Out of office - out of Africa

By Dean Gail Stuart, PhD, RN, FAAN

Summer means vacation and a break from our usual routines. Last month I had a truly amazing experience as I went to Africa on safari with my daughter, Elaine. Now I have traveled a great deal but this trip will long remain in my mind as the most memorable of all. Being immersed in the sights and sounds of nature and seeing firsthand the “circle of life” was a life-changing experience. So this month in my column I thought I would share images instead of words....Gail
MUSC recipient of a $425,000 PCORI pilot project

MUSC, through the College of Nursing’s Center for Community Health Partnerships (CCHP), is supporting the formation of a partnership with a patient community that lives with the rare, genetic condition alpha-1 deficiency (Alpha-1). This innovative research partnership has been selected to receive $425,000 from the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) to study and measure social burdens of living with rare disease.

Pamela Holtzclaw Williams, JD, PhD, RN, assistant professor in the College of Nursing, will direct the two-year research project as principal investigator.

Dr. Williams’ application was one of 50 selected out of over 800 submissions received. Her project, “A community partnership approach for advancing burden measurement in rare genetic conditions,” focuses on developing a measurement scale that captures patient perceptions of the unique social burdens of living with a rare disease with inherited genetic components. The funding for this MUSC/Alpha-1 project has been approved pending completion of a business review and a formal award agreement with PCORI. The project is intended to develop a measurement tool, by and for the Alpha-1 Community, with the intent that the measurement will have constructs and features that can be used in the future by other rare genetic disease communities across the US and the world.

The award is part of PCORI’s Pilot Projects Program, which will address a broad range of questions about methods for engaging patients in various aspects of the research and dissemination process. The partnership is comprised of MUSC academic scientists, clinicians, MUSC’s Alpha-1 Research Registry and Alpha-1 patients.

PCORI is an independent, non-profit organization whose establishment was authorized by Congress in 2010. Its mission is to fund research that will provide patients, their caregivers and clinicians with the evidence-based information needed to make better-informed health care decisions.

Lots of new faces around CON

Several new staff and faculty have joined or will join the College of Nursing in the next couple of weeks.

Recent USC graduate, John Sieverdes, PhD will be joining the College of Nursing on July 2 as post-doctoral fellow. He will be working with Frank Treiber, PhD and his team. He can be found in room 424.

Teresa Kelechi, PhD has hired Margaret “Margie” Prentiss to manage and coordinate her NIH/R01 award, “Preventing Venous Leg Ulcers with Cryo-therapy: A Randomized Clinical Trial.” Margie will be located in room 303.

Youlanda Gibbs, EdD has been hired to manage a NIH/R01 award titled, “Ethno-Cultural Barriers to Health Literacy/Disease Management in African Americans,” that will be headed up by Ida Spruill, PhD, the grant’s principal investigator.

Leticia Lee also has joined the college as a program coordinator for Dr. Spruill’s research grant. They will work together in room 528.

In addition, the college also has added three new regular faculty members. Jennifer Shearer, PhD, FNP has come on board as an assistant professor to teach undergraduate courses in community health. CON graduate, Terri Fowler, DNP has been hired as an instructor. She will be joining the college July 1 and will be teaching in the DNP program. Lastly, Tamera Pearson, PhD, ACNP, FNP will join CON on July 16 as an associate professor primarily teaching in the DNP program.

In the news

Below are some recent stories pertaining to nurses that you may have missed. Good reading and worth the click.

More Stringent Requirements Send Nurses Back to School - New York Times
- Hospitals start demanding bachelor’s degrees, spurring surge in enrollment in BSN programs.

4 Skills Hiring Managers Seek in Nurse Practitioners - HEALTHHeCAREERS.com
- Four must-have skills that hiring managers are looking for in an ideal candidate.
**CATTS REMINDER**

Last day to complete your training is JUNE 30.
To link to your account, go to http://www.musc.edu/catts

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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**JULY**

4 WEDNESDAY
Independence Day
CON closed

9-12 MONDAY-THURSDAY
PhD Residency Week

10 TUESDAY
Visiting Professor:
Marion Broome, PhD, RN, FAAN
“The Nurse Scientist in Translational Science”
9 - 10 a.m.
2 West Amphitheater, H282

25 WEDNESDAY
Janelle Otherson Visiting Professor:
Vicki Lachman, PhD, APRN, MBE, FAAN
“Moral Courage: Antidote to Moral Distress”
4:30 - 5:30 p.m.
Storm Eye Institute Auditorium

25-26 WEDNESDAY-THURSDAY
DNP Immersions for new students

**AUGUST**

9-10 THURSDAY
MUSC Board of Trustees Meeting

20-24 MONDAY-FRIDAY
Accelerated BSN New Student Orientation

23 THURSDAY
Stethoscope Ceremony
St. Luke’s Chapel
4:30 p.m.

**CONNECTIONS**

July 2012

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MAKE IT 1,000
ONLY 80 LIKES TO GO
Funded grants

Congratulations to Frank A. Treiber, PhD for receiving funds from the Duke Endowment’s Health Care – Advancing Innovation Grant for the amount of $392,125 to develop a medication adherence program using smartphones to manage hypertension. The study proposes an innovative approach of using mobile health technologies to: 1) help enhance patients’ abilities to self manage their health status and enable their providers; to: 2) stay informed of their patients’ adherence levels and associated blood pressure (BP) levels; and 3) make timely changes in medical regimens. This health care model also will keep the patient and provider interconnected in real time for more timely implementation of medical regimen changes when needed. The results of this model will establish a sustained BP control for uncontrolled patients, facilitate their adherence to other medications and other aspects of health care regimens resulting in improved health and well being.

Congratulations to Carolyn Jenkins, DrPH, APRN-BC-ADM, RD, FAAN, for receiving funds from the National REACH Coalition for her grant titled “REACH U.S. SEA-CEED CTG (Community Transformation Grant)” for the amount of $56,250. The objective of this grant is to improve/increase high blood pressure control by 5 percent in African Americans who visit their primary care provider less than two times per year.

Grant submissions

Frank A. Treiber, PhD submitted an R21 application titled, “Smartphone medication adherence stops hypertension in Hispanics: SMASH.” This application is in response to PA-12-023: Practical Interventions to Improve Medication Adherence in Primary Care (R21). The proposed research represents an innovative, qualitative and quantitative approach aimed at testing and further optimizing a mobile Health technology blood pressure and medication adherence monitoring program interfaced with a smart phone application for improving blood pressure control among uncontrolled hypertensive Hispanic adults.

Teresa J. Kelechi, PhD, RN, FAAN submitted an R21 application titled, “Novel wound powder to reduce wound odor, pain and exudate for end-of-life patients” to the National Institutes of Health in response to Program Announcement 10-007, Mechanisms, Models, Measurement, & Management in Pain Research (R21).

Publications & presentations

PUBLICATIONS:


Faculty kudos

NIH Center for Scientific Review invited Teresa Kelechi, PhD, RN, FAAN to participate in the Nursing and Related Clinical Sciences (NRCS) Study Section held June 26 - 27 in Washington, DC.

“Learning is finding out what you already know.
Teaching is reminding others that they know it as well as you do.”

– Richard Bach
Students help launch HealthLinks

HealthLinks, a new MUSC program, uses student volunteers to connect patients with non-medical resources is now underway. The pilot project began June 4 and operates Mondays thru Wednesdays from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. in the Pediatric Primary Care Clinic in Rutledge Tower. CON students McRae Hamer and Allyson Dodson will spend Tuesdays throughout the month of June helping connect patients with the resources needed to be healthy. Their participation and input have been integral to the shaping of HealthLinks. Two additional CON students will work behind the desk for the month of July. This experience will count towards their fulfillment of hours for their clinical segment of Population Focused Nursing. The other members of their clinical group are also involved with the shaping of the program and the group’s clinical project focuses on the evaluation of HealthLinks and developing recommendations for the future of the program.

HealthLinks was established at the request of MUSC President Raymond Greenberg, MD, PhD and is modeled after Health Leads, a national program. Dr. Greenberg, with the support and guidance of Patrick J. Cawley, MD, MBA, will eventually expand to other clinics in the hospital. For more information about HealthLinks, contact Anna Tecklenburg at tecklenb@musc.edu.

Harley receives scholarship

Brian Harley, second semester student enrolled in the accelerated Bachelor of Science in nursing degree program has been awarded an Aldo Croatti Scholarship from UniFirst Corporation. Brian is a Dean’s List student and a College of Nursing representative on the MUSC Student Government Association. Brian is a second degree student, having earned a Bachelor of Science in biology from the University of South Carolina.

Aldo Croatti served as chairman of UniFirst Corporation, a national leader in the industrial and commercial garment industry. Several scholarships are awarded annually in his honor. Congratulations, Brian.

PASOs update

Romina McCandless and Anna Tecklenburg of the Hispanic Health Initiatives attended the Latino Health Summit of Georgia in Atlanta last month. The summit was held in order to release the findings of a major study on the health status of Georgia Latinos and share information about work currently being conducted to address Latino health disparities. During the summit, Romina and Anna participated in maternal child health (MCH) workshops that introduced strategies for working with Latinos to overcome MCH disparities, and a cultural competency panel discussion that provided tools and support for promoting cultural competency among current and future health care providers. Romina and Anna will share this information with the Office of Practice to see how it can guide our work with Latinos in South Carolina.

Riverdog discounts for students

Enjoy America’s favorite pastime right here in the Lowcountry. Check out the complete schedule, information on “the dogs”, and not-to-be-missed promo nights. Call 723-7241. General admission is $5. Keep an eye out for MUSC Student Nights at “the Joe” with $1 admission.
In thinking about the future of health care in South Carolina and the mix of providers who are being educated to manage the health of our state, let’s focus on the facts. These 10 brief talking points can help you lead a compelling discussion regarding South Carolina and the future of its health. Those of us who care about health always ask, “How can we do better?” We understand without health, the quality of life suffers for everyone. Here is what we know:

1) Many South Carolinians suffer from chronic disease and the numbers are rising. The total cost of hospitalizations for chronic illness was $5.6 billion. Ten percent of our population receives 64 percent of the health care. To reduce cost of care, federal guidelines recommend: 1. Rapid access to care, 2. Central monitoring of medical records and 3. Reduction in high use of specialists.

2) Approximately, 843,600 people, or 19 percent of our adult population in South Carolina, are uninsured. Unfortunately, about two-thirds of this group are the people with comorbid illnesses requiring hospitalization. With care earlier in the illness cycle, many if not most of these hospitalizations could have been prevented and the expense of the hospital stay avoided, not to mention the severe suffering that accompanies these illness episodes.

3) Of the 46 counties in South Carolina, 42 are listed as medically underserved. Although the state is ranked 38th in the nation in numbers of physicians, those physicians are clustered in Charleston, Columbia, Greenville and Florence. In fact most of the rural areas of the state have little health care at all. Increasingly, physicians are not choosing to practice in rural areas and people are going without the health care they need.

4) The numbers of physicians choosing Family Practice is declining and those who are in practice are approaching retirement. The current cost of educating one family practice physician is approximately $200,000—a figure that is perpetually rising.

5) Nurse practitioners and advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) have proven repeatedly, in well-designed research studies, that nurse practitioners are competent in managing the health of people with chronic disease. In fact, in primary care, nurse practitioners have demonstrated an effectiveness equal to that of physicians with high patient satisfaction.

6) The numbers of nurses choosing to become advanced practice registered nurses, such as family nurse practitioners (FNP), pediatric nurse practitioners (PNP) and adult nurse practitioners (ANP), is rapidly increasing in South Carolina. The cost of educating an APRN in South Carolina is approximately $40,700.

7) Nurse practitioners demonstrate high quality, competent care with high patient satisfaction. In states where practice barriers have been removed, approximately 50 percent of the nurse practitioner workforce chooses to practice in rural areas.

8) In South Carolina, the OQIN project (Outpatient Quality Improvement Network) is monitoring medical records of patients with chronic diseases and reporting monthly to the primary care provider regarding the health of each patient. This project is available to all primary care facilities in South Carolina, including nurse practitioner and physician run offices to improve care and prevent hospitalization by focusing on early intervention.

9) In states where barriers have been removed and nurse practitioners have begun to practice without physician supervision, people have more choice of providers and have access to more available care. In these states physicians’ incomes have NOT been negatively impacted by nurse practitioners practicing full scope.

10) Currently, the Institute of Medicine (IOM), the Veterans Administration (VA) and the federal government recommend the removal of legislated barriers to practice, such as those that require physician supervision and other barriers that prevent APRNs from fully caring for the people of South Carolina.

Read these talking points carefully. Engage your friends and family in discussions about the future of health in South Carolina using these 10 points to bring the facts into focus. Together we can educate people in our state who want what we want: better health for our citizens, a more vibrant life for everyone, and a brighter future for our children. This can be achieved more readily if we work together to get practice barriers removed for APRNs.