## Grant Awards

### September 2008

**Dr. Elizabeth Anderson**, School of Nursing, and Richard Fortinsky, PhD, UCHC Center for Aging, applied for and received a $4,636 grant through the Pauline A. Toner fund. Their study will examine factors influencing HIV medication adherence in older adults living with HIV/AIDS.

**Dr. Sherry Bassi** applied for and received a mini-grant from the Rotary Club of Mystic for $360 to fund one year of Internet service for the Health Education & Safety satellite program located in a public housing development in Groton. Groton schools have donated two computers to the program to set up two workstations for residents and their children to use for Internet access.

The Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) has awarded the School of Nursing $38,824 in response to **Dr. Regina Cusson**’s Advanced Education Nursing Traineeships grant application. The traineeships provide funding for all or part of the costs of tuition, books, program fees and stipends for students enrolled in either a graduate or post-master’s certificate program in nursing.

The Council for International Exchange of Scholars has approved **Dr. Kathryn Hegedus** for candidacy on the Fulbright Specialists Roster. Candidates are eligible for consideration and selection for two to six-week grant opportunities when matched with incoming program requests from overseas academic institutions for Fulbright Specialists.

**Dr. Deborah McDonald** applied for and was awarded a $1,500 UConn Small Faculty Grant for her pilot study, *PAIN COMMUNICATION AND COACHING INTERVENTION*. The aim of her study is to develop and to pilot test an innovative, cost-effective pain communication education and practitioner-avatar coaching intervention to affect older adults’ communication of their osteoarthritis pain.

The McDonald Family Trust has awarded **Dr. Deborah McDonald** $1,000 in response to a letter of inquiry she sent to their trustees. She will use the funding to assist in supporting the pilot test of her pain communication videotape and practitioner-avatar coaching intervention for older adults with osteoarthritis pain.

HRSA has awarded the School of Nursing $127,787 in response to **Dr. Carol Polifroni**’s application for Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students. The scholarships are awarded to full-time, financially needy students from disadvantaged backgrounds who are enrolled in health professions and nursing programs.

**Dr. Deborah Shelton** is a co-investigator on *CRIMINAL JUSTICE DRUG ABUSE TREATMENT STUDIES 2*, an NIH U01 research grant awarded to Linda Frisman, PhD, School of Social Work. The grant funds the Connecticut Research Center for Criminal Justice Drug Abuse Treatment Studies (CT-CJ-DATs). Dr. Shelton will select and design studies concerning juvenile justice that will be conducted in CT, and she will serve as the CT liaison for CT juvenile justice sites for the study.

### Recent Grant Applications

**Dr. Sherry Bassi**, **Dr. Deborah Shelton** and **Denise Panosky**, MSN, submitted a planning grant application to the Ethel Donaghue Center for Translating Research into Practice and Policy (TRIPP). They have requested $50,000 for *A PUBLIC-ACADEMIC MODEL FOR TRANSITION OF END-OF-SENTENCE INMATES TO THE COMMUNITY: CARELINK-C*. If funded, the investigators will develop a strategic plan for implementation of a pilot Carelink-C project for newly released York Correctional Institution end-of-sentence (EOS) inmates. Carelink models are community nursing academic models used to teach students while serving vulnerable populations.

**Dr. Colleen Delaney** is a co-investigator for *PROACTIVE PRIMARY DEMENTIA CARE: LINKING RESEARCH, PRACTICE AND POLICY*, an application submitted with Richard Fortinsky, PhD, UCHC Center for Aging, to the Donaghue Medical Foundation. The aim of the study is to determine the feasibility of the nurse practitioner intervention model. Total amount of the sub-award request for UConn Storrs is $29,927.

**Kathryn Hegedus** is a discipline coordinator on a HRSA Maternal and Child Health Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Other Related Disabilities (LEND) application submitted by UCHC. If funded, Dr. Hegedus will be responsible for participating on a team of discipline coordinators to evaluate and propose curriculum modifications to existing nursing coursework on neurodevelopmental disabilities and autism.

**Deborah McDonald** has requested $4,330 from the Savings Bank of Manchester Charitable Foundation, Inc. for her pilot study, *PAIN COMMUNICATION COACHING INTERVENTION*. The purpose of the...
application is to develop a brief computer-displayed pain communication education videotape and coaching intervention to be used by older adults with arthritis pain prior to pain management discussions with their healthcare practitioner.

**Jessica Alicea-Planas, MS, RN,** has completed a Kirschstein NRSA Individual Fellowship Application for submission to NINR. **Dr. Patricia Neafsey** is her sponsor. The primary goal of her study, **HISPANICS WITH HYPERTENSION: A CULTURALLY TAILORED INTERVENTION,** is to develop, implement and evaluate a comprehensive, culturally tailored educational intervention targeting Hispanics with hypertension to improve blood pressure control over a four-month period.

**Dr. Carol Polifroni** has submitted an application to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation New Careers in Nursing program that provides scholarships for underrepresented nursing students in accelerated nursing programs.

**Dr. Deborah Shelton** resubmitted an Exploratory/Developmental Research R-21 grant application to NIH, requesting $427,777 for **PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION ADHERENCE: IMPLICATIONS FOR POST-RELEASE SUCCESS.** Co-investigators are Megan Ehret, PharmD, Pharmacy Practice, and Sara Wakai, PhD, UCHC. The aim of the study is to develop the knowledge base necessary to understand medication adherence among mentally ill inmates, which will lead to future development of an autonomous self-regulation intervention to improve adherence patterns.

**University of Connecticut Incentives Grants**

**Dr. Xiaomei Cong** and Naveed Hussain, MD, UCHC NICU, have requested $49,505 for **EFFECTS OF KANGAROO CARE FOR REDUCING HEEL STICK PAIN IN PRETERM INFANTS.** The aims of the project are to examine the effect of Kangaroo care with preterm infants on reducing heel stick pain using multiple measures and to compare the effect of holding times on reducing heel stick pain.

**Dr. Neva Crogan,** working with a team that includes Patrick Coll, MD, UCHC Center on Aging, and Ruth Goldblatt, DMD, UCHC School of Dental Medicine, has requested $45,597 for **IMPROVING FOOD INTAKE IN NURSING HOMES: PILOT TESTING OF THE SORBET ORAL CLEANSING INTERVENTION,** which aims to describe the prevalence of xerostomia, or dry mouth, in one Connecticut nursing home, to test the feasibility of the Sorbet Oral Cleansing intervention and to measure its impact on resident food intake and satisfaction.

**Dr. Deborah Shelton** and Megan Ehret, PharmD, Pharmacy Practice, have requested $50,000 for **THE EFFECT OF PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION DOSING ON SYMPTOM CONTROL FOR INMATES DIAGNOSED WITH BIPOLAR DISORDER.** The ultimate goal of the study is to impact the quality of patient care through individualizing the dosing of medication for bipolar disorder by gender, age and race as recommended by the NIMH Strategic Plan.

**Dr. Deborah Shelton** is a co-applicant with Megan Ehret, PharmD, Pharmacy Practice, and Sara Wakai, PhD, UCHC, for $48,046 for **CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS OPIATE DETOXIFICATION VS. A COMMUNITY STANDARD OF CARE.** The goal of the study is to examine the effectiveness of clinical strategies for opiate detoxification and withdrawal for male and female adult inmates within the Connecticut New Publications


**CNR Resources**

**Dr. Robin D. Froman,** (R.N., Ph.D., F.A.A.N), Interim Director of the CNR; provides reviews of grant applications and publications.

**Dr. Stephen J. Walsh,** (Sc.D.), Associate Professor, provides statistical design and bio-statistical consulting on research projects.

**Dr. Thomas Lawrence Long** (Ph.D.), Associate Professor in Residence, provides writing and editing of grant applications and publications.

**Dr. Cheryl Beck,** (D.N.Sc., C.N.M., F.A.A.N,) Professor, provides assistance in design for qualitative analyses.

For questions or comments contact Elise Bennett at 486-8321