



CNR Research News

Covering Topics Related to Nursing Research & Scholarship

Announcements

Andres Azuero, PhD

“A gentle approach to handling missing data”

October 14, 2009, 11-12

CNR 1020

David Vance, PhD

“Project management in HIV research”

October 30, 2009, 12-1

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Frank Wiser, MPA

“Everything you wanted to know about research funding”

November 4, 2009, 12-1

CNR 1020

The CNR Newsletter has a new look!

Look for more new and exciting changes coming to the CNR, stay tuned!

SON Health Disparities Research Scholars

Karen Heaton, PhD, RN and **Angela Jukkala, PhD, RN** have been selected as scholars in the 2009 Health Disparities Research Training Program (HDTRP). The HDTRP focus is on health disparities research in cardiovascular disease, cancer, aging, and other related areas.

Dr. Heaton will be investigating the effectiveness of obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) screening targeting African American (AA) workers as a component of a workplace wellness program. This is a significant issue because of the high rates of cardiovascular (CV) morbidity and mortality in the AA population; and the known links between OSA and CV disease. She hopes to develop an effective workplace screening so those individuals who are at-risk can be identified and treated earlier with the goal to decrease morbidity and mortality. In addition, Dr. Heaton anticipates long-term benefits to the workplace like improved productivity, decreased absenteeism, & lower healthcare costs associated with cardiovascular problems.

Dr. Jukkala will be looking at medical decision making for women diagnosed with early stage breast cancer. While comprehensive health information and clarification of personal values are foundational for meaningful participation in shared medical decision making for the treatment of breast cancer, many

breast cancer survivors state that they did not have adequate information at the time they made their treatment decision and that they would possibly have made a different decision had they been better informed. Dr. Jukkala will evaluate the effect of an educational intervention on breast cancer knowledge, decision quality, and decision regret. Dr. Jukkala anticipates the long-term benefits of increased participation in the medical plan of care and improved quality of life.

The Objectives of the HDTRP are to: develop independent researchers in health disparities research, provide instruction in scientific research methodology and design, provide training in health disparities and innovative approaches to reduce them, teach scientific writing and grant preparation skills

A final product of an R03 (or equivalent) grant proposal must be written and submitted by each scholar during the training period. For proposals meeting the eligibility criteria, \$10,000 pilot project funds will be provided to the scholar to start his/her project while the grant proposal is under review by the funding agency.

Award Winning Faculty Presentations



Karen Heaton, PhD, RN & Dr. Andres Azuero, PhD were awarded 1st place for their poster presented at the UAB Center for Aging's Annual Meeting held in Birmingham on August 21, 2009.

Annette Wright, PhD, RN was awarded 3rd place (of 98) for her poster presented 36th Annual conference of the American Association of Diabetes Educators held in Atlanta, GA, August 5-8, 2009.

Welcome New Faculty- Summer 2009

Becky J. Christian, PhD, RN is a Professor in the Department of Community Health, Outcomes, and Systems. Dr. Christian's program of research is focused on both children and adolescents with chronic illness and how families adapt to and manage their child's chronic illness. Dr. Christian has been funded by NINR/NIH to test the effectiveness of an intervention to improve the overall health of school-age children with Cystic Fibrosis. Dr. Christian received a BSN degree and an MSN degree in family/child nursing from the University of Missouri-Columbia, and a PhD in nursing from The University of Texas at Austin.

Comfort Enah, PhD, RN is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Community Health, Outcomes, and Systems. Dr. Enah is developing a program of research focusing on developing and testing culturally appropriate HIV preventive interventions. Her research interests also include, adolescent sexual health, the development of culturally appropriate interventions and examining the role of the community in conducting research. Dr. Enah received a BSN degree from Berea College, an MSN degree in community health nursing and a PhD in nursing research from the University of Cincinnati.

Beth Elias, PhD is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Community Health, Outcomes, and Systems. Dr. Elias' research interests are focused in medical informatics, point-of-care testing devices, and understanding the integration of information technology in healthcare. Dr. Elias received a BS in computer science

from the New York Institute of Technology, an MS in management information systems, and a PhD in instructional technology from the University of Virginia.

C. Ann Long, PhD, RN is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Adult/Acute Health Chronic Care & Foundations. Dr. Long's primary research interests include HIV prevention among young African American women and men. She is interested in high-risk sexual behaviors that are influenced by coercion and gender stereotypes held by both men and women. Her ongoing work involves developing a sexual empowerment framework for HIV/STI prevention, and collaborating with various community groups to decrease HIV/STI risk. Dr. Long received a BSN from Tuskegee University and a PhD in Nursing Science from the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Patricia Pearce, PhD, RN is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Community Health, Outcomes, and Systems. Dr. Pearce's research interest areas are in the area of cardiovascular risk prevention, specifically in physical activity of adolescents, and in developing information system technologies that work effectively and efficiently in research and clinical arenas. Dr. Pearce received a BSN and a BA in History from Loyola University, an MPH from Tulane, an MSN from the Mississippi University for Women, and PhD in Nursing, with a minor in informatics from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, an MSN from the Mississippi University for Women, and PhD in Nursing from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

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Published in-house by the UAB SON CNR
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