**Recent Grant Awards**

**Sept/Oct 2012**

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**Dr. Robin Miller** and Dr. Ginette Ferszt are co-investigators on an American Nurses Foundation grant award for a project entitled, **AN INNOVATIVE INTERVENTION TO IMPROVE SLEEP AND DECREASE ANXIETY OF INCARCERATED WOMEN**. The aim of the project is to improve sleep and decrease stress and anxiety of incarcerated women through a 12-week mindfulness meditation group. The use of MP3 players to practice meditation skills will be developed and pilot tested between group sessions. The total award was $6,700.

**Dr. Carol Polifroni** was awarded a grant from HRSA’s Bureau of Health Professions for the Nurse Faculty Loan Program (NFLP). The purpose of the NFLP is to increase the number of qualified nursing faculty by providing loans to students enrolled in advanced education nursing programs. Loan recipients must complete the education program and, following graduation, may cancel up to 85% of the NFLP debt while serving as full-time nurse faculty members at a school of nursing. The total award is for $192,740.

**Ms. Emily Tuthill**, BS, BA, RN, a School of Nursing PhD student, was awarded a $5,000 grant from the Pauline A. Toner Fund for **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. Toner funds are available to doctoral students with funded National Research Service Awards.

**Recent Grant Applications**

**Dr. Michelle Judge**, Dr. **Jacqueline McGrath**, and Dr. **Stephen Walsh** have submitted **EFFECT OF DHA DOSE IN INCREASING MATERNAL-FETAL TRANSFER IN PRE-GESTATIONAL T2DM** to the National Institute of Child Health and Development. The aims of the project are to evaluate whether maternal DHA supplementation provided at varied doses in women with pre-gestational type 2 diabetes will promote enhanced maternal-fetal erythrocyte DHA transfer, and to evaluate mechanistic underpinnings of reduced DHA transfer using markers of essential fatty acid metabolism (mead and Osbond acids) in relationship to total fatty acid oxidation. The request is for $467,630.

**Dr. Denise Panosky** has submitted **STATE OF CT HEALTH ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (HEP) DATA WAREHOUSING AND ANALYSIS PROGRAM** to the State of Connecticut Comptroller’s Office with the University of Connecticut Health Center and Viridian Health Management. The goals of the project are to: develop an advanced community nursing/health coaching curriculum and training program; provide onsite services to HEP participants from the state workforce; and meet the HEP program needs through allocation of faculty graduate and undergraduate personnel in order to increase community nursing in health promotion and workplace health and safety. The request is for $251,958.

**Dr. Thomas Van Hoof** has submitted a proposal entitled, **STANDARDIZING THE USE OF EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH TO IMPROVE QUALITY THROUGH A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE AND A CONSSENSUS-DRIVEN PROCESS**, to the Northeast Group on Educational Affairs of the American Association of Medical Colleges. The goal of the study is to enhance the understanding of educational outreach as a distinct intervention by systematically reviewing a set of randomized controlled trials and by leveraging the power of an expert panel process in order to offer a clear and concise description of educational outreach to guide appropriate use and further research. The proposal reflects collaboration between UConn and Harvard Medical School. The total request is for $5,000, which will support a UConn honors student’s involvement in the study.
Dr. Thomas Van Hoof has submitted a proposal entitled, LEADING QUALITY IMPROVEMENT IN PRIMARY CARE, to the Physicians Foundation in Boston, MA. A collaborative effort of the Connecticut State Medical Society Physicians Health & Education Foundation, the CSMS-Independent Practice Association, and the University of Connecticut School of Nursing, this $75,000 grant will rigorously evaluate an effort to prepare physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants for expanded roles in leading quality improvement efforts in primary care private practice. The effort will prepare leaders for the Patient-Centered Medical Home initiative, with a particular focus on reducing racial and ethnic disparities in practice. The study will examine changes in satisfaction, learning, behavior, and patient care among participating practices. Dr. Van Hoof will serve as Principal Investigator, and if funded, he plans to involve one or more UConn Honors Students.

**Recent Publications**


**Recent Presentations**


Hegedus, K. (2012, October). Overview of palliative care: USA perspective. Panel conducted at the School of Health Care-Polytechnic, Setubal, Portugal.


