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The Niedfelt Nursing Research Center staff compiles the content in the NNRC Quarterly. Our goal is to highlight research and other sponsored efforts by College of Nursing faculty. Email nnrc@unmc.edu to let us know about your scholarly achievements so we may feature you in future newsletters!

UPCOMING PAVER SESSIONS

March 13, 2024 – PowerPoint 101: Simple Skills to Maximize Dissemination Impact, presented by Kirsten Hepburn (PhD Student) – This was presented as part of a larger Workshop with Drs. Klein and Vandermause to help boost skills in disseminating research.

PAVER is a standing meeting offered twice per month via Zoom that provides a forum for CON research faculty and students to discuss/obtain input on works in progress (e.g., grant proposals, specific parts of grant proposals, papers, presentations, etc.), as well as to share resources and ideas that support research/scholarship endeavors. The name PAVER reflects the type of work we aim to accomplish during these meetings “Positive, Accountable, Visionary, Energetic, Research”. View the full PAVER schedule and sign-up here or by emailing nnrc@unmc.edu.
Q2 GRANT APPLICATIONS - SUMMARY

OCTOBER TOTAL REQUESTS: $148,720
- UNMC Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center (FPBCC): $75,000
- Great Plains IDeA-CTR: $50,000

NOVEMBER TOTAL REQUESTS: $3,980,976
- NIH National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute: $3,871,159
- NIH via UT Southwestern Medical Center subcontract: $64,949
- NIH via University of Illinois Chicago subcontract: $19,868
- Great Plains IDeA-CTR: $25,000

DECEMBER TOTAL REQUESTS: $227,423
- American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) Foundation: $75,000
- NU Nebraska Research Initiative Funds: $152,423

Q2: Overview

TOTAL REQUESTS $4,333,399
**OCTOBER APPLICATIONS**

- **TITLE:** Aerobic vs. Resistance Activity Breaks to Reduce Sedentary Time and Improve Physical Function in Older Adult Cancer Survivors: A feasibility study
- **PI:** Kristin Dickinson, PhD, RN, OCN
- **CO-Is:** Sheri Rowland, PhD, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC; Anna Schwartz, PhD, FNP-BC, FAAN
- **SOURCE:** Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center (Internal)
- **AMOUNT:** $75,000
- **DESCRIPTION:** The objective of the proposed study is to design and test the feasibility and acceptability of a remotely delivered behavioral intervention to reduce sedentary time and improve physical function in older (aged 65+ years) cancer survivors living in Nebraska. This project consists of 2 phases: 1) collaborating with a community advisory board (CAB) and conducting focus groups to inform the final design of the intervention and study procedures and 2) a feasibility study with 36 sedentary older adult cancer survivors. This phase will evaluate the feasibility and acceptability of a 3-month, remotely delivered and individualized, behavioral intervention to reduce sedentary time using short, frequent bouts of (a) light-intensity aerobic activity (STEPS) or (b) light-intensity resistance activity (STRENGTH) at regular intervals throughout the day.
- **PROJECT START/END DATES:** 01/01/24-12/31/24

- **TITLE:** Conversational Technology for Real-time Evaluation of the Pain Experience in Older Adults
- **PI:** Marcia Shade, PhD, RN
- **SOURCE:** Great Plains IDeA-CTR
- **AMOUNT:** $50,000
- **DESCRIPTION:** The overall objective of this proposal is to build and refine a pre-trained natural language processing model. Integrate the model into the prototype’s architecture, conduct testing, and deploy the app for closed beta testing. PAINChat will interact with older adults to collect information about the biopsychosocial pain experience and pain’s impact on daily life.
- **PROJECT START/END DATES:** 07/01/24-06/30/25

**NOVEMBER APPLICATIONS**

- **TITLE:** Targeted Adaptations in Functional Status with Optimal Personalized Exercise in Heart Failure with Preserved Ejection Fractions: TAILOR-exPEF
- **PI:** Windy Alonso, PhD, RN
- **SOURCE:** NIH via UT Southwestern Med Center subcontract
- **AMOUNT:** $64,949
- **DESCRIPTION:** The overall objective of this proposal is gaining knowledge on how to optimize exercise strategies to achieve functional status improvements in adults with heart failure with preserved ejection fraction.
- **PROJECT START/END DATES:** 07/01/24-06/30/29

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**NOVEMBER APPLICATIONS - CONTINUED**

- **TITLE:** Motivational Enhancement and Device Support Interventions to Increase Continuous Positive Airway Pressure Therapy Adherence in Adults with Obstructive Sleep Apnea  
  - **PI:** Jen Miller, PhD, APRN-NP  
  - **CO-I:** Michele Balas, PhD, RN, CCRN-K, FCCM, FAAN  
  - **SOURCE:** NIH  
  - **AMOUNT:** $3,871,159  
  - **DESCRIPTION:** The overall objective of the proposed project is to evaluate a telehealth-delivered adaptive intervention for persons newly diagnosed with OSA that promotes CPAP adherence and improves health outcomes and assess potential mediators and moderators of treatment response  
  - **PROJECT START/END DATES:** 07/01/24-06/30/29

- **TITLE:** A Randomized Controlled Trial to Reduce Hopelessness Through Enhanced Physical Activity in Patients with Ischemic Heart Disease: Feasibility and Acceptability among Ethnically Diverse Rural Adults  
  - **PI:** Windy Alonso, PhD, RN  
  - **SOURCE:** NIH via University of Illinois-Chicago subcontract  
  - **AMOUNT:** $19,868  
  - **DESCRIPTION:** The overall objective of the proposed project is to perform pooled analyses of data across three SMART Center pilot studies to assess associations between blood markers of neurodegenerative processes and neural task differentiation (measured by fMRI) in response to different types of health information. Assess the relationships between these blood markers of neurodegeneration and a set of neuropsychiatric and cognitive functioning symptoms associated with preclinical ADRD.  
  - **PROJECT START/END DATES:** 07/01/24-06/30/26

- **TITLE:** Impact Evaluation of a Community-Driven Maternal Wellness Program in Nebraska  
  - **PI:** Libby Mollard, PhD, WHNP-BC, CNM  
  - **SOURCE:** Great Plains IDeA-CTR  
  - **AMOUNT:** $25,000  
  - **DESCRIPTION:** The overall goal of our application is to strengthen our existing team while also evaluating the impact of the current programs at Malone Maternal Wellness to add to our preliminary evidence for an R01 application in June of 2025. The proposed work will assess the Malone Maternal Wellness program’s impact on maternal health outcomes in Black, Indigenous, and Person of Color (BIPOC) individuals in Nebraska by comparing 75 previous program participants with 75 matched controls. We will analyze medical records, looking at both pregnancy outcomes and overall health outcomes (up to three years postpartum). We will additionally conduct in-depth qualitative interviews with 25 past program participants to understand the program’s influence on maternal experience and health outcomes.  
  - **PROJECT START/END DATES:** 07/01/24-06/30/25

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DECEMBER APPLICATIONS

**TITLE:** Perspectives of Primary Care Providers and Pharmacists on Deprescribing  
**PI:** Jessica (JJ) Miller, PhD, RN  
**CO-Is:** Sue Barnason, PhD, ARPN-CNS, CEN, CCRN, FAEN, FAHA, FAAN; Kevin Kupzyk, PhD  
**SOURCE:** ASHP- American Society of Health-System Pharmacists Foundation  
**AMOUNT:** $75,000  
**DESCRIPTION:** Polypharmacy is a rapidly increasing health concern, affecting 37% of the global population. Inappropriate polypharmacy, or the use of excessive or unnecessary medications, is associated with reduced quality of life, increased mortality, fall risk, and health care costs to the patient and health care system. Deprescribing is the systematic identification and discontinuation, reduction, or optimization of medications by a supervising prescriber to reduce polypharmacy and improve patient health  
**PROJECT START/END DATES:** 07/01/24-06/30/25

**TITLE:** Innovations in Rural and Latino Men’s Health to Increase Screening, Treatment, and Engagement in Patient-Centered Outcomes Research (PCOR) for Cancer Prevention and Early Intervention  
**PI:** Trina Aguirre, PhD, RN (lead)  
**CO-PIs:** Mathew J. Burton, MSN, APRN, FNP-C, CDCES; Roxanne Vandermause, PhD, RN  
**SOURCE:** NU Nebraska Research Initiative Funds  
**AMOUNT:** $96,180  
**DESCRIPTION:** The purpose of the proposed project is to substantially prepare rural and Latino men to participate in a new externally funded patient-centered outcomes research institute (PCORI) engagement project, following their involvement in this innovative cancer screening, prevention, and early intervention initiative at their workplaces.  
**PROJECT START/END DATES:** 07/01/24-06/30/25

**TITLE:** Feasibility of Using Chatbots to Improve Communication Skills in Health Professions  
**PI:** Suhasini Kotcherlakota, PhD (lead)  
**CO-PIs:** Beth Culross, PhD, APRN-CNS, GCNS-BC, CRRN, FNGNA; Douglass Haas, DNP, APRN-NP, FNP-BC-AGACNP-BC, Kevin Kupzyk, PhD  
**SOURCE:** NU Nebraska Research Initiative Funds  
**AMOUNT:** $45,311  
**DESCRIPTION:** Our primary purpose is to create and test the feasibility of an artificial intelligence chatbot system designed to enhance the learning experience of health professions students during history-taking interviews.  
**PROJECT START/END DATES:** 07/01/24-06/30/25

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DECEMBER APPLICATIONS - CONTINUED

• TITLE: Wearable measures of social connectedness in urban and rural dementia dyad
• PI: Michele Balas, PhD, RN, CCRN-K, FCCM, FAAN
• CO-PI: Mariya Kovaleva, RN, PhD, MS, AGPCNP-BC
• SOURCE: NU Nebraska Research Initiative Funds
• AMOUNT: $10,932
• DESCRIPTION: The project will examine whether wearables can be used to measure interpersonal connectedness between persons with dementia and spousal caregivers.

PROJECT START/END DATES: 07/01/24-06/30/25

FUNDING NEWS

NEWLY FUNDED GRANTS

$5,000 ($5,000 direct + $0 indirect)
Machine Learning for Conversational Pain Assessment Technology in Older Adults

Sponsor: American Society of Pain Management Nursing  
Project Period: 11/2023-10/2024  
Total funding: $5,000 ($5,000 direct + $0 indirect)

Project description: Pain is a significant problem in older adults, and it remains undermanaged. Historically, pain management has included an assessment using numerical rating scales, limited pain qualifiers, and pain diaries which are subject to recall bias. Conversational technology (such as chatbot software) may be a more natural and effective way of disclosing the biopsychosocial dynamics of pain. The purpose of this proposal is to incorporate and test machine learning models (MLM) for the ecological momentary assessment (EMA) of pain in older adults within their natural environment. The overarching aim of this work is to offer accessible technology that supports the consistent evidence-based real-time assessment of pain in older adults. This study has the potential to impact pain monitoring and the communication of the pain experience.

Through this grant support, Dr. Shade is growing her program of research focused on innovative digital health-aided solutions that enhance care and symptom management and ultimately improve the quality of life of older adults!

PROJECT TEAM

PI: Marcia Shade, PhD, RN, Assistant Professor, UNMC CON-Omaha  
Co-I: Stephen Scott, DSc in Computer Science, Associate Professor, UNL School of Computing  
Graduate Research Assistant: Mrinal Rawool, MS, Doctor of Philosophy Student at Computer Science at UNL
STUDENT RESEARCH

Students to Represent UNMC in Upcoming Midwest Nursing Research Society 2024 Convention’s Student Poster Session in Minneapolis, MN

BSN Students

Kyle Hughes
Support for partner and family caregivers of SGD women with breast cancer: An integrative review
Mentors: Robin M. Lally, PhD, RN, MS, BA, AOCN, FAAN, & Andy Lim, BSN, RN

Jillian Bierbower
Touchscreen crash cart dashboard insights: Registered nurses’ observations and evaluations
Mentors: Missy Ofe Fleck, PhD, MSN, RN, Janet L. Nieveen, PhD, RN, & Suhasini Kotcherlakota, PhD

Troy Scheer
Participant outcome expectations may influence adherence to exercise
Mentors: Windy Alonso, PhD, RN, Erin Salahshurian, BSN, RN, & Bunny Pozehl, PhD, APRN-NP, FHFSA, FAHA, FAAN

DNP Students

Justice Uwazurike BSN, RN, PMH-BC, Crystal Waters BSN, RN, & Troyia Anderson APRN-NP, PMHNP-BC
Enhancing Identification of Maternal Postpartum Depression During Pediatric Well-Child Visits
Mentors: Margaret R. Emerson DNP, APRN, PMHNP-BC, & Leeza Struwe PhD, MSN, RN

Gloria Kokes, APRN, FNP-C
Enhancing a Chronic Kidney Disease Screening Process
Mentor: Lynne Buchanan PhD, APRN-NP, BC

Kassidy Horst MSN, APRN, WHNP-BC, FNP-C & Bianca Lowe BSN-RN
Sexual Health Care at a University Student Health Center: Outcomes of a Quality Improvement Project
Mentors: Dawn Tasssemeyer DNP, APRN, FNP-C, & Sheri Rowland PhD, APRN, FNP-BC

PhD Students

Rebecca Johnson-Beller PhD(c), BSN, RN
Feasibility and Acceptability of a Dietary Health Coach Intervention in a Rural Primary Care Setting
Mentors: Sue Barnason PhD, RN, APRN-CNS, CEN, CCRN, FAEN, FAHA, FAAN, Sheri Rowland PhD, APRN, FNP-BC, Leeza Struwe PhD, MSN, RN, & Athena Ramos PhD, MBA, MS, CPM

Lauren Longacre, BS, BA, BSN, RN
Implications of Perceptions of Mpox in MSM
Mentors: Beth Beam PhD, RN & Marcia Shade PhD, RN

Gisele Tlusty, MSN, RN
Physical Activity During Hospitalization for Stem Cell Transplant
Mentors: Ann Berger PhD, MSN, RN, FAAN & Windy Alonso, PhD, RN, FHFSA

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Three additional students will represent UNMC in the MNRS 2024 Competitive Poster Competition:

- **Jillian Bierbower** (BSN Student)
  - *Touchscreen Crash Cart Dashboard Insights: Registered Nurses’ Observations and Evaluations*

- **Erin Salahshurian** (PhD Student)
  - *Screening Challenges: Heart Failure with Preserved Ejection Fraction*

- **Jill Scott** (MSN to PhD Student)
  - *Experiences of Nurses Returning to Practice Without Regulatory Barriers*

**PhD Student to Chair and Present at Special Session, MNRS 2024**

**Kirsten Hepburn**, BA, BSN, RN, PhD Student (Y3), is the chair of a 90-minute Special Session: *Improving Visual Communication in Nursing Science*. Kirsten is also a presenter at the session with UNMC College of Nursing faculty Abbey Klein, PhD, RN (Assistant Professor & Special Session moderator) and Roxanne Vandermause, PhD, RN (Professor & PhD Program Director), along with Eastern Michigan University School of Art & Design Assistant Professor, Corrie Baldauf, MFA.

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**NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

**Karla Kerkove Awarded Debrah E. Trautman Future Nurse Leader Scholarship**

Karla Kerkove, MSN, RN, CNE, CCRN-K, PhD student (Y1) recently received the prestigious Debrah E. Trautman Future Nurse Leader Scholarship. AACN only offers two of these awards per year and the competition is stiff. Karla will receive tuition assistance and funding to attend either the Student Policy Summit in March or the Graduate Nurse Student Academy Conference in August (both in Washington D.C.). Karla will also work with AACN President and Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Trautman, and other leaders in a virtual leadership experience.

Karla’s background is in nursing education leadership and policy. She strives to incorporate social determinants of health into all aspects of nursing education. Karla’s advisor Dr. Beth Culross, Karla’s PhD cohort, first-year instructors, and others in the CON support her as she develops her important work. Our PhD students are the future of our ever-evolving disciplinary knowledge and we are so proud that one of our own is being recognized!
NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS - continued

Kirsten Hepburn Awarded Muriel Munchrath Scholarship

Kirsten Hepburn, BA, BSN, RN, PhD student (Y3) recently received the Muriel Munchrath Scholarship from the Sigma Theta Tau Gamma Pi At Large Chapter. The award will support her research in understanding factors that contribute to early pregnancy loss.

Windy Alonso Selected to Receive the Midwest Nursing Research Society’s 2024 Harriet H. Werley New Investigator Award

Windy Alonso, PhD, RN, Assistant Professor will be honored with this award at MNRS’ upcoming 48th Annual Research Conference in Minneapolis, MN occurring February 28 – March 2, 2024. The purpose of the award is to recognize the scientific contribution of a new investigator who has conducted nursing research that has the potential to enhance the science and practice of nursing.

REMINDEERS

Graduate Studies Assistantship/Fellowship application due on March 1, 2024.

For more information visit: https://www.unmc.edu/gradstudies/admissions/costs-funding/assistantships-fellowships.html

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UPCOMING SEMINAR

Building a Program of Research Aimed at Reducing Iatrogenic Harm: Evolution of the ABCDEF Bundle

Wednesday, March 14, 2024
12:00-1:00 PM (CST)

Featuring: Michele Balas, PhD, RN, CCRN-K, FCCM, FAAN
Associate Dean for Research, Professor, and Dorothy Hodges Olson Endowed Chair in Nursing, UNMC College of Nursing

Dr. Balas is an implementation scientist and registered nurse with extensive training and experience in the conduct of clinical trials and mixed-methods research in the intensive care unit and hospital setting. Please join us to hear her insights on building a program of research.

Zoom: https://unmc.zoom.us/j/99873296716?pwd=YXJwLy9HWFpmQnptU2NZb1IYcmV2dz09

This seminar is hosted by the Great Plains IDeA-CTR.
UPCOMING SEMINAR

Remote Consent Process: Using Electronic Consent Tools

Wednesday, March 27, 2024
12:00-1:00 PM (CST)

Featuring: Gisele Tlusty, PhD(c), MSN, RN, UNMC College of Nursing

Discuss pragmatic use and understanding of electronic consent tools:
• UNMC IRB Research Support Systems (RSS)
• REDCap®

Consider the advantages and limitations associated with using electronic consent tools

Zoom:
https://unmc.zoom.us/j/99488357106?pwd=c0cwUTI3eTlySXb3A1TiFiZmZxUT09

This seminar is being sponsored by CENTRIC (Center for Patient, Family and Community Engagement in Chronic Care)
RESOURCES

The College of Nursing is pleased to offer the following support at no cost to our faculty and students:

• Short-term Graduate Research Assistant support: submit request at https://app1.unmc.edu/nursing/nnrcra/

• Statistical consultation: submit request at https://app1.unmc.edu/nursing/BioStatsRequest/

• Proposal submission support: contact Debi Kibbee at dkibee@unmc.edu

• Grants management support: contact Don Houy don.houy@unmc.edu

• For guidance on research plan development: contact leah.niebaum@unmc.edu to schedule a meeting with our Associate Dean for Research, Dr. Michele Balas.

For a full description of our faculty support services, visit https://www.unmc.edu/nursing/research/niedfelt-center/services/index.html

Are you an Early Career Researcher? Here are incredible resources to support you on your research journey!

• The Great Plains IDeA-CTR offers mock reviews of grant proposals and guidance with aims page development: https://gpctr.unmc.edu/cores/professional-development/research-studios/

• Johns Hopkins University maintains a listing of grants available to early career researchers: https://research.jhu.edu/rdt/funding-opportunities/early-career/

Need research-related support not listed here?

Contact us!
nnrc@unmc.edu