geri Wood. Dr. Kristin Ownby is undergraduates' choice for 2016 McGovern Outstanding Teacher.

A member of the Department of Acute and Continuing Care, Ownby previously was recipient of the John P. McGovern teaching award in May 2003. She joined the UTHealth faculty full-time in 2000.

"We are grateful for the endowment from the John P. McGovern Foundation that makes this popular award possible, and over the years it has become a very special tradition surrounding graduation," said Dean Frazier. "This recognition is our thank-you to two amazing nursing educators for the inspiration they have brought to the lives of our students."



2015-16 PARTNERS Chair Roberta Kripp Prazak presented PARTNERS-provided silver nursing pins to May 2016 BSN graduates.





Keynoter donates honorarium – PARTNERS Spring Luncheon honors Suzie and Phil Conway

All PARTNERS Luncheon photos are by Priscilla Dickson Photography



The 2016 PARTNERS Spring Luncheon raised over \$258,000 for nursing scholarships and faculty research during the April 13 event held at the River Oaks Country Club. Co-chaired by Bette Thomas and Susan M. Cooley, Ph.D., R.N., the luncheon also honored Suzie and Phil Conway for their philanthropy and longtime support of nursing.

More than 450 guests were inspired by the “Rising Strong” message of highly-anticipated guest speaker Brené Brown, Ph.D., a TED Talks favorite, New York Times best-selling author and research professor at the University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work.

Giving back to nurses – Brown’s keynote presentation touched on the vulnerability that nurses face every day, from having difficult conversations with patients to demonstrating leadership in hospital or clinical settings. “Thank you for showing up and being seen, and for being across from us in our best moments and in our most tragic, horrific moments. You work on the very edge of love and connection, and that is not an easy place to work,” said Brown.

The nursing profession, according to Brown, is a model for what wholehearted leadership should be.

“If everyone touched by a nurse gave their coffee money one time, we could change the face of nursing,” said Brown, who demonstrated her commitment to nurses by donating her honorarium to PARTNERS.

PARTNERS stands for “Providing Advancement Resources To Nursing Education, Research and Students.” Since its inception in 1994, PARTNERS has provided over 100 full-tuition student scholarships, over 45 faculty research grants and four endowed professorships for the UTHealth School of Nursing.

Chaired this year by Patricia “Trish” Greaser, the organization holds a Scholarship Endowment Fund with a market value over \$2 million at the end of May 2016. The Spring Luncheon is the largest annual fundraiser benefiting the nursing school.

Kathrine G. McGovern and the John P. McGovern Foundation were major underwriters of the 2016 luncheon. Other underwriters included H-E-B and Texas Children’s Hospital.



Dean's Service Awards

Three UTHealth School of Nursing faculty members received the Dean's Service Award in 2016 for outstanding service in the community to promote health or health education. (Photos by D. R. Bates)



Assistant Professor **Diane M. Santa Maria**, DrPH, MSN, RN, Department of Nursing Systems, was co-principal investigator of an impactful study of homeless youth in the community. She also will participate in a three-year summer training program at UCSF and receive pilot-study funding for scientists conducting research to reduce HIV/STI health disparities.



Bridgette R. Pullis, PhD, RN, associate professor of clinical nursing in the Nursing Systems department was honored for her work at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center and her commitment to veterans' health issues, including creation of the school's Veterans' Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing (VBSN) program (see page 10).



Professor **Terri S. Armstrong**, PhD, has established an enviable record for mentorship. While keeping an adjunct appointment at UTHealth, she has started a new position as a senior investigator in the Neuro-Oncology Branch, Center for Clinical Research, National Cancer Institute of the NIH, leading a program exploring patient-centered outcomes research in oncology.

Professor Emerita Marianne Marcus made a special Nurses Week gift to the School of a framed bas-relief bust of Florence Nightingale, nursing's "Lady with the Lamp." Also on hand were Dean Frazier and (far left) nursing historian and alumna Dr. Adrian Melissinos. (Photo by D. R. Bates)



FACULTY RESEARCH

Fiscal Year 2015-16

Armstrong, T. (Mentor), Rae Reynolds (Student) (2015-17). Pancreatic Cancer: Uncertainty in Illness. American Cancer Society. (\$15,000)

Armstrong, T. (2015-17). National Institutes of Health/ National Cancer Institute. Enhancing ongoing and planned clinical trials in the Neuro-Oncology Branch. (\$37,773.40)

Armstrong, T., Scheurer, M., Bondy, M., Gilbert, M., Sulman, E. (2013-18). Toxicity Profiling: creating novel paradigms to personalize cancer treatment. National Institutes of Health/ National Institute of Nursing Research. (\$2,146,673)

Armstrong, T. (2015-16). Head for the Cure Foundation is committed to raising awareness and funds for the fight against brain cancer. Head for the Cure Foundation. (\$57,144)

Armstrong, T. (2015-16). To better understand the health status of people with ependymoma and develop educational materials to support their needs. CERN Network. (\$102,000)

Branson, S. (2014-16). Biobehavioral Profiles of Cat Ownership in the Community Dwelling Elderly. International Society for Anthrozoology. (\$45,000)

Branson, S. (2015-18). Biobehavioral effects of therapy dog visitation in elderly intensive care unit patients: A pilot and feasibility study. Human Animal Bond Research Initiative Foundation. (\$5,923)

Casarez, R. (2016-17). Finding Novel Ways to Improve Well-Being in Caregivers of Patients with Bipolar Disorder. Sigma Theta Tau International. (\$2,000)

Crider, N./Drake, S. (2015-18). Biosafety and Infectious Disease Training Initiative. National Institutes of Health/ SPH Collaboration. (\$60,341)

Gallagher, M. (2015-19). Healthy Eating and active Lifestyles Pre- and Postnatal (HEaLPP), Arizona State University Subcontract. (\$35,472)

Giardino, E. (2016-21). LoneStar LEND Collaboration with McGovern Medical School. (\$45,656)

Jones, D. (2015-16). HAPPI (Hospital Acquired Pneumonia Prevention Initiative), National Patient Safety Foundation. (\$17,400)

Mellott, K. (2014-17). Learning Transfer from Simulation to Bedside in Nurses Using Technology to Interpret Patient Ventilator Asynchrony. American Association of Critical Care Nurses. (\$10,000)

Nash, A. (2016-17). Recovery Oriented Research Methods for Youth in an Alternative Peer Group (RORMY-APG). Hogg Foundation. (\$19,988)

Novak, J. (2016-17). Pioneering a Replicable and Scalable Community Partnership for Family Well-Being: Parent Coaching Childhood Development and Nursing-Driven Triple Aim Health Care. Rita & Alex Hillman Foundation. (\$404,953)

Pickens, S. (2015-17). Aggression Prevention Training for Caregivers of Persons with Dementia. Baylor College of Medicine/NIH Supplemental grant. (\$319,488)

Pickens, S. (2012). Assessing for Capacity for Self-Care and Protection in Older Adults with Executive Dysfunction Status Post Discharge Home to Prevent Hospital Readmission-A Pilot Study. Herzstein Foundation Charitable Foundation Geriatric Studies. (\$10,000)

Santa Maria, D. (2015-18). Efficacy Trial of a Brief Parent-Based Adolescent Sexual Health Intervention, NIH/ NICHD (R15). (\$462,000)

Starnes-Ott, K. (2016-17). Human Factors Education in Nurse Anesthesia Students Using High Fidelity Simulation, American Association of Nurse Anesthetists. (\$35,548)

Strunk, F. (2016-17). Measuring the Symptom Distress of Cancer Patients: Development of a new Assessment System - The MDASI-Breast Module, STTI/Zeta Pi Chapter. (\$1,000)

Tankimovich, M. (2016-19). Caring for Patients as a Team: Assessing Interprofessional Educational through the Development of Standardized Patient Cases, McGovern Medical School Collaboration. (\$75,000)

Wang, J. (2013-16). Connecting Smartphones with Electronic Health Record to Facilitate Behavioral Goal Monitoring in Diabetes Care. Robert Wood Johnson Faculty Scholar. (\$350,000).

Wang, J. (2016-18). An Innovative Interprofessional Curriculum on Mobile and Connected Health Technologies. Macy Foundation. (\$245,584)

IN MEMORIAM:

Duck-Hee Kang, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN 1947-2016

The UTHealth School of Nursing lost a much-beloved and highly productive faculty member when Dr. Duck-Hee Kang, 69, unexpectedly died after a brief illness on Sept. 20, 2016. Dr. Kang was the Lee and J.D. Jamail Distinguished Professor and director of the school's Biosciences Laboratory. She also was an adjunct professor in the Department of Palliative Care and Rehabilitation Medicine of The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. Honored for her outstanding research mentorship of

junior faculty, she was among the "20 Outstanding Nurses of 2014" selected by the Texas Nurses Association District 9 Foundation. Specializing in psychoneuroimmunology, Dr. Kang studied how a variety of psychosocial and behavioral factors influence physiological responses to ultimately change health outcomes. She received her Ph.D. in the joint major of Physiological Psychology and Nursing from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and joined the UTHealth faculty in 2009.



"Dr. Kang published widely in both nursing and non-nursing journals, but she always found time to impart guidance, encouragement and high professional standards to students and others whom she mentored," said Dean Lorraine Frazier. "A dedicated scientist, elegant woman and respected colleague – she will be greatly missed."

FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

Fiscal Year 2015-16

SUSAN ALDERMAN, PH.D., R.N.

Misra, V., Hicks, W. J., Vahidy, F., **Alderman, S.**, & Savitz, S. I. (2016). Recruiting patients with stroke into cell therapy trials: A review. *JAMA Neurology*, doi:10.1001/jamaneurol.2016.0940 [doi]

TERRI S. ARMSTRONG, PH.D., FAANP, FAAN

Acquaye, A. A., Lin, L., Vera-Bolanos, E., Gilbert, M. R., & Armstrong, T. S. (2016). Hope and mood changes throughout the primary brain tumor illness trajectory. *Neuro-Oncology*, 18(1), 119-125. doi:10.1093/neuonc/nov101 [doi]

Armstrong, T. S., Bishof, A. M., Brown, P. D., Klein, M., Taphoorn, M. J., & Theodore-Oklot, C. (2016). Determining priority signs and symptoms for use as clinical outcomes assessments in trials including patients with malignant gliomas: Panel 1 report. *Neuro-Oncology*, 18 Suppl 2, ii1-ii12. doi:10.1093/neuonc/nov267 [doi]

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Armstrong, T. S., Grant, R., Gilbert, M. R., Lee, J. W., & Norden, A. D. (2016). Epilepsy in glioma patients: Mechanisms, management, and impact of anticonvulsant therapy. *Neuro-Oncology*, 18(6), 779-789. doi:10.1093/neuonc/nov269 [doi]

Armstrong, T. S., Shade, M. Y., Breton, G., Gilbert, M. R., Mahajan, A., Scheurer, M. E., ... Berger, A. M. (2016). Sleep-wake disturbance in patients with brain tumors. *Neuro-Oncology*, doi:now119 [pii]

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Cachia, D., Kamiya-Matsuoka, C., Mandel, J. J., Olar, A., Cykowski, M. D., **Armstrong, T. S.**, De Groot, J. F. (2015). Primary and secondary gliosarcomas: Clinical, molecular and survival characteristics. *Journal of Neuro-Oncology*, 125(2), 401-410. doi:10.1007/s11060-015-1930-y [doi]

Day, J., Yust-Katz, S., Cachia, D., Wefel, J., Katz, L. H., Tremont, I., **Armstrong, T. S.**, Rooney, A. G. (2016). Interventions for the management of fatigue in adults with a primary brain tumour. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews*, 2016(4) doi:10.1002/14651858.CD011376. pub2

Hall, W. A., Pugh, S. L., Gilbert, M. R., Wefel, J. S., **Armstrong, T.**, Wendland, M. M., ... Movsas, B. (2015). Bevacizumab use in patients with subtotal resection of newly diagnosed glioblastoma (GBM): A secondary analysis of NRG Oncology/RTOG 0825. *International Journal of Radiation Oncology, Biology, Physics*, 93(3), S110-S110. doi:10.1016/j.ijrobp.2015.07.2257

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Ramaswamy, V., Hielscher, T., Mack, S. C., Lassaletta, A., Lin, T., Pajtl, K. W., **Armstrong, T. S.**, Taylor, M. D. (2016). Therapeutic impact of cytoreductive surgery and irradiation of posterior fossa ependymoma in the molecular era: A retrospective multicohort analysis. *Journal of Clinical Oncology*, 34(21), 2468-2477. doi:10.1200/JCO.2015.65.7825

Reijneveld, J. C., & **Armstrong, T. S.** (2016). Psycho-oncology. *Handbook of Clinical Neurology*, 134, 305-313. doi:10.1016/B978-0-12-802997-8.00018-9 [doi]

Wu, J., **Armstrong, T. S.**, & Gilbert, M. R. (2016). Biology and management of ependymomas. *Neuro-Oncology*, 18(7), 902-913. doi:10.1093/neuonc/nov016 [doi]

LISA BOSS, PH.D., R.N.

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Kennerly, S., **Boss, L.**, Yap, T. L., Batchelor-Murphy, M., Horn, S. D., Barrett, R., & Bergstrom, N. (2015). Utility of braden scale nutrition subscale ratings as an indicator of dietary intake and weight outcomes among nursing home residents at risk for pressure ulcers. *Healthcare (Basel, Switzerland)*, 3(4), 879-897. doi:10.3390/healthcare3040879 [doi]

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SANDRA M. BRANSON, PH.D., R.N.

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PEI-YING CHUANG, PH.D., R.N.

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STACY M. CRANDALL, PH.D., M.P.H., R.N.

Santa Maria, D., Markham, C., **Crandall, S.**, & Guilamo-Ramos, V. (2016). Preparing student nurses as parent-based adolescent sexual health educators: Results of a pilot study. *Public Health Nursing (Boston, Mass.)*, doi:10.1111/phn.12262 [doi]

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Lehna, C., Hermanns, M., Monsivais, D. B., & **Engbretson, J.** (2016). From dissertation defense to dissemination: Jump start your academic career with a scholar mentor group. *Nursing Forum*, 51(1), 62-69. doi:10.1111/nuf.12124 [doi]

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Leal, MI, **Engbretson, J.**, Cohen, L, Fernandez-Esquer, M., Lopez, G., Wangyal, T, Chaoul A. (2016) An exploration of the effects of Tibetan Yoga on patients' psychological wellbeing and experience of lymphoma: an experimental embedded mixed methods study *Journal of Mixed Methods Research*; May 2016.

DEBRA L. FOWLER, PH.D., M.B.A., R.N.

Fowler, D. L., & Jones, D. J. (2015). Professional presentation skills development in a graduate nursing program. *Journal of Nursing Education*, 54(12), 708-711. doi:10.3928/01484834-20151110-08

Joseph, M. L., & **Fowler, D.** (2016). Innovating traditional nursing administration challenges. *Journal of Nursing Administration*, 46(3), 120-121. doi:10.1097/NNA.0000000000000309

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