

Doctoral Fellowship



UNC
SCHOOL OF NURSING

Interventions for Preventing and Managing Chronic Illness

FUNDING SOURCE

The UNC-CH School of Nursing received continuing funding for this Institutional National Service Award from the National Institute of Nursing Research (Grant Number T32 NR007091 1996-2011) to support doctoral fellows in the study of Interventions for Preventing and Managing Chronic Illness. You are encouraged to apply for a fellowship if your research interests are in this area.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The goal of the doctoral training program is to prepare fellows who have knowledge of nursing theories and interventions in the prevention and management of chronic illness, theories, and research on chronic illness from related disciplines, and knowledge and skills necessary to implement a research program reflecting these conceptualizations.

Fellows may focus on any age group or clinical problems of interest to them. The focus in the doctoral program is on designing and conducting descriptive studies as preliminary to interventions.

AWARD AND FELLOWSHIP BENEFITS

Awards are for two years with monthly stipend plus tuition assistance, health insurance, one conference trip a year, and an allowance for educational /research expenses. After completion of the traineeship, trainees are encouraged to apply for individual NRSAs to support their dissertation work.

1. Expansion of typical doctoral coursework to include a focus on how to develop an intervention study to prevent or manage chronic illness. Students can choose to focus on specific

sub-populations, including specific age groups, or on specific points in the illness trajectory

2. Research practicum experiences with ongoing nursing studies and studies of chronic illness with nationally known nurse researchers who serve as mentors
3. Involvement with the activities of the Center of Innovations in Health Disparities Research at the School of Nursing
4. Monthly stipends for 2 years based on adequate performance review at end of year 1
5. Tuition assistance and health insurance
6. \$1,100 allowance for research related expenses
7. An \$800 allowance towards one approved conference trip each year

Application Deadline: May 1

REQUIREMENTS OF DOCTORAL FELLOWS

All applicants for the Interventions for Preventing and Managing Chronic Illness Fellowship must meet the general admission requirements for both The Graduate School and the School of Nursing of The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Applicants must be accepted to or currently enrolled in the Doctoral Program of the School of Nursing.

The application materials should be completed with the assistance of a program research mentor (see list below).

1. Admission to the PhD program in good standing for full time study
2. Research topics related to studies on the prevention or management of chronic illness
3. Participation in mentor's research four hours per week
4. Participation in the functions of the Center on Innovations in Health Disparities Research
5. Participation in University and School of Nursing research ethics seminars
6. Completion of traineeship course requirements: Theory Based Interventions in Chronic Conditions, Designing Intervention Studies, Integrative Seminar
7. Meet twice yearly with trainee's advisory committee

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Application Deadline: May 1

The following information comprises the School of Nursing Doctoral Fellowship Application. Provide the information on separate paper with your name on each page. Applicants should work closely with their mentors in the preparation of the applications.

1. Describe the training you would like to receive at UNC to prepare you to conduct research on interventions for preventing or managing chronic illness (i.e., courses, faculty mentor(s), research skills, content area).
2. Describe your fit with your mentor(s) (i.e., prior research activity in selected area, research interests, clinical experiences, master's research, and other projects).
3. Describe your research interest in prevention or management chronic illness. Include theoretical and empirical literature and relevance and need for an exploratory or descriptive study on your topic (3-5 pages excluding references). Descriptive studies to obtain the information needed to plan interventions, and pilot/feasibility studies are acceptable. Ideally, research study should be related to mentor's research.
4. Submit a letter from mentor discussing the training plan, an evaluation of your potential, documentation of mentor's availability, and documentation of the facilities the mentor can offer to the applicant.
5. Submit a copy of your most recent curriculum vitae.

MENTORS FOR DOCTORAL AND POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS

Please contact Dr. Mishel, the training program director, for help in selecting and contacting a mentor.

Merle Mishel, PhD, RN, FAAN, Kenan Professor of Nursing is the director of the Doctoral and Post-Doctoral Training Program in Preventing and Managing Chronic Illness. She has developed the measurement and theory of uncertainty in illness. Her on-going work tests a number of different types of uncertainty management interventions for patients undergoing treatment for breast and prostate cancer. Her recent work focuses on interventions to manage uncertainty in breast cancer survivors. Other research interests include intervention methodology, psychological responses in cancer and other chronic and acute illness and adaptation in illness.

Debra J. Barksdale, PhD, RN, FNP, ANP, BC, assistant professor whose research focuses on stress and cardiovascular disease in Black Americans. Specifically, she explores the relationships among contextual factors, psychological factors, physiological stress responses (cortisol levels and heart rate variability) and blood pressure in Black adults.

Linda Beeber, PhD, RN, FAAN, CS, professor, has taught and /or practiced psychiatric nursing for over 20 years. Her past and current research focuses include depression in a variety of patient populations. Her current research is a test of an intervention to help low income Latina, white and African American mothers of infants and toddlers who have depressive symptoms develop self-efficacy, solve difficult life issues, increase their use of social support and improve their parenting interactions with their infant or toddler.

Diane Berry, PhD, CANP, assistant professor and a Faculty Fellow in the Interdisciplinary Obesity Center. Her past and current research focuses on Black, Latino, and White children and parents partnering together to manage their weight, prevention of type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease. She is Principal Investigator on a feasibility study for Spanish speaking mothers and their 3 to 10 year old children using nutrition, exercise, and coping skills training to improve weight management and prevent type 2 diabetes.

Susan Brunssen, PhD, RN, assistant professor, studies immune modulation of the developing brain as a model for neurologic vulnerability in preterm infants utilizing perinatal mouse models. Her research interests include neurocognitive outcomes of extreme prematurity. She is affiliated with the Biobehavioral Laboratory, the Neurodevelopmental Disorders Research Center, as well as other basic science laboratories on campus, and is a guest researcher at the NIEHS, NIH.

Barbara Carlson, PhD, RN, assistant professor, is the associate director of the School of Nursing's Biobehavioral Laboratory. Her research focuses on biobehavioral risk factors for cognitive decline in older adults, including the relationship between respiratory periodicity and cerebral oxygenation and cognitive decline. Two pilot studies examining the relationship between core body temperature, cytokines, and cerebral oxygenation in older adults. She has extensive experience in developing minimally intrusive instrumentation.

Linda Cronenwett, PhD, RN, FAAN, dean and professor, has research interests in clinical outcomes and research utilization. Her current work is focused on improving health care education to ensure that future health professionals will be committed to and capable of creating and constantly improving the safety of the health care delivery systems in which they work.

Noreen Esposito, EdD, WHNP, FNP-C, assistant professor, has a program of research that focuses on vulnerable women's interactions with the health care system and its providers. She has conducted qualitative studies in the areas of pregnancy care for inner city women, menopause care for immigrant Hispanic women, primary care for rural African-American women and post trauma care for sexual assault victims. Her current work focuses on provider-patient interactions during post sexual assault care. Her area of expertise includes qualitative methods, interviewing on sensitive topics and vulnerable women.

Catherine Ingram Fogel, PhD, RN, FAAN, professor, is an expert on women in prison and studies chronic mental health problems of mothers in prison. She also investigates methods of preventing sexually transmitted diseases in high-risk women. Her other research interests include substance abuse and HIV prevention in women prisoners and pregnant women and eating disorders, especially obesity.

Sandra Funk, PhD, FAAN, professor, is Associate Dean for Research, Director of the School of Nursing's Research Support Center, and co-director of the Center for Research on Prevention and Management of Chronic Illness in Vulnerable People. Dr. Funk's work has focused on research utilization and dissemination and on the development and evaluation of measurement instruments. Her other research interests are decision-making and patients' responses to healthcare experiences.

Barbara Germino, PhD, RN, FAAN, Beerstecher-Blackwell Chair of Thanatology and professor has a program of research on family response to cancer. She has also been involved in nursing intervention studies to manage uncertainty in prostate and breast cancer patients and cancer prevention studies for the adolescent daughters of women with breast cancer. Her other research interests include quality of life for persons with cancer, death and dying, and family communication in illness.

Jean Goepfinger, PhD, RN, FAAN, professor, is the director of the Mentoring Core of the Center for Innovation in Health Disparities Research. Her program of research focuses on the design and testing of community-oriented and community-based self-care interventions, involving lay community leaders as interveners, for persons with osteo- and rheumatoid arthritis. Her other research interests include health service delivery to underserved rural populations.

Joanne Harrell, PhD, RN, FAAN, FAHA, Frances Hill Fox Distinguished Professor in Nursing, studies school based interventions to prevent obesity, cardiovascular disease risk factors and risk factors for type 2 diabetes in school-aged children. Her other research interests include physical activity interventions in police and fire fighters and cardiovascular responses of patients with cardiomyopathy to activities of daily living.

Diane Kjervik, JD, RN, FAAN, professor, has a research program focused on clinical decision-making and empowerment of vulnerable populations, including the elderly, the mentally ill, and women. She has expertise in nursing ethics and the establishment of legal content in nursing education.

Mary Lynn, PhD, RN, associate professor, is a nurse researcher whose work centers on the definition and measurement of quality nursing care. She is currently funded to examine quality of care in home health, and test the ability of a model to predict changes in patient health status between admission and discharge. Also, she has worked to develop and refine instruments pertaining to nurse job satisfaction, and patients' perceptions of care.

Barbara A. Mark, PhD, RN, FAAN, Sarah Frances Russell Distinguished Professor, is a nurse-health services researcher, who studies the organization and effectiveness of nursing in acute care settings. Dr. Mark is also an adjunct faculty member in the School of Public Health and a Fellow at the Sheps Center for Health Services Research.

Chris McQuiston, PhD, RN, FNP, associate professor, is director of the Center for Innovation in Health Disparities Research, which focuses on efforts to advance the cultural competence of students and faculty, increase the number of minority nurse researchers, and develop innovative strategies for conducting research with racial, ethnic, and culturally diverse populations. Her research interests are in the area of women's health, with her research focusing on sexual decision-making and STD prevention in Latinas.

Margaret S. Miles, PhD, RN, FAAN, professor, is co-director of the Pilot/Feasibility Core of the Center for Innovation in Health Disparities Research. Her program of research focuses on caregiving for seriously ill children, and her current research is a nursing intervention for the mothers of preterm infants and a symptom management intervention for mothers with HIV. Past studies have included parenting by mothers with HIV, parental role attainment with medically fragile infants, bereavement, organ-donor families, and parenting the child with a life-threatening illness.

Virginia Neelon, PhD, RN, associate professor, is the director of the School of Nursing's Biobehavioral Laboratory. She has studied interventions to prevent the development of acute confusion in the hospitalized elderly and has developed a tool to measure acute confusion. Her other research interests include bio-physiological measurement and sleep patterns in elderly patients.

Mary H. Palmer, PhD, RNC, FAAN, professor and the Helen W. and Thomas L. Umphlet Distinguished Professor in Aging, is a nurse researcher with a background in investigating urinary incontinence in various populations including nursing home residents, hip fracture and chronic heart failure patients. Specific research interests include risk and associated factors and behavioral interventions for urinary incontinence in older adults.

Pamela Johnson Rowsey, PhD, RN, associate professor, is a nurse physiologist whose research background involves using exercise as a variable to study the effects of exercise-induced core temperature elevation. She uses an animal model to study the neuroendocrine and immunopeptide regulation of body temperature. She is also a visiting research scientist at the EPA. She is also co-director of the Pilot/Feasibility Core of the Center for Innovation in Health Disparities Research.

Margarete Sandelowski, PhD, RN, FAAN, Cary C. Boshamer Distinguished Professor of Nursing is internationally recognized as an expert in qualitative research. She has conducted research in the areas of infertility, reproductive technology, socio-historical perspectives on women's health, gender & technology relations in nursing, and the synthesis of empirical qualitative and quantitative research findings.

Gwen Sherwood, RN, PhD, FAAN, professor and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. She has a research agenda focusing on relational aspects of nursing centered around caring theory applied to research in pain management, spirituality, and teamwork as a variable in patient safety. She investigates healthy work environments and relationships by expanding leadership capacity both nationally and internationally. She is co-investigator of the Robert Wood Johnson project to develop curriculum related to quality and safety for pre-licensure students.

Anne H. Skelly, PhD, RN, ANP-C, associate professor, has worked with individuals and families with diabetes for over 25 years. Her program of research is focused on improving health outcomes for African American women with type 2 diabetes. An additional area of interest is the prevention of type 2 diabetes in high-risk individuals. In the past 10 years, she has been the PI of study that looked at knowledge and beliefs of members of three ethnic groups at risk for diabetes and a co-investigator on another study that looked at self-care practices of older African American, Native American and white elders. Her present study is community-based intervention looking at symptom -focused diabetes management for older, rural African American women with type 2 diabetes.

Suzanne Thoyre, PhD, RN, associate professor is interested in neonatal and children's health. She uses bio-behavioral measures to study the physiology of preterm infant feeding. She is also interested in how families manage childhood feeding disorders. Her area of expertise includes observational methods and integration of physiologic and behavioral measures.

Debbie Travers, PhD, RN, assistant professor, has research that involves development and testing of emergency severity indices, and evaluation of systems for categorizing chief complaint data.

Marcia Van Riper, PhD, RN, associate professor, holds a joint position in the Carolina Center for Genome Sciences where she leads the Social Genomics Group, a multi-disciplinary faculty group interested in the social, legal, and ethical implications of genetic advances. Her past research has focused on family experiences with children with Down syndrome, twins, and preterm infants. Her current work examines how families define and manage the ethical issues that emerge during genetic testing.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Merle Mishel, PhD, RN, Program Director

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mishel@email.unc.edu

Fax (919) 843-6212

Office of Admissions & Student Services

(919) 966-4260

nursing@unc.edu

Fax (919) 966-3540

Mail Application to:

Office of Admissions & Student Services
Doctoral Institutional NRSA
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
School of Nursing
1200 Carrington Hall, CB #7460
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-7460

Visit our web site:

<http://nursing.unc.edu>

Doctoral Fellowship Application



Interventions for Preventing and Managing Chronic Illness

Application Deadline: May 1

Please attach the following information to the cover of your School of Nursing application materials:

Name _____
Last First Middle

Social Security Number _____

Address _____
Street

_____ *City State Zip Country*

Daytime Phone () _____ Evening Phone () _____

Fax Number () _____ Email Address _____

Name of UNC-CH School of Nursing Mentor _____

Proposed Research Area _____

Mail Application to:
Office of Admissions & Student Services
Doctoral Institutional NRSA
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
School of Nursing
1200 Carrington Hall, CB #7460
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-7460
(919) 966-4260