

# AAACN

# Ambulatory Care Nurse Researcher Directory



## **Angela A. Appiah, PhD, DNP, MPH, RN, COA, FAACM**

Senior Director / Chief Nursing Officer | Montefiore Mount Vernon Hospital

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### **Areas of Expertise / Focus**

- Global health systems and population health
- Health systems and services management
- Program development, accreditation, and service line management
- Implementation science and translational research
- Capacity building and healthcare workforce development

### **Professional Statement**

Dr. Appiah is a Fulbright Specialist and healthcare executive with more than 27 years of experience in clinical care, operations, research, and evidence-based practice across diverse healthcare systems. Her work focuses on strengthening health systems through program development, implementation science, translational research, and global population health initiatives.

She currently serves as Senior Director and Chief Nursing Officer at Montefiore Mount Vernon Hospital, where she oversees Nursing, Case Management, and regulatory and quality functions. She is also an Adjunct Associate Professor at Pace University College of Health Professions–Health Science & Lienhard School of Nursing and Founder and CEO of Global Population Health Consulting, LLC.

Dr. Appiah’s leadership experience spans numerous executive and clinical roles, including Associate Chief Nursing Officer for an Ambulatory Care Network and multiple senior leadership positions across healthcare systems in New York, New Jersey, and New Hampshire. As a Fulbright Specialist, she collaborates with ministries of health, nonprofit organizations, and healthcare systems globally to support capacity building and sustainable health system development.

She is an active leader in professional organizations and global health initiatives, serving on multiple boards and committees. Her professional service includes leadership roles with the Oncology Nursing Society, the National Black Nurses Association, the Nurses on Boards Coalition, the American Association for Cancer Education, and the International Society of Nurses in Cancer Care. She also serves on the American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing (AAACN) Research and Publication Committee.

Her research and scholarly interests focus on reducing the burden of preventable disease through prevention, screening, and early detection initiatives, particularly in low-resource settings. Through community-engaged research, evidence-based quality improvement, and implementation science, she seeks to strengthen healthcare systems, reduce health disparities & advance global health equity.

### **Methodological Expertise**

Quantitative; Qualitative; Mixed methods

### **Practice / Content Areas**

Specialty care; Primary care

### **Key Research & Innovation Interests**

- Ambulatory nurse-sensitive indicators
- Care coordination
- Leadership (e.g., interprofessional communication, healthy work environments, burnout, nurse retention, organizational policy, political advocacy)
- Medication management
- Person-centered care (e.g., patient wellness/prevention, nurse–patient communication, health literacy interventions)
- Patient wellness and prevention (e.g., health promotion, risk reduction, vaccination, cancer screening, tobacco cessation, fall prevention, behavioral change interventions, child development, women’s health)
- Specialty population health (e.g., acute conditions, pediatrics, pediatric mental health, adult mental health, women’s health, older adults)
- Telehealth (e.g., nurse-advice line services, telephone triage)
- Workforce development (e.g., pre-nursing licensure education, continuing education, professional development)
- Informatics (e.g., mobile health applications, clinical decision support, documentation, automation, use of artificial intelligence in ambulatory care, and user experience)

### **Open to Collaboration**

- Sharing ideas
- Sharing resources
- Mentoring
- Potential research collaboration

**Jean Bernhardt, PhD, MHSA, MSN, NEA-BC, CNP**

*Associate Professor; Director* | MGH Institute of Health Professions | Tufts University

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**Research Focus**

Dr. Bernhardt is an established nurse executive with extensive clinical, academic, and research experience. Her scholarship centers on nursing management and leadership, nurse-sensitive indicators, substance use, heat-related illness, and the effects of climate on health outcomes. She has published in peer-reviewed nursing, climate health, and quality improvement journals.

Dr. Bernhardt currently serves as Director of Tufts University Occupational Health Services and is an Associate Professor in the DNP program at the MGH Institute of Health Professions in Boston, Massachusetts. Her work bridges executive leadership, occupational and primary care, and implementation of evidence-based practices to improve workforce and population health outcomes.

**Practice / Clinical Setting**

Primary Care

**Research & Content Areas**

- Ambulatory nurse-sensitive indicators
- Leadership (e.g., interprofessional communication, healthy work environments, burnout, nurse retention, organizational policy, political advocacy)
- Care Coordination

**Open To**

- Potential research collaboration
- Sharing ideas
- Mentoring

**Sibil Blee, DNP, RN, NPD-BC, AMB-BC**

*Clinical Education Manager* | UT Health Houston, UTP

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**Professional & Scholarly Focus**

Dr. Blee serves as a Clinical Education Manager at UT Health Houston, where her work centers on advancing nursing professional development and strengthening clinical education infrastructure across ambulatory and specialty care environments. Her professional focus emphasizes workforce development, continuing education, and the integration of evidence-based practices that support clinician competency and high-quality patient care.

**Current Role & Impact**

In her leadership role, Dr. Blee partners with interdisciplinary teams to design, implement, and evaluate educational initiatives that enhance clinical performance, promote lifelong learning, and support organizational quality and safety goals. Her efforts contribute to building sustainable professional development pathways and strengthening the ambulatory nursing workforce.

**Methodological Expertise**

Qualitative

**Practice / Clinical Settings**

Primary care; Specialty care

**Research & Content Areas**

Workforce development (e.g., pre-nursing license education, continuing education, professional development)

**Open To**

- Sharing ideas
- Sharing resources
- Mentoring
- Potential research collaboration

## **Lauren Boxell, DNP, RN**

*Clinical Director* | Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center

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### **Research Focus**

Dr. Boxell is a Clinical Director for Ambulatory Specialty Care at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, with operational and clinical oversight of Allergy, Infectious Diseases, and International Adoption and Travel services across multiple ambulatory sites. She earned her Doctor of Nursing Practice from Northern Kentucky University in 2023, with doctoral training in evidence-based practice, research methods, quality improvement, and applied statistics. She has more than 10 years of progressive clinical and leadership experience, including roles in cardiac intensive care, the operating room, transplant and fetal cardiology coordination, and system-level professional practice leadership. In her current role, Dr. Boxell leads multidisciplinary teams and collaborates with organizational stakeholders to design and implement initiatives focused on safety, process standardization, workforce optimization, and operational improvement.

Her scholarly experience includes peer-reviewed publication, national presentations, and ongoing service as an evidence-based reviewer for the *Journal of Pediatric Nursing*. She has formal training in project management and Lean methodologies and has led or supported multiple quality improvement and evidence-based practice initiatives, including organization-wide governance redesign and staff well-being efforts. Her work reflects a strong commitment to translating evidence into sustainable practice change.

### **Methodological Expertise**

Qualitative

### **Practice / Clinical Setting**

Specialty Care

### **Research & Content Areas**

- Leadership (e.g., interprofessional communication, healthy work environments, burnout, nurse retention, organizational policy, political advocacy)
- Workforce Development (e.g., pre-licensure education, continuing education, professional development)

### **Open To**

- Sharing ideas
- Mentoring
- Sharing resources

**Sherrie Bragg, DNP, BS, RN, AMB-BC, NEA-BC, CLSSGB**

*Associate Chief Nursing Officer, Ambulatory | AtlantiCare*

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### **Areas of Expertise / Focus**

- Care coordination
- Telehealth in ambulatory care
- Access to care in outpatient settings

### **Methodological Expertise**

Quantitative

### **Practice / Content Areas**

Specialty care; Other ambulatory care settings

### **Systems & Operational Leadership**

Dr. Bragg's leadership focuses on improving ambulatory care delivery through strengthened care coordination, expanded telehealth services, and initiatives that improve patient access to care. Her work includes operational and quality strategies supporting nurse-advice line services, telephone triage, and system-level improvements in specialty and outpatient care environments.

### **Open to Collaboration**

- Sharing ideas
- Potential research collaboration

**Patricia “Tricia” Britt, DNP, RN, CNS, NEA-BC**

*Vice President & Chief Nursing Officer — Ambulatory Care, Professional Practice & Care Continuum | Stanford Health Care*

 [pbritt@stanfordhealthcare.org](mailto:pbritt@stanfordhealthcare.org)

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**Research Focus**

Dr. Britt is the Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer for Ambulatory Care, Professional Practice, and Care Continuum at Stanford Health Care, bringing 26 years of nursing experience, including 20 years as an Advanced Practice Provider—Clinical Nurse Specialist—in both inpatient and ambulatory settings. She holds a BSN and MSN from the University of Texas School of Nursing, with a focus in Adult Health as a Clinical Nurse Specialist and earned her Doctor of Nursing Practice from the University of Nevada, Reno. She is board certified by the American Nurses Credentialing Center as a Nurse Executive Advanced.

Through both oversight and influence, Dr. Britt has played a key role in achieving major organizational distinctions at Stanford Health Care, including the 5th Magnet Designation with Distinction (2025), Vizient Top Performer status (2025), Leapfrog “A” Hospital Safety Grade, and U.S. News & World Report Best Hospital Honor Roll recognition. Her leadership has been recognized with multiple awards, including the Stanford Health Care Board of Directors’ Isaac Stein Award for Compassionate Care and the Malinda S. Mitchell Award for Quality.

Dr. Britt has presented nationally and internationally on innovations in evidence-based practice implementation, including invited presentations at Seoul National University and the Sigma International Nursing Research Congress. She serves as the immediate past president and founding board member of the Sigma Chapter—Alpha Alpha Lambda At-Large, the first practice-based Sigma chapter worldwide. Her academic and professional service includes adjunct faculty roles, advisory board appointments, manuscript review, and active leadership in state and national nursing organizations. Her work reflects a sustained commitment to advancing ambulatory nursing practice, evidence-based care, and professional excellence.

**Methodological Expertise**

Mixed Methods; Quantitative

**Practice / Clinical Setting**

Specialty Care; Other Ambulatory Settings

**Research & Content Areas**

- Ambulatory Nurse-Sensitive Indicators
- Leadership (e.g., interprofessional communication, healthy work environments, burnout, nurse retention, organizational policy, political advocacy)
- Care Coordination
- Specialty Population Health (e.g., pediatrics, mental health, women’s health, older adults)
- Telehealth (e.g., nurse advice line services, telephone triage)
- Workforce Development (e.g., pre-licensure education, continuing education, professional development)
- Informatics (e.g., clinical decision support, documentation, automation, AI, user experience)

**Open To**

- Sharing ideas
- Sharing resources
- Mentoring
- Potential research collaboration

**Sarah Brzozowski, PhD, MBA, BA, RN, NEA-BC**

Senior Director, Operations and Excellence | UW Health

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**Research Focus**

Dr. Brzozowski's research focuses on leadership, organizational culture, and excellence in nursing, with primary research conducted in ambulatory and primary care settings. She has published on the challenges and unique considerations associated with recruiting ambulatory nurses, contributing to the growing evidence base supporting workforce development in non-acute care environments.

In her current role at UW Health, Dr. Brzozowski provides oversight across 180 ambulatory clinics and leads enterprise-wide programming including Magnet designation, Shared Governance, Clinical Ladder, Evidence-Based Practice, Nursing Research, and Nursing Data Analytics. Her work integrates leadership development, data-driven decision-making, and professional practice advancement to support high-quality ambulatory nursing care.

**Methodological Expertise**

Mixed Methods

**Practice / Clinical Setting**

Primary Care; Specialty Care

**Research & Content Areas**

- Leadership (e.g., interprofessional communication, healthy work environments, burnout, nurse retention, organizational policy, political advocacy)
- Workforce Development (e.g., pre-licensure education, continuing education, professional development)

**Open To**

- Sharing ideas
- Sharing resources
- Mentoring
- Potential research collaboration

## **Debora Burger, PhD, MSN, RN, NE-BC**

Assistant Professor

Linfield University

 debbieburger30@gmail.com

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### **Areas of Expertise / Focus**

- Ambulatory care nursing
- Pediatric cardiac care (heart failure and cardiomyopathy)
- Transition of care from pediatric to adult congenital heart disease services
- Nursing professional development and program development

### **Professional Statement**

Dr. Debbie Burger brings 29 years of nursing experience across diverse clinical settings and patient populations. She began her career with a diploma in nursing and earned her PhD in 2023, reflecting a strong commitment to lifelong learning and advancing the profession. Her clinical background spans adult and pediatric care across acute care, step-down units, intensive care, operating rooms, emergency departments, ambulatory care, and nursing professional development. The majority of her career has focused on pediatric cardiac care.

Dr. Burger currently serves as co-chair of the American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing (AAACN) Research Committee and as site lead for the Advanced Cardiac Therapies Improving Outcomes Network (ACTION) at Doernbecher Children's Hospital. Through these roles, she contributes to advancing evidence-based practice and improving outcomes for pediatric cardiac patients. Her academic interests include enhancing the role of nurses in ambulatory care, pediatric heart failure and cardiomyopathy care, and transitions from pediatric to adult congenital heart disease services.

### **Selected Publications**

- Burger D. (Forthcoming 2026). *Specialty Care*. In Core Curriculum for Ambulatory Care Nursing (5th ed.).
- Burger D, Evers PD. (2025). *The nurse coordinator role and increasing continuity in care in a pediatric heart failure/cardiomyopathy program*. *Journal of Pediatric Nursing*.
- Burger D, Hasan R, Evers PD, et al. (2025). *Congenital Heart Disease Transition Practices in the United States*. *Cardiology in the Young*.
- Burger D, Denfeld QE, Uzark K, et al. (2024). *A medical assistant-facilitated transition activity in a pediatric cardiology clinic*. *Health Care Transitions*.
- Burger D, Denfeld QE, Evers PD, et al. (2023). *Referral Order Placement Decreases Time to Transfer to Adult Congenital Heart Disease Care*. *Pediatric Cardiology*.
- Denfeld QE, Burger D, Lee CS. (2023). *Survival analysis 101: An easy start guide to analyzing time-to-event data*. *European Journal of Cardiovascular Nursing*.

### **Methodological Expertise**

- Quantitative methods

### **Practice / Content Areas**

- Specialty care
- Nursing education

**Key Research & Innovation Interests**

- Care coordination
- Specialty population health (e.g., pediatrics, congenital heart disease, and complex conditions)

**Open to Collaboration**

- Potential research collaboration
- Mentoring
- Sharing resources
- Sharing ideas

**M. Colette Carver, DNP, APRN, FNP, NEA-BC**

Senior Director of Ambulatory Nursing | Carilion Clinic

Faculty Appointment: Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine

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**Research Focus**

Dr. M. Colette Carver is the Senior Director of Ambulatory Nursing at Carilion Clinic and holds a faculty appointment at the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine. After completing her Nurse Practitioner program at Duke University in 2000, she practiced in primary care for 12 years at Duke and Carilion. She earned her Doctor of Nursing Practice from Old Dominion University in 2017, with research focused on care team member activation.

Dr. Carver has more than 35 years of healthcare experience across inpatient and outpatient settings, with over two decades dedicated to quality, safety, population health, and practice redesign. She is a master trainer in TeamSTEPPS and has provided foundational leadership for the establishment of patient-centered medical home models in primary care across two health systems. She has also led the development of ambulatory nurse care management programs at Duke and Carilion and currently provides strategic and operational direction for Carilion's Rural Health Clinic program.

Her recent work includes collaboration with Virginia Western Community College and the Carilion Human Resources team to design and implement a clinical workforce development program for medical assistants. Her current research focuses on ambulatory nurse-sensitive indicators, specifically blood pressure measurement and control. Dr. Carver is recognized as a resilient and thoughtful nursing leader who inspires teams, manages change, and operationalizes programs that enhance the healthcare experience.

**Methodological Expertise**

Mixed Methods

**Practice / Clinical Setting**

Primary Care

**Research & Content Areas**

- Ambulatory Nurse-Sensitive Indicators
- Workforce Development (e.g., pre-licensure education, continuing education, professional development)
- Telehealth (e.g., nurse advice line services, telephone triage)

**Open To**

- Sharing ideas
- Sharing resources
- Mentoring
- Potential research collaboration

**Eleanor Chapital, PhD, MSN, RN, AMB-BC**

Clinical Care Coordinator | Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System (SLVHCS)

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**Research Focus**

Dr. Chapital is a Clinical Care Coordinator at the Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System with a scholarly focus on communication in healthcare organizations and its impact on patient care outcomes. She earned her PhD in Communication with an emphasis in Strategic and Organizational Communication in May 2025. Her dissertation, *A Qualitative Study of Registered Nurses' Perceptions of the Impact Communication Modalities Have on Patient Care Outcomes in Primary Care*, explored how communication approaches influence care delivery and outcomes from the nurse perspective. Dr. Chapital is an active member of the Primary Care Research and Evidence-Based Practice Council and is seeking opportunities to engage in collaborative research initiatives focused on communication, leadership, and care coordination across care settings.

**Methodological Expertise**

Qualitative

**Practice / Clinical Setting**

Primary Care; Specialty Care

**Research & Content Areas**

- Leadership (e.g., interprofessional communication, healthy work environments, burnout, nurse retention, organizational policy, political advocacy)
- Care Coordination

**Open To**

- Sharing ideas
- Sharing resources
- Potential research collaboration

**Jessie Desir Ph.D., M.S. Ed., RN, AMB-BC, OCN**

Nurse Scientist | Nurse EdVantage On-Call

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**Professional & Scholarly Focus**

Dr. Jessie Desir is a PhD-prepared Nurse Scientist specializing in translating complex scientific data and clinical trial evidence into clear, actionable education for diverse healthcare audiences. Her work supports frontline clinicians, academic teams, and key opinion leaders in applying oncology evidence to improve patient outcomes. She has disseminated her scholarship nationally and internationally, including an oral abstract at the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) Congress 2025, a poster presentation at the Ambulatory Care Nursing Conference 2025, and a preferred paper oral abstract at the ESMO Congress 2025 in Berlin, Germany. Her work reflects a strong commitment to advancing nursing science, addressing cancer disparities, and strengthening oncology education.

**Methodological Expertise**

Qualitative

**Practice / Clinical Setting**

Community; Nursing school

**Research & Content Areas**

- Ambulatory nurse sensitive indicators;
- Specialty population health (e.g., acute conditions, pediatrics, pediatric mental health, adult mental health, women's health, older adults);
- Patient wellness and prevention (e.g., health promotion, risk reduction, vaccination, cancer screening, tobacco cessation, fall prevention, behavioral change interventions, child development, women's health);
- Medication management;
- Leadership (e.g., interprofessional communication, healthy work environments, burnout, nurse retention, organizational policy, political advocacy)

**Open to**

- Sharing ideas
- Sharing resources
- Potential research collaboration

**Lisa Duncan DNP, MBA, RN, AMB-BC, CIC, NEA-BC VP**

*Regulatory & Clinical Compliance* | Family Health Centers of San Diego

 [lisad@fhcsd.org](mailto:lisad@fhcsd.org)

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**Methodological Expertise**

Quantitative

**Practice / Clinical Setting**

Primary care

**Research & Content Areas**

Risk Management

**Open To**

- Sharing ideas

**Susan B. Fowler, PhD, RN, NE-BC, NPD-BC, FCNS**

*Contributing Faculty* | Walden University

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**Professional & Scholarly Focus**

Dr. Fowler is a nurse scholar and educator whose career spans clinical practice, academic leadership, and nursing research. Her educational background includes a BSN from Marquette University, an MSN from California State University Long Beach with specialization in critical care and neuro clinical nurse specialist practice, and a PhD from Rutgers University.

Her scholarly work centers on leadership in nursing, psychosocial and behavioral variables, professional identity formation, and the roles of clinical nurse specialists and ambulatory care nurses. She has also contributed extensively to research examining hope and its relationship to nursing outcomes and leadership effectiveness.

**Academic & Research Leadership**

Dr. Fowler teaches research methodology in doctoral programs and has served on numerous dissertation committees at Walden University while also mentoring Doctor of Nursing Practice students on quality improvement projects at the University of Central Florida. Her prior professional roles include clinical nurse researcher, nurse scientist, Director of Nursing Research, and Chief Nurse-Researcher. She has also served as a research grant reviewer for regional and national organizations including the Southern Nursing Research Society (SNRS), the American Nurses Foundation (ANF), and the Clinical Nurse Specialist Institute (CNSI), reflecting her longstanding engagement in advancing nursing scholarship.

**Methodological Expertise**

Quantitative; Qualitative

**Practice / Clinical Settings**

Primary care; Specialty care

**Research & Content Areas**

- Leadership (e.g., interprofessional communication, healthy work environments, burnout, nurse retention, organizational policy, political advocacy)
- Specialty population health (e.g., acute conditions, pediatrics, pediatric mental health, adult mental health, women's health, older adults)

**Open To**

- Mentoring
- Potential research collaboration

## **Elizabeth Fritz, PhD, RN, NPDA-BC, EBP-CH**

*RN Scientist* | SSM Health

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### **Professional & Scholarly Focus**

Dr. Fritz is a nurse scientist with expertise in nursing professional development, evidence-based practice (EBP), and ambulatory care nursing. Her program of scholarship focuses on strengthening nursing practice environments, improving professional development structures across health systems, and advancing EBP competency among nurses. In her role at SSM Health, she oversees an evidence-based practice fellowship, designs and conducts research studies, and builds organizational infrastructure to support nursing scholarship. Her work has resulted in multiple peer-reviewed publications, national presentations, and leadership roles within professional organizations, including the Association for Nursing Professional Development (ANPD) and the American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing (AAACN).

Her expertise includes qualitative research, competency models, and dissemination of EBP and research findings, with a strong record of interprofessional collaboration.

### **Methodological Expertise**

Qualitative

### **Practice / Clinical Setting**

Other

### **Research & Content Areas**

- Workforce development (e.g., pre-nursing license education, continuing education, professional development)
- Nursing professional development
- Evidence-based practice and research capacity building
- Ambulatory care nursing research
- Implementation and evaluation of system-level workforce programs

### **Selected Leadership & Professional Roles**

- RN Scientist, SSM Health (2025–present)
- RN Program Manager, SSM Health (2020–2025)
- Editor, *ViewPoint*, American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing (2023–present)
- Chair, ANPD 5th Edition Scope & Standards Workgroup (2024–present)
- Elected Member, ANPD Board of Directors (2023–present)
- Member, AAACN Research Committee (2023–present)

### **Honors & Awards (Selected)**

- Mary Ann Cantrell JNPD Peer Reviewer Award (2025)
- SSM Health Professional Practice Award (2023)
- First Place Poster Award, ANPD Convention (2022)
- Alpha Iota Research Grant (2020)

**Open To**

- Sharing ideas
- Sharing resources
- Potential research collaboration

**Tracy Gosselin, PhD, RN, AOCN, NEA-BC, FAAN**

CNE / SVP / Department Chair | Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

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**Education**

- BSN – Northeastern University, Boston, MA (1993)
- MSN – Duke University School of Nursing, Durham, NC (1997)
- PhD – University of Utah College of Nursing, Salt Lake City, UT (2012)

**Research & Scholarly Focus**

*Oncology-Focused Research*

- Transitions of care
- Symptom management
- Quality of life and symptom burden in rectal cancer
- Functional status in acute leukemia
- Oral chemotherapy adherence

*Work Environment*

- Bullying and incivility in healthcare settings

*Collaborators*

- Primarily nurses and multidisciplinary healthcare team members

*Current Work*

- Ongoing EHR transition study
- Workforce development grants – pending

**Methodological Expertise**

Quantitative

**Practice / Clinical Settings**

Specialty care

**Research & Content Areas**

- Care coordination
- Leadership (e.g., interprofessional communication, healthy work environments, burnout, nurse retention, organizational policy, political advocacy)
- Specialty population health (e.g., acute conditions, pediatrics, pediatric mental health, adult mental health, women’s health, older adults)
- Workforce development (e.g., pre-nursing license education, continuing education, professional development)

**Open To**

- Sharing ideas
- Sharing resources
- Mentoring
- Potential research collaboration

**Margo A. Halm, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN**

Nurse Scientist | AACN | Salem Health | *Independent Nurse Scientist Consultant*

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**Professional & Scholarly Focus**

Dr. Halm is the AACN Nurse Scientist (2022–present) and serves as a nurse scientist with Salem Health Hospitals and Clinics in Salem, Oregon. She is also Principal with DeGuzman and Halm Nursing Innovations, a consultancy that partners with healthcare organizations to build and sustain evidence-based practice (EBP) capacity of nurses and interprofessional teams, advance innovation initiatives, and support rigorous scholarly work that demonstrates meaningful impact across diverse care settings. Prior to her current roles, Dr. Halm spent two decades as a Director of Nursing Research and Evidence-Based Practice in three Magnet®-designated organizations in the Midwest and Oregon. Her work has focused on advancing healthy work environments and accelerating the translation of evidence into practice to improve person-centered outcomes for patients, families and nurses.

**Methodological Expertise**

Quantitative; Qualitative

**Practice / Clinical Setting**

Other

**Research & Content Areas**

- Patient wellness and prevention topics (e.g., holistic and integrative modalities)
- Leadership (e.g., healthy work environments, burnout and resiliency)
- Workforce development (e.g., EBP competency of nurses and nurse leaders)
- Ambulatory care nurse sensitive indicators demonstrating the value of ambulatory care nursing care

**Open To**

- Sharing ideas
- Sharing resources
- Mentoring
- Potential research collaboration

**Corrine Hibbert, DrPH, MPH, BSN, RN, CHES**

Nurse Manager | Harmony Healthcare

 [cehmph69@gmail.com](mailto:cehmph69@gmail.com)

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**Research Focus**

Dr. Hibbert is a healthcare and public health professional focused on increasing and improving access to healthcare services through innovative, evidence-based interventions and implementation strategies. Her work emphasizes building knowledge and capacity among both staff and patients to support equitable, high-quality care delivery.

Her doctoral capstone examined food insecurity as a critical health disparity and highlighted the importance of assessing health-related social needs to identify and refer patients to appropriate resources. She emphasizes the role of food security in chronic disease management and advocates for public health, the nursing profession, and policies that facilitate access to care.

**Methodological Expertise**

Mixed Methods

**Practice / Clinical Setting**

Primary Care

**Research & Content Areas**

- Care Coordination
- Leadership (e.g., interprofessional communication, healthy work environments, burnout, nurse retention, organizational policy, political advocacy)
- Person-Centered Care (e.g., patient wellness and prevention, nurse–patient communication, health literacy interventions)
- Medication Management

**Open To**

- Sharing ideas
- Potential research collaboration

**Stacey Hobbick, DNP, M.Ed., MSN-Ed., RN, AMB-BC, MEDSURG-BC, CNE**

Assistant Professor of Clinical Nursing | Oregon Health & Science University

 [hobbick@ohsu.edu](mailto:hobbick@ohsu.edu)

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### **Research Focus**

Dr. Hobbick's work centers on educational innovation in health professions education, with particular emphasis on simulation-based learning and the integration of generative artificial intelligence. Her most impactful innovation involves the design and evaluation of AI-driven patient simulation scenarios that allow real-time adaptation and personalized feedback, resulting in increased student self-efficacy. She has led the development of AI-based telephone triage simulations for nursing education, work that has been published and presented nationally. Her scholarship advances the use of emerging technologies to enhance clinical reasoning, communication, and preparedness for ambulatory and primary care practice.

### **Methodological Expertise**

Quantitative

### **Practice / Clinical Setting**

Primary Care; Nursing Education

### **Research & Content Areas**

- Telehealth (e.g., nurse advice line services, telephone triage)
- Simulation-Based Education
- Generative Artificial Intelligence in Nursing Education

### **Selected Scholarly Contributions**

- Hobbick SA, Shapiro SD, Shoemake D, Vizgirda J. *Embracing a new frontier: Generative AI in nursing education. Nurse Educator Perspectives*. Accepted April 2025.
- Hobbick SA, Shapiro SD, Vizgirda J. *Teaching telephone triage with ChatGPT: A pre-posttest study of impact on student self-efficacy. Journal of Ambulatory Nursing Care*. 2025;1(2):61-68.
- Hobbick SA. *Simulated telephone triage calls*. AI Pedagogy Project, MetaLab (at) Harvard; 2024.
- Hobbick SA. *Foundations of Ambulatory Care: A Guide for Future Practitioners*. Pressbooks; 2023.

### **Open To**

- Sharing ideas
- Sharing resources
- Mentoring
- Potential research collaboration

## **Marianne H. Hutti, PhD, APRN, FAANP, FAAN**

*Ambulatory Nurse Scientist* | University of Kentucky (UK) HealthCare

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### **Professional & Scholarly Focus**

Dr. Hutti is a Professor Emerita from the University of Louisville and a retired full Professor from the University of Kentucky. She has served as the Nurse Scientist for Ambulatory Services at UK HealthCare since 2019. Her personal research program has focused on women's health, particularly the development and testing of the Perinatal Grief Intensity Scale (PGIS). The PGIS originated from a qualitative study of couples experiencing miscarriage and was subsequently tested among women who experienced miscarriage, abortion, stillbirth, neonatal death, and pregnancy following perinatal loss. The PGIS is brief, reliable, and highly valid, and research has demonstrated its ability to identify individuals at high risk for severe anxiety or depression requiring mental health follow-up within five months of perinatal loss.

### **Current Role & Impact**

Dr. Hutti's current focus is mentoring ambulatory nurses in research, evidence-based practice, and quality improvement at UK HealthCare. Under her mentorship:

- One ambulatory research project is currently in data analysis
- Fourteen ambulatory quality improvement projects are underway
- Three manuscripts with ambulatory nurse authors have been published or are in press for 2026
- Abstract submissions and acceptances include:
  - **2024:** 23 submitted; 20 accepted (regional, national, international)
  - **2025:** 30 submitted; 18 accepted (national and regional)
  - **2026 (to date):** 5 submitted; 4 accepted (national)

### **Methodological Expertise**

Quantitative; Qualitative; Mixed methods

### **Practice / Clinical Setting**

Primary care

### **Research & Content Areas**

- Specialty population health (e.g., women's health, pediatrics, mental health, older adults)
- Ambulatory quality improvement
- Perinatal mental health and grief
- Evidence-based practice mentorship

### **Open To**

- Sharing ideas
- Sharing resources
- Mentoring
- Potential research collaboration

**Kathryn Koehne, DNP**

Director of Nursing & Adjunct Faculty | Crescent Cove & Viterbo University

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**Areas of Expertise / Focus**

- Nursing leadership
- Health policy
- Telehealth

**Methodological Expertise**

Qualitative

**Practice / Content Areas**

Nursing education (nursing school); Other clinical care settings

**Leadership & Care Focus**

Dr. Koehne's work focuses on advancing nursing leadership and policy while promoting healthy work environments and nurse retention. Her interests include strengthening interprofessional communication, supporting person-centered care, and integrating telehealth approaches to improve patient access and engagement.

**Key Content Interests**

- Leadership (e.g., interprofessional communication, healthy work environments, burnout, nurse retention, organizational policy, political advocacy)
- Person-centered care (e.g., patient wellness and prevention, nurse-patient communication, health literacy interventions)
- Telehealth (e.g., nurse-advice line services, telephone triage)

**Open to Collaboration**

- Sharing ideas
- Mentoring

## **Chrystal Lewis, PhD, RN**

*Nurse Scientist* | Stanford Health Care

 [CLewis@stanfordhealthcare.org](mailto:CLewis@stanfordhealthcare.org)

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### **Areas of Expertise / Focus**

- Ambulatory nurse-sensitive indicators
- Care coordination
- Leadership in ambulatory care settings
- Health informatics and digital health in ambulatory care

### **Practice / Content Areas**

Primary care; Specialty care

### **Leadership & Systems Focus**

Dr. Lewis's work focuses on advancing ambulatory nursing practice through the measurement and improvement of nurse-sensitive indicators, strengthening care coordination, and promoting leadership that supports healthy work environments and nurse retention. Her interests also include policy engagement and interprofessional collaboration to improve outcomes in ambulatory care systems.

### **Informatics & Innovation Interests**

- Mobile health applications
- Clinical decision support
- Documentation optimization
- Workflow automation
- Use of artificial intelligence (AI) in ambulatory care
- User experience in clinical technologies

### **Open to Collaboration**

- Sharing ideas
- Sharing resources
- Mentoring
- Potential research collaboration

**Caitlin Martin, DNP, FNP-C**

Cambridge Health Alliance

 [kmartRN@gmail.com](mailto:kmartRN@gmail.com)

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**Methodological Expertise**

Mixed Methods

**Practice / Clinical Setting**

Primary Care

**Open To**

- Sharing ideas
- Sharing resources
- Potential research collaboration

## **Kathy Mertens, DNP, MN, MPH, RN**

Associate Chief Nurse, Ambulatory Care & Population Health | UW Medicine – Harborview Medical Center

 [kmertens@uw.edu](mailto:kmertens@uw.edu)

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### **Areas of Expertise / Focus**

- Ambulatory care leadership and population health
- Technology integration in nursing practice
- Nursing workforce development and pipeline development
- Quality improvement and nursing value optimization

### **Professional Statement**

Dr. Kathy Mertens serves as Associate Chief Nurse for Ambulatory Care and Population Health at UW Medicine – Harborview Medical Center, a Magnet® designated organization, county hospital, and academic medical center. Collaboration, innovation, and results achievement are central to her nursing career. As an executive nurse leader for ambulatory care and community health services, she advocates for equitable care across populations and fosters scholarly inquiry in ambulatory nursing practice.

Her work focuses on care quality, technology integration, workforce pipeline development, and optimizing the value of nursing practice. Dr. Mertens is a past president of the American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing (AAACN), a member of the AAACN Research Committee since 2023, an editorial board member for the *Journal of Ambulatory Care Nursing*, and a core member of AAACN's Project ACTION, which focuses on the use of ambulatory care nursing practice taxonomy in outpatient nursing.

She earned her DNP from Oregon Health & Science University, her MN and MPH from the University of Washington, Seattle, and her BSN from the University of Wisconsin–Madison. Dr. Mertens has contributed to recent research publications on ambulatory care research priorities, ambulatory nurse competencies in evidence-based practice and research, and EHR-based social needs screening and referral in primary care. She has also co-authored publications on strengthening nursing excellence and catalyzing ambulatory nursing actions for the future of nursing.

### **Methodological Expertise**

- Quantitative methods
- Mixed methods

### **Practice / Content Areas**

- Primary care
- Specialty care

### **Key Research & Innovation Interests**

- Informatics (e.g., mobile health applications, clinical decision support, documentation, automation, use of artificial intelligence in ambulatory care, and user experience)
- Ambulatory care research priorities
- Leadership (e.g., interprofessional communication, healthy work environments, burnout, nurse retention, organizational policy, political advocacy)

- Care coordination
- Workforce development (e.g., pre-nursing licensure education, continuing education, professional development)

**Open to Collaboration**

- Sharing ideas
- Potential research collaboration

**Aleesa M. Mobley, PhD, MS, RN, APN-BC**

*Associate Professor; Clerkship Director* | Rowan-Virtua School of Osteopathic Medicine, Rowan University

 [mobley@rowan.edu](mailto:mobley@rowan.edu) (preferred); [aleesamobley@gmail.com](mailto:aleesamobley@gmail.com) (alternate)

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**Professional & Scholarly Focus**

Dr. Mobley is a board-certified Adult Health Nurse Practitioner based in Stratford, New Jersey, providing ambulatory care services in Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, with subspecialty practice in chronic pain management, substance use disorders, and research. She earned her PhD from Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey (Newark) in 2014. Since 2019, she has served as a Clerkship Director at Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine. Her scholarly work includes mentoring graduate medical students in human subjects research (case studies and systematic reviews) and leading SAMHSA grant-funded online curriculum development for chronic pain (6.5 hours) and substance use disorders (8 hours).

**Methodological Expertise**

Quantitative

**Practice / Clinical Setting**

Primary care; Specialty care

**Research & Content Areas**

- Leadership (e.g., interprofessional communication, healthy work environments, burnout, nurse retention, organizational policy, political advocacy)
- Code of conduct and professionalism
- Pain perceptions
- Statistical analysis (descriptive statistics, correlations, linear and multiple regression)

**Open To**

- Mentoring
- Potential research collaboration
- Sharing ideas

**Donnya Mogensen, PhD, RN, NPD-BC**

*Clinical Education Specialist* | Children's Hospital Colorado

 [Donnya.mogensen@childrenscolorado.org](mailto:Donnya.mogensen@childrenscolorado.org)

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**Areas of Expertise / Focus**

- Nursing leadership in clinical education
- Workforce development and professional development
- Nursing education across clinical and community settings

**Methodological Expertise**

Quantitative

**Practice / Content Areas**

Primary care; K–12 health settings

**Leadership & Education Focus**

Dr. Mogensen's work centers on strengthening the nursing workforce through education, leadership development, and professional growth opportunities. Her interests include advancing healthy work environments, supporting nurse retention, and promoting effective interprofessional communication within healthcare and community-based settings.

**Key Content Interests**

- Leadership (e.g., interprofessional communication, healthy work environments, burnout, nurse retention, organizational policy, political advocacy)
- Workforce development (e.g., pre-nursing licensure education, continuing education, professional development)

**Open to Collaboration**

- Mentoring
- Sharing resources

**Edtrina Moss, PhD, RN, MBA, NE-BC, AMB-BC, CPHQ, CPCHE, CLSSGB**

*Senior Performance Improvement Specialist* | Harris Health

 [edtrinam1@gmail.com](mailto:edtrinam1@gmail.com)

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### **Areas of Expertise / Focus**

- Nursing performance improvement and quality outcomes
- Nurse competence and professional practice
- Chronic kidney disease management
- Telehealth and care coordination

### **Professional Statement**

Dr. Moss is a PhD-prepared nurse leader specializing in nursing science, quality improvement, and performance improvement in healthcare systems. As a Senior Performance Improvement Specialist at Harris Health, her work focuses on strengthening nursing practice and improving patient outcomes through data-driven quality and performance initiatives.

Her research and scholarly interests include nurse competence, chronic kidney disease management, and the integration of telehealth and care coordination models in healthcare delivery. Dr. Moss applies quantitative methods and quality improvement frameworks to evaluate care processes and support evidence-based decision-making across clinical settings.

### **Methodological Expertise**

- Quantitative methods
- Quality and performance improvement methodologies

### **Practice / Content Areas**

- Specialty care
- Primary care

### **Key Research & Innovation Interests**

- Leadership (e.g., interprofessional communication, healthy work environments, burnout, nurse retention, organizational policy, political advocacy)
- Patient wellness and prevention (e.g., health promotion, risk reduction, vaccination, cancer screening, tobacco cessation, fall prevention, behavioral change interventions, child development, women's health)
- Telehealth (e.g., nurse-advice line services, telephone triage)

### **Open to Collaboration**

- Sharing ideas
- Sharing resources
- Potential research collaboration

**Denise A. Moultrie, EdD, MSN, RN, NEA-BC, CNOR, CCNS**

*Vice President, Clinical Operations – Emory Healthcare Population Health Collaborative | Emory Healthcare*

 [dmoul42418@gmail.com](mailto:dmoul42418@gmail.com)

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**Areas of Expertise / Focus**

- Population health and clinical operations
- Nursing leadership and organizational strategy
- Patient wellness, prevention, and health promotion
- Care coordination across populations and settings

**Methodological Expertise**

Mixed methods

**Practice / Content Areas**

Primary care; Other healthcare settings

**Leadership & Population Health Focus**

Dr. Moultrie's work focuses on advancing population health strategies through strong nursing leadership, interdisciplinary collaboration, and systems-level innovation. Her interests include improving patient wellness and prevention initiatives, optimizing medication management, and strengthening care coordination to support diverse patient populations across the continuum of care.

**Key Research & Innovation Interests**

- Leadership (e.g., interprofessional communication, healthy work environments, burnout, nurse retention, organizational policy, political advocacy)
- Medication management
- Patient wellness and prevention (e.g., health promotion, risk reduction, vaccination, cancer screening, tobacco cessation, fall prevention, behavioral change interventions, child development, women's health)
- Specialty population health (e.g., acute conditions, pediatrics, pediatric mental health, adult mental health, women's health, older adults)
- Workforce development (e.g., pre-nursing licensure education, continuing education, professional development)
- Informatics (e.g., mobile health applications, clinical decision support, documentation, automation, use of artificial intelligence in ambulatory care, and user experience)
- Care coordination

**Open to Collaboration**

- Sharing ideas
- Potential research collaboration

**Jackie Nikpour, PhD, RN**

Assistant Professor | Emory University, Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing

 [janikpour@emory.edu](mailto:janikpour@emory.edu)

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**Research Focus**

Dr. Nikpour is a tenure-track Assistant Professor at the Emory University Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing and serves as an Advisory Board member of the Georgia Nursing Workforce Center. Her research examines the relationships between emerging models of nursing care delivery and equitable patient outcomes, with particular emphasis on primary care settings. Her work demonstrates that when health systems and primary care organizations invest in resources that support high-quality nursing care, patient outcomes improve, racial and socioeconomic disparities are reduced, and nurse well-being is strengthened. She is especially interested in care delivery models that leverage primary care registered nurses in Medicare Annual Wellness Visits and other revenue-generating primary care models.

**Methodological Expertise**

Quantitative; Qualitative; Mixed Methods

**Practice / Clinical Setting**

Primary Care

**Research & Content Areas**

- Care Coordination
- Ambulatory Nurse-Sensitive Indicators
- Workforce Development (e.g., pre-licensure education, continuing education, professional development)
- Patient Wellness and Prevention (e.g., health promotion, risk reduction, vaccination, cancer screening, behavioral change interventions, women's health)

**Open To**

- Sharing ideas
- Sharing resources
- Mentoring
- Potential research collaboration

**Assanatu I. Savage, PhD, DNP, FNP-BC, FAANP**

Nurses ETC

 [iyatutu1@gmail.com](mailto:iyatutu1@gmail.com)

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### **Professional & Scholarly Focus**

Dr. Savage is a highly published nurse practitioner and scholar with extensive experience in editorial review, manuscript development, and evidence synthesis. Her contributions include serving as a manuscript editor for the *American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing Newsletter (Viewpoint)*, Editorial Board Member for *The Journal for Nurse Practitioners*, and reviewer for multiple high-impact journals including *Worldviews on Evidence-Based Nursing*, *Journal of Nursing Scholarship*, and *Military Medicine*. She has reviewed core curriculum and standards chapters for ambulatory care nursing, served as an abstract and Embase screener for Cochrane Reviews, and contributed published work to Wolters Kluwer/Lippincott. Dr. Savage is also an academic coach for online learning, an advisory group member for the American Association of Nurse Practitioners Research Network, and a continuing education pilot test reviewer for AANP.

### **Methodological Expertise**

Quantitative; Qualitative; Mixed methods

### **Practice / Community Setting**

Primary care; Community

### **Research & Content Areas**

- Person-centered care (e.g., patient wellness/prevention, nurse–patient communication, health literacy interventions)
- Patient wellness and prevention (e.g., health promotion, risk reduction, vaccination, cancer screening, tobacco cessation, fall prevention, behavioral change interventions, child development, women’s health)
- Specialty population health (e.g., acute conditions, pediatrics, pediatric mental health, adult mental health, women’s health, older adults)
- Leadership (e.g., interprofessional communication, healthy work environments, burnout, nurse retention, organizational policy, political advocacy)

### **Open To**

- Sharing ideas
- Sharing resources
- Mentoring
- Potential research collaboration

**Karla Schroeder, DNP, APRN, MHA, ANP-BC, NE-BC**

Vice President & Chief Nursing Officer, Ambulatory and Virtual Care | Emory Healthcare

 [Karla.Schroeder@emoryhealthcare.org](mailto:Karla.Schroeder@emoryhealthcare.org)

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**Areas of Expertise / Focus**

- Ambulatory care leadership
- Virtual care models
- Care transitions and patient journey redesign
- Patient-centered healthcare system transformation

**Professional Statement**

Dr. Schroeder's work focuses on redesigning healthcare systems to support safe, equitable, and patient-centered care across the continuum, with particular emphasis on ambulatory care, virtual care, and care transitions. As Vice President of Patient Care Services and Chief Nursing Officer for Ambulatory and Virtual Care at Emory Healthcare, she leads enterprise initiatives that integrate nursing practice, technology, and interdisciplinary collaboration to improve patient outcomes and workforce sustainability.

A Doctor of Nursing Practice-prepared nurse practitioner with training in health administration, Dr. Schroeder centers her work on translating evidence into operational care models. Her initiatives include the development of virtual nursing programs, redesign of ambulatory care management structures, and implementation of systems that strengthen care transitions and patient journey mapping across inpatient, outpatient, and home settings. She collaborates closely with academic partners, including the Emory University Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing, to advance nursing practice through research, education, and workforce development. Her scholarship explores the evolving role of nursing leadership in ambulatory and virtual care environments, the design of technology-enabled care models, and the integration of human caring principles into complex healthcare systems. Through this work, Dr. Schroeder aims to develop scalable and sustainable care models that strengthen the nursing workforce, improve patient experience, and enhance health system performance.

**Methodological Expertise**

Quantitative; Qualitative; Mixed methods

**Practice / Content Areas**

Specialty care; Primary care

**Key Research & Innovation Interests**

- Ambulatory nurse-sensitive indicators
- Care coordination
- Leadership (e.g., interprofessional communication, healthy work environments, burnout, nurse retention, organizational policy, political advocacy)
- Person-centered care (e.g., patient wellness/prevention, nurse-patient communication, health literacy interventions)
- Telehealth (e.g., nurse-advice line services, telephone triage)
- Workforce development (e.g., pre-licensure education, continuing education, prof. development)

- Informatics (e.g., mobile health applications, clinical decision support, documentation, automation, use of artificial intelligence in ambulatory care, and user experience)

**Open to Collaboration**

- Mentoring
- Sharing ideas
- Sharing resources

**Kristen Shear, PhD, MSN, RN**

Chief, Center for Nursing Science and Clinical Inquiry | Brooke Army Medical Center

 [kristenshear@gmail.com](mailto:kristenshear@gmail.com)

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**Areas of Expertise / Focus**

- Implementation science
- Evidence-based practice (EBP) in ambulatory and community settings
- Nursing research leadership
- Translation of evidence into practice and systems improvement

**Professional Statement**

Dr. Shear is a PhD-prepared nurse scientist whose work focuses on implementation science and advancing research and evidence-based practice in healthcare systems. As Chief of the Center for Nursing Science and Clinical Inquiry at Brooke Army Medical Center, she supports both research and EBP initiatives using a range of implementation science frameworks, often applying mixed methods approaches to evaluate and implement practice innovations.

She currently serves as Chair of the American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing (AAACN) Research Committee and brings broad research experience from her work as a military nurse scientist. Her recent and ongoing projects include a scoping review of ambulatory care nursing, identification of ambulatory nursing research priorities, meaningful recognition for ambulatory care nurses, burnout reduction initiatives, canine-facilitated interventions, nurse-sensitive indicators, non-pharmacological interventions for insomnia, use of artificial intelligence for research and EBP, screening for child abuse and neglect, safe patient handling and early mobility, simulation including augmented reality, and validation of clinical decision support systems.

Dr. Shear's mixed methods expertise includes qualitative data collection and analysis, development of interview guides linked to theoretical frameworks, codebook development, and qualitative analysis using NVivo and DeDoose software with inter-rater reliability assessment. Her quantitative work commonly uses RStudio and Excel for descriptive and inferential statistical analysis. She integrates qualitative insights with quantitative findings to strengthen interpretation and translation of results into practice.

**Methodological Expertise**

Mixed methods; Qualitative

**Practice / Content Areas**

Primary care; Community health

**Key Research & Innovation Interests**

- Leadership (e.g., interprofessional communication, healthy work environments, burnout, nurse retention, organizational policy, political advocacy)
- Person-centered care (e.g., patient wellness/prevention, nurse-patient communication, health literacy interventions)
- Patient wellness and prevention (e.g., health promotion, risk reduction, vaccination, cancer screening, tobacco cessation, fall prevention, behavioral change interventions, child development, women's health)

- Specialty population health (e.g., acute conditions, pediatrics, pediatric mental health, adult mental health, women's health, older adults)
- Informatics (e.g., mobile health applications, clinical decision support, documentation, automation, use of artificial intelligence in ambulatory care, and user experience)
- Ambulatory nurse-sensitive indicators
- Care coordination
- Workforce development (e.g., pre-nursing licensure education, continuing education, professional development)

**Open to Collaboration**

- Sharing ideas
- Sharing resources
- Mentoring
- Potential research collaboration

**Diane Storer Sung, RN, BSN, MSN, PhD** (Formerly Diane Storer Brown)

Retired; Adjunct Faculty, Viterbo University | Viterbo University

 [dianerosesung@gmail.com](mailto:dianerosesung@gmail.com)

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### **Professional Summary**

One of the founding contributors to translating nursing-sensitive measures from the inpatient to the ambulatory setting, with over 30 years of quantitative research experience bridging hospital and outpatient environments.

Currently retired from full-time roles and serving as Adjunct Faculty at Viterbo University in La Crosse, Wisconsin, mentoring doctoral nursing students in research development and scholarly projects. Author of 50 peer-reviewed publications, primarily research-focused, published largely under the name Diane Storer Brown.

### **Methodological Expertise**

Quantitative

### **Practice / Clinical Settings**

Primary care; Procedural center

### **Research & Content Areas**

- Ambulatory nurse-sensitive indicators

### **Open To**

- Advising on research ideas
- Mentoring for publications

## **Jessica Varghese, PhD, RN**

Associate Professor, Nursing | New York Institute of Technology

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### **Research Focus**

Dr. Varghese is a tenured Associate Professor of Nursing at New York Institute of Technology (NYIT), where she has served since 2019 in both faculty and leadership roles, including Director of the RN to BS Program (2019–2024). With over two decades of experience in clinical practice, education, and healthcare leadership, she brings a multidisciplinary perspective bridging nursing practice, policy, and education.

Her scholarly work focuses on professional identity formation, trauma-informed care, health equity, global and environmental health, and the social determinants of health. Dr. Varghese has published widely in peer-reviewed journals including *Nursing Outlook*, *Journal of Professional Nursing*, and *Nursing Economics*, and regularly contributes to professional publications addressing contemporary health policy and practice issues.

A frequent presenter at national and international conferences, she delivers lectures and workshops on climate and health advocacy, cultural humility, academic writing, and healthcare leadership. Her academic and professional service includes leadership and committee roles with organizations such as the American Nurses Association, the Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments, and the American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing. Her work reflects a strong commitment to equity, innovation, and evidence-based practice in nursing education and healthcare delivery.

### **Methodological Expertise**

Qualitative; Quantitative; Mixed Methods

### **Practice / Clinical Setting**

Community; Nursing Education

### **Research & Content Areas**

- Leadership (e.g., interprofessional communication, healthy work environments, burnout, nurse retention, organizational policy, political advocacy)
- Workforce Development (e.g., pre-licensure education, continuing education, professional development)
- Informatics (e.g., mobile health applications, clinical decision support, documentation, automation, AI in ambulatory care, user experience)
- Patient Wellness and Prevention (e.g., health promotion, risk reduction, vaccination, cancer screening, tobacco cessation, fall prevention, behavioral change interventions, child development, women's health)

### **Open To**

- Potential research collaboration

## **Stephanie G. Witwer, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN**

Consultant

 [witwer.stephanie@mayo.edu](mailto:witwer.stephanie@mayo.edu)

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### **Areas of Expertise / Focus**

- Care coordination across adult, pediatric, and integrated behavioral health settings
- Chronic disease management and sustained health behavior change
- Nursing contributions to patient outcomes and nurse-sensitive indicators

### **Professional Statement**

Dr. Witwer completed her PhD in 2013 while serving in an executive leadership role. Although her administrative responsibilities limited the time available to lead independent research, she participated in several research studies focused on care coordination, many of which have been published. She has also mentored principal investigators and clinical teams conducting quality improvement initiatives that resulted in peer-reviewed publications.

Her research interests include care coordination across populations, chronic disease management, and sustaining patient behavior change. Her dissertation examined the maintenance of healthy behavior changes, and she has participated in both published and unpublished quality improvement studies related to primary care populations.

Dr. Witwer's current interests focus on connecting patient outcomes to nursing interventions through the use of standardized taxonomies. She is particularly interested in building a stronger scientific foundation for nurse-sensitive indicators that link nursing interventions with measurable outcomes, with the goal of supporting advocacy, recognition of nursing contributions, and reimbursement for nursing care. She is interested in engaging with a collaborative community of researchers to further strengthen her research methodology skills, particularly in quantitative methods.

### **Selected Publications**

McCabe PJ, Schaepe KS, Lampman MA, Mattson AB, Witwer SG. (2025). *Implementing patient-centered goal-setting in practice: Perspectives of primary care nurses. Scandinavian Journal of Caring Sciences*, 39(2), e70018.

Savitz ST, Lampman MA, Inselman SA, Dholakia R, Hunt VL, Mattson AB, Stroebel RJ, McCabe PJ, Witwer SG, Boran BJ. (2024). *Overcoming challenges in real-world evidence generation: An example from an Adult Medical Care Coordination Program*. Learning Health Systems.

Additional manuscript under review: *Nurse-Led Care Coordination Reduces Readmissions and Costs in High-Risk Patients* (quantitative study).

### **Methodological Expertise**

Qualitative; Mixed methods

### **Practice / Content Areas**

Primary care

### **Key Research & Innovation Interests**

- Ambulatory nurse-sensitive indicators
- Care coordination

- Specialty population health (e.g., acute conditions, pediatrics, pediatric mental health, adult mental health, women's health, older adults)

**Open to Collaboration**

- Mentoring
- Sharing ideas
- Sharing resources

**Jim Woodard, DNP, MBA, RN**

Chief Clinical & Innovation Officer | TRU Community Care and St. Paul's Senior Services

 [jimwoodard@trucare.org](mailto:jimwoodard@trucare.org)

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**Professional & Scholarly Focus**

Dr. Jim Woodard is a seasoned healthcare executive with more than 15 years of senior leadership experience spanning inpatient and outpatient care environments. His educational preparation includes a BA in Biology from the University of Northern Colorado, a BSN and MBA from Regis University, and a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree in Executive Leadership from Oklahoma Wesleyan University. He is widely recognized for translating innovation and evidence-based strategies into scalable healthcare delivery models. His scholarly and professional interests include telemedicine, healthcare innovation, emergency preparedness, and clinical advancement. Dr. Woodard has presented original evidence-based work at numerous national conferences, contributing to dialogue on system redesign and technology-enabled care.

**Current Role & Impact**

Dr. Woodard currently serves as Chief Clinical & Innovation Officer at TRU Community Care and St. Paul's Senior Services, organizations that provide patient and resident services across Colorado and California. His leadership portfolio includes the design and implementation of several pioneering initiatives, including:

- Launching Colorado's first Transient Ischemic Attack (TIA) clinic
- Establishing a telemedicine service line for palliative care and hospice populations
- Creating Colorado's first residency program for new graduate RNs in hospice and palliative care

These initiatives demonstrate a sustained focus on access, quality, and workforce development within community-based and home-centered care models.

**Methodological Expertise**

Quantitative

**Practice / Clinical Settings**

Home health, Community

**Research & Content Areas**

- Telehealth (e.g., nurse-advice line services, telephone triage)
- Leadership (e.g., interprofessional communication, healthy work environments, burnout, nurse retention, organizational policy, political advocacy)
- Specialty population health (e.g., acute conditions, pediatrics, pediatric mental health, adult mental health, women's health, older adults)
- Emergency preparedness

**Open To**

- Sharing ideas
- Sharing resources
- Mentoring
- Potential research collaboration

**Portia J. Zaire, PhD, RN**

Postdoctoral Fellow | University of Michigan

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**Research Focus**

Dr. Zaire has more than 18 years of clinical, leadership, and academic experience as a registered nurse and has dedicated her career to improving cancer prevention and survivorship outcomes for medically underserved populations. Her early work in Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) revealed persistent inequities in access to preventive care and informed her commitment to equity-centered, system-level change. As Director of Nursing at the largest FQHC in Central Ohio, she led clinical teams across 10 health centers, redesigned care delivery models, and developed analytic tools to support real-time decision-making.

She completed her PhD in Nursing at The Ohio State University in 2024, receiving advanced training in mixed-methods research, multilevel modeling, and community-engaged approaches to address structural drivers of cancer disparities. Her dissertation examined colorectal cancer screening experiences among Black men and identified organizational predictors of screening uptake using multilevel FQHC data. She is currently completing postdoctoral training through the National Clinician Scholars Program and the Cancer Control and Population Sciences T32 at the University of Michigan, where she is expanding expertise in cancer care delivery, policy analysis and translation, and intervention design.

Her current research focuses on improving the quality and equity of colorectal cancer screening and survivorship care in primary care and oncology settings. Recent projects include policy analysis of federal payment updates to patient navigation, EHR-based studies of care management utilization among patients eligible for CRC screening, and a multidisciplinary quality-improvement initiative evaluating multilevel interventions to improve access to colonoscopy and navigation services. Additional work includes a global scoping review of licensed nurses' cancer screening behaviors and an observational study linking SEER and survey data to examine survivorship care and guideline-concordant screening among breast cancer survivors. Her work has been recognized through the National Cancer Institute's Clinical Research Loan Repayment Program.

**Methodological Expertise**

Mixed Methods

**Practice / Clinical Setting**

Primary Care; Community

**Research & Content Areas**

- Patient Wellness and Prevention (e.g., health promotion, risk reduction, cancer screening, behavioral change interventions, women's health)

**Open To**

- Sharing resources
- Mentoring
- Potential research collaboration