**Center for Nursing Scholarship Update**  
**Supporting faculty, staff and community health care professionals**  
in developing research programs at the University of Connecticut School of Nursing

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**Recent Grant Awards**  
**June/July/August 2012**

**Courtney Beyers**, an undergraduate nursing honors student, was awarded a $2,100 grant entitled **SELF-MEDICATION PRACTICES OF ADULTS WITH SICKLE CELL DISEASE** through the Summer Undergraduate Research Fund (SURF). Beyers surveyed the self-medication practices of adults with sickle cell disease living in the northeastern United States. The results from this descriptive, multi-site study will be used to inform the development and testing of a future education intervention for adults with sickle cell disease with the aim of reducing adverse self-medication behaviors. The submission was prepared under the guidance of **Dr. Victoria Odesina**, who will act as co-investigator on the study.

**Madge E. Buus-Frank**, RNC, MS, APRN-BC, FAAN, was awarded $18,000 for her grant **Pilot Testing the Effectiveness and Durability of a Structured Curriculum for Newborn Resuscitation—Helping Babies Breathe—Using Telesimulation** submitted to the William Randolph Hearst Endowment Fund for Perinatal Research and Education at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center. The aim of the project is to test the effectiveness and durability of the Helping Babies Breathe resuscitation training, and the study is being conducted in Zambia. Ms. Buus-Frank’s faculty advisor is **Dr. Sandra Bellini**.

**Dr. Xiaomei Cong** received a grant for **Oxytocin Mechanism During Maternal and Paternal Skin-to-Skin Contact with Preterm Infants** from the American Nurses Foundation. The aim of the study is to examine the oxytocin mechanism in modulating infants’ behavioral, autonomic, and stress responses, and parental stress and anxiety during maternal and paternal skin-to-skin contact with preterm infants. The grant award is for $7,499.

**Dr. Carol Polifroni** received a grant for her competitive proposal **Developing Tomorrow’s Nurse Educators**. The award is through the Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (GAANN) program of the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Postsecondary Education. The purpose of the GAANN program is to provide fellowships to assist graduate students with excellent records who demonstrate financial need and plan to pursue the highest degree available in their course of study at the institution in a field designated as an area of national need. The award will fund fellowships for four full-time nursing PhD students who are preparing for educational leadership roles over 3 years. Dr. Polifroni designed this competitive proposal to increase enrollment of underrepresented students in doctoral programs with preparation for teaching and research through the award of fellowships, to enhance our learning community of doctoral students, to shorten time to PhD degree completion from 6 years to 4 or fewer years, and to strengthen teaching knowledge, skills, and attitudes. The first year of the award will provide $533,064.

**Emily Tuthill**, BS, BA, RN, a School of Nursing PhD student, was awarded a Predoctoral Individual National Research Service Grant Award (NRSA) from the National Institute of Mental Health. The title of her grant is **Exclusive Breastfeeding Promotion Among HIV+ Mothers: A Theory-Based Approach**. Ms. Tuthill’s study aims to change the more prevalent non-exclusive breast feeding practice in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, through a well-targeted Information Motivation and Behavioral Skills (IMB) model intervention. Her faculty sponsor is **Dr. Jeffrey Fisher** and co-sponsor is **Dr. Jacqueline McGrath**. The grant award is for $126,696 for the three year project.
Dr. Carol Polifroni submitted a grant application to HRSA’s Bureau of Health Professions Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students (SDS) program. The purpose of the SDS grants is to promote diversity among health professions students and practitioners by providing scholarships to full-time, financially disadvantaged students enrolled in programs in nursing and health professions.

Recent Publications


Recent Presentations

**Beyers, C. M.** (2012, July). *Couple dynamics in cancer survivorship: Reducing the burden of unmet psychosocial needs through paradigm shifts in survivorship care*. Podium presentation at the Universitas 21 Undergraduate Research Conference, Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan.


