

eCONNECTIONS

JANUARY 2018

TAKING NURSING EVEN HIGHER

By Gail Stuart, PhD, RN, FAAN

Yes that's right. We are taking nursing even higher in our research mission. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has released its 2107 rankings of funded colleges of nursing across the country and our MUSC college was ranked No. 13. This is the highest NIH ranking in the history of our college. Way to go team!

We have these faculty to thank for this crowning achievement: Drs. Teresa Kelechi, Ken Ruggiero, Elaine Amella, Frank Treiber, and Lynne Nemeth for our total NIH funding of \$4,371,195, which was only \$400,000 less than Johns Hopkins school of nursing's funding. And it is equally important to understand that NIH is only one source of our external grant funding that includes a wide range of federal agencies and foundations.

So this impressive accomplishment and my recent contacts with other deans around the country has led me to believe that I think it is time that we formally begin sharing our expertise with others by forming a MUSC College of Nursing Consultation Service. In fact, in November we had a team of four faculty from Texas Tech University visit with our undergraduate faculty for two days to review multiple aspects of our accelerated BSN program.



So here are just some of the areas in which I think we could charge for consultation.

- How to Accelerate your BSN, DNP, and/or PhD program
- How to teach online effectively and efficiently
- How to scaffold psychiatric content into NP courses
- How to create and implement unfolding cases in DNP
- How to implement DEU units
- How to “flip the classroom”
- How to implement SBIRT in interprofessional clinical programs
- How to integrate telehealth into nursing curriculum
- How to build a research infrastructure in a college of nursing

- How to develop a faculty mentorship program
- How to negotiate the Responsibility Centered Management (RCM) fiscal model
- How to develop, implement and evaluate a strategic plan

We could develop a menu of areas and offer both in-person and virtual consultation. Given that we believe resources will be tighter in the days ahead, a Consultation Service might be a great way to enhance the practice accounts of faculty and further market and promote the excellence of what we do here in the college every day.

It's a new thought for a new year and maybe it's one worth discussing. — Gail

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Kindness is like snow - it beautifies everything it covers.
- Kahlil Gibran

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AIR FORCE NURSE CORPS CHIEF NAMED 2018 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA



Congratulations to Maj. Gen. Dorothy Hogg '97 for being selected as the 2018 Distinguished Alumna Award recipient by the MUSC Alumni Association.

Gen. Hogg is the deputy surgeon general and chief of the Air Force Nurse Corps, Office of the Surgeon General, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C. She directs operations of the Air Force Medical Service, composed of a \$6.1 billion, 44,000 person integrated health care delivery system serving 2.6 million beneficiaries at 76 military treatment facilities worldwide. She oversees the daily functions of the Air Force Surgeon General's office with offices in Washington, DC, Fort Detrick, MD, Falls Church, VA and San Antonio, TX. Included in these functions are clinical operations and quality, aeromedical evacuation, global force management, readiness, strategic medical plans, programs and budget, medical force management and medical information systems management. General Hogg coordinates Air Force Medical Service operations through major commands, joint service agencies, the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs), the Defense Health Agency and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Additionally, as chief of the Nurse Corps, General Hogg is responsible for recruitment, accession, training and education of 18,000 active duty, Reserve and Air National Guard Airmen. She oversees policy and program development which ensures the highest standards for patient-centered, evidence-based nursing practice for all eligible beneficiaries.

Gen. Hogg entered the Air Force in 1984 and has commanded at the squadron and group level and served as the deputy command surgeon for two major commands. She has deployed in support of operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. She earned her Master of Science in nursing degree from the MUSC College of Nursing in 1997.

Gen. Hogg will receive her award at the [135th Anniversary Gala](#) at the SC Aquarium on February 23.

Stay tuned to read about the recipients of the Exemplary Recent Graduate, Honorary Alumna Award, and the Outstanding Service to MUSC College of Nursing Award when they are announced next month.

WINTER CONVOCATION

More than 100 nursing students from four programs walked across the stage at Charleston Music Hall to receive their hard earned degree on Dec. 7 during the 2018 Winter Convocation ceremony. In addition, several awards were given to well deserved faculty and students.

Golden Lamp Award Faculty Award
Kimbli Marenakos, DNP-FNP, RN, LPC

Clinical Faculty Award
Vanessa Gant-Clark, MSN, RN

Kimberly Michelle Limbaker Award
Noemi Pacheco

Outstanding BSN Student Award
Stevi Dunlap



JANUARY

- 4 Stethoscope Ceremony / To be rescheduled
- 5 Exam & Quiz Writing Workshop / 1 - 2:30pm / CON 202
- 8 Dean's Dialogue / Noon / CON 413
- 10 DOTS / Noon / CON 221
- 15 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day / CON closed
- 16 Professional Development Series: *Promotions: How do I make that happen?* / Noon / CON 202
- 19 Brainstorming for Educational Research / Noon / CON 513
- 29 Faculty & Staff Assembly / 1 pm / CON 202

FEBRUARY

- 7 NP/CNM Lobby Day / 9 am / SC Statehouse, Columbia
- 12 Dean's Dialogue / Noon / CON 413
- 14 DOTS / Noon / CON 221
- 19 Professional Development Series: *Authorship and getting published* / Noon / CON 202
- 19 Faculty & Staff Assembly / 1 pm / CON 202
- 23 CON Alumni Awards / 6:30 pm / SC Aquarium
- 23 135th Anniversary Gala / 7 pm / SC Aquarium



135th Anniversary Gala

Honoring Dean Gail Stuart's Legacy
2002 - 2018

FEBRUARY 23, 2018

7:00 p.m.

South Carolina Aquarium
Charleston, South Carolina

Click here to purchase your ticket today.
Early bird ticket pricing ends January 15!

FUNDED GRANTS



PI: Gigi M. Smith, PhD, APRN, CPNP-PC

SPONSOR: The Duke Endowment

PROJECT PERIOD: Jan. 1, 2018 – Dec. 31, 2020

AMOUNT: \$465,000

TITLE: Enhanced Screening, Brief Intervention, & Referral (SBIRT) Training Through Multi-Modal Medication Assisted Treatment Instruction

SUMMARY: Integrate MAT (medication assisted treatment) education into the established MUSC SBIRT program over a three-year span for medical students,

undergraduate and graduate nursing students, physician assistant students, dentistry students, as well as faculty and community preceptors to address substance misuse and abuse including the nationwide epidemic opioid crisis.

BACKGROUND: In fall of 2016, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration awarded a three year grant to Gigi Smith, PhD, project director, and the interprofessional team of Sarah Gainey, MSW; Joy Lauerer, DNP; Wendy Muzzy, MRA, MLIS; Chris Pelic, MD; and Alyssa Rheingold, PhD to improve and enhance the training of health professions students (undergraduate and graduate nursing students, and medical students) to provide competent screening, brief intervention and referral to treatment (SBIRT) for persons who have or are at-risk for substance use disorder (SUD).

Since that time over 1,100 students and clinical faculty have been trained using the online modules and in-person skills training. Training workshops also have been provided in the community to several businesses and organizations including the College of Charleston and the Charleston County School District.

With the knowledge that addiction problems are outpacing health care providers' abilities to treat them and that there are large deficits in training and education programs for health care providers, the team applied to the Duke Endowment for a second grant to enhance the SBIRT training to include more specific opioid content, as well as multi-modal medication assisted treatment instruction to prepare MUSC health professions students to address this growing nationwide epidemic.

This work will strengthen the primary care workforce, and improve statewide health outcomes and wellness in South Carolina. This team will include the addition of Keri Holmes-Maybank, MD, MSCR, to overlap with her Duke grant work to establish an intensive program for pain and opioid-free rehabilitation in SC.

SUBMITTED GRANTS

PI: Kathy VanRavenstein, PhD, FNP-BC, APRN

SPONSOR: NIH/NIA

TITLE: Alztalk, a simulated virtual mHealth application to deliver communication skills training to caregivers of persons with dementia: A feasibility study

GOAL: Alzheimer's Disease is a degenerative brain condition accounting for 60-80% of all dementias. Caregivers do not always have the ability to receive specialized training in communication with persons with dementia. This project aims to use technology and avatars to provide communication training to caregivers of persons with dementia.

PI: Frank Treiber, PhD

SPONSOR: Augusta University/NIH/NIMHD

TITLE: Psychosocial stress, epigenetics and health disparity in hypertension

GOAL: The fundamental objective of this proposal is to identify DNA methylation changes and evaluate whether their roles differ between African Americans and European Americans.

PI: Gigi M. Smith, PhD, APRN, CPNP-PC

SPONSOR: HRSA

TITLE: Nurse Faculty Loan Program (NFLP)

GOAL: This competing continuation application is a request for financial loan support for students enrolled in a Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing (PhD) degree program and the post-Master's Doctorate of Nursing Practice Program (DNP) at the MUSC College of Nursing with a career goal to serve as nurse faculty upon graduation.

SNOW DAY - JAN. 3, 2018



Photo by Keith Ryan



HHI: A YEAR IN REVIEW

Over 10 years ago the Hispanic Health Initiative (HHI) Scholars program was funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to provide educational experiences for our BSN students to learn about the role of culture and immigrant status on health behaviors and health outcomes. This fall, the HHI program announced its 24th cohort that included **Park Ashley, Julia Holmes, Nicolette Jacinto, Carlie Mzik, Leigh Rothgeb, Ryan Taylor, Page Wise and Caroline Wright.**

During the fall semester, the scholars partnered with Fetter Health Care Network to provide health information and biomedical screening at Our Lady of Mercy, during the Mexican Consulate visit, and at an urban housing project.

At the Mexican Consulate visit, local Latinos met with representatives of the Consulate Office to address legal and financial issues. The scholars worked with Lori Robinson, RN, a FHCN employee and a former MUSC HHI Scholar, to provide language assistance to complete the screening forms.

In addition, these scholars were fortunate to be able to work with PASOs, a state-wide organization that focuses on the health and well-being of young Latino families. This special program provides our scholars with the core cultural competency content by guiding them in the planning and development of outreach activities and written materials. Promotoras (community health workers) assist the students by organizing community experiences and home visitations so that they are able to address child development issues or concerns.

Over the past decade, strong community partnerships have been fostered for the scholars and provide unique opportunities for student learning. These partnerships include community serving organizations as well as primary care settings that serve the Latino population. Students have been able to work with the Charleston County School District (CCSD), Our Lady of Mercy and other members of the faith based community, Barrier Free Clinic, Shifa Clinic, and the Fetter Health Care Network (FHCN), a federally qualified health center.

Another program that brings our students a unique perspective of the the Latino community is Abrazos. Abrazos is a family literacy program sponsored by the CCSD and located at Midland Park Primary School in North Charleston. Originally developed in 2007 by the MUSC College of Nursing, this program contributes to the undergraduate health and wellness curriculum by providing experiential opportunities to our BSN students that allows them to conduct biomedical screenings such as blood glucose, cholesterol, blood pressure, weight, and BMI, for the Spanish speaking mothers enrolled in the program.

We look forward to serving our community minded student scholars with more educational practice experiences in 2018.

"The first thing I felt when we entered the church was a sense of community. It actually punctuated the fact for me how important community is to the success of health care workers."

- Leigh Rothgeb, HHI Scholar,
on the importance of community in health care



Dr. Deborah Williamson and HHI scholars learn about unique foods in the Latino diet from PASOs promotoras at the Ladson Flea Market food tent.



*Abrazos Health and Wellness Day
Pasos staff: Myra Lubov, Areyonna Keels and Virginia Vedilago.
MUSC students: Page Wise, Park Ashley, Nicolette Jacinto,
Caroline Wright, and Leigh Rothgeb*



Park Ashley, BSN student, takes a blood pressure while Mario Puga, a FHCN outreach worker, assists with making a referral for follow up medical care at an Abrazos event.

WHAT DOES THE NEW TAX BILL MEAN FOR HEALTH CARE?

by Amy Williams, DNP, APRN

The \$1.5 trillion Republican tax overhaul passed by both the House and Senate and signed into law by President Trump promises to cause changes to health care. The debate around the tax bill generated dialogue from both Republicans and Democrats about what this bill means for the future of health care, including the Affordable Care Act (ACA) given that the bill ends the individual mandate (the penalty for consumers without health coverage). Experts warn that ending this will weaken insurance markets in parts of the country and cause ACA premiums to rise. Many health care groups, including the American Nurses Association (ANA) and patient organizations have urged lawmakers to preserve the insurance requirement. This change, along with others has left many health care providers and hospitals feeling anxious. Here is what we know so far about additional expected effects:

- May force tens of millions of dollars in cuts to the Medicare program under federal budget rules, congressional leaders say that they can waive these rules as they have in the past
- Open a \$1.5 trillion hole in the federal deficit over the next decade, putting substantial new pressure on Medicare and Medicaid
- Opens a new Republican campaign to cut back Medicare and Medicaid because of the anticipated deficit
- Reduces the corporate tax rate from 35% to 21%- this may mean more money for drug makers, for-profit insurance companies and hospital systems
- Risk of reduced affordability of insurance policies with the individual mandate elimination resulting in erosion of preexisting condition protection
- Caps how much taxpayers can deduct in state and local taxes from their federal returns (this is thought to be punitive to taxpayers in wealthier states with higher state income taxes)

The American Diabetes Association, American Lung Association, American Heart Association, the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, the Arthritis Foundation, the March of Dimes, the Multiple Sclerosis Society and the advocacy portion of the American Cancer Society all appealed Congress in letters this month to warn them that this bill could disrupt sick patients' access to care. Consumers in parts of the country where there are few insurers selling ACA plans now are thought to be at greatest risk as their premiums are already higher than average. For their part, GOP leaders have dismissed the objections of health care groups as well as the analyses by the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) and independent economists that the large tax cuts in the legislation will increase the federal deficit. Rather, President Trump and supporters of the bill in Congress state that the tax cuts will fuel economic growth.

REFERENCE:

Levy, N. (2017, December 18). Republican tax bill fuels anxiety across the nation's healthcare system. Los Angeles Times, Retrieved from: www.latimes.com/politics/la-na-pol-tax-bill-healthcare-20171218-story.html

RECENT GRAD CELEBRATED BY ECCO

Allye Prather, who graduated with a BSN in December, was honored as the Medical Services Volunteer Award from East Cooper Community Outreach for her volunteer work with Partners in Health Care over the past year. Prather was a tremendous asset to ECCO, the clinic, and patients. Upon graduation, she plans to work as a registered nurse at Vanderbilt Medical Center on the Medical Intensive Care Unit. She began at the clinic to perform her clinical hours required for graduation, however, she was so impressed by their patients, ECCO and the Partners in HealthCare clinic, that she returned to help out in the clinic on a volunteer basis. Congratulations!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

COLLEGE OF NURSING

SEARCH COMMITTEE: Each year the dean's office appoints a CON Search Committee. The 2018 the members are Julie Barroso, PhD, RN (chair), Tatiana Davidson, PhD, Cathy Durham, DNP, APRN, Donna Reinbeck, MSN, RN, and Teresa Stephens, PhD.

SEARCH COMMITTEE: Teresa Stephens, PhD, was appointed the SC faculty consultant for the National Student Nurses Association and attended the Mid-Year conference in San Diego with the SC executive board members.