Doctoral Fellowship

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 1996-2016) 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. Monthly stipends for 2 years based on adequate performance review at end of year 1
4. Tuition assistance and health insurance
5. An allowance for research related expenses
6. 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 University and School of Nursing research ethics seminars

5. Completion of traineeship course requirements: Theory Based Interventions, Designing Intervention Studies, Integrative Seminar

6. 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 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 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.
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.

Jamie Crandall, PhD, research assistant professor, has considerable experience in Bayesian analytic methods in a variety of applications. She has background in Bayesian methods and recent work in meta-analysis for the synthesis of research findings. She also has experience in the selection, execution, and interpretation of the results of statistical tests.

Linda Cronenwett, PhD, RN, FAAN, Beerstecher-Blackwell Term Professor & Dean Emeritus, 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.

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.

Jill B. Hamilton, PhD, RN, assistant professor, has research interests which include cancer health disparities and how older African Americans use social support and spirituality to cope with cancer. She is funded by the National Institutes of Health to evaluate the psychometric properties of a new coping measure for African American cancer survivors. Dr. Hamilton is a Faculty Scholar of the Center for Spirituality, Theology and Health at Duke University.

Donna S. Havens, PhD, RN, FAAN professor in the Healthcare Systems emphasis, is a researcher whose work focuses on the organization of nursing in hospitals to promote excellent nursing practice and excellent patient care. Currently she has two funded studies to explore how to translate what we have learned about the features of excellent nursing practice into the hospital setting to promote nurse retention and quality patient care.

Eric Hodges, PhD, APRN, FNP-BC, assistant professor, whose research focuses on developmental origins and prevention of early childhood obesity. Specifically, he explores individual and dyadic characteristics of infants/toddlers and their parents and how such characteristics are related to feeding interaction quality over time and the development of feeding self-regulation and obesity. His research utilizes qualitative, quantitative, and observational methods.

Cheryl B. Jones, PhD, RN, FAAN, associate professor and Research Fellow at the Sheps Center for Health Services Research, has devoted her career to understanding nursing workforce issues to improve the nursing work environment, nurse executive practice, and the cost and quality of care. Her research has targeted three related areas: the nursing workforce in healthcare organizations, the greater nursing labor market, and nursing and health services research. One of her most important contributions has been the development, testing, and refinement of a method to measure nursing turnover costs. She actively teaches in healthcare systems, consults with organizations on research and management issues, and is a co-author of the 3rd edition of Financial Management for Nurse Managers and Executives.

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.

George Knafl, PhD, professor. His research interests include adaptive methods for statistical model selection, modeling and analysis of electronic monitoring data, modeling and analysis of family data, statistical evaluation of survey instruments, and applications of statistics to nursing research.

Kathleen Knafl, PhD, FAAN, professor, research focuses on family management of childhood chronic illness, and she has completed a series of studies describing distinct patterns of family response to the challenges presented by a child's chronic illness. Dr. Knafl is widely published and is recognized as an expert in family and qualitative research. She serves as a consultant to the National Institutes of Health and is on the editorial boards of Journal of Family Nursing, Research in Nursing and Health, and Nursing Outlook.

Shawn Kneipp, PhD, ARNP, associate professor, whose research interests focus on health disparities. Her research has examined how welfare policy affects the health of low-income women, how chronic stressors and depression in disadvantaged groups either leads to the development of or worsens chronic health conditions, and public health nursing models of care for vulnerable populations.

Jennifer Leeman, DrPH, MDiv, is a research associate professor. Her research interests include translating research to practice, disseminating evidence, and implementing change with a focus on preventing obesity and managing diabetes.

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.

Deborah K. Mayer, PhD, RN, AOCN, FAAN, associate professor, has a program of research that focuses on issues faced by adult cancer survivors and in using eHealth interventions to address them. Her current research activities are related to the transition from the end of initial cancer treatment and health promotion in survivors as well as developing, implementing, and evaluating the impact of websites and smart phones in this population.

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.

Marilyn H. Oermann, PhD, RN, FAAN, ANEF, Professor and Chair of Adult/Geriatric Health, has written 11 books on nursing education and many articles on teaching and evaluation in nursing. Her current research is testing two methods for teaching CPR to nursing students (voice advisory manikins versus instructor-led training) and the effects of short practice sessions on students’ CPR skill.

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.

Sheila Judge Santacroce, PhD, RN, CPNP, associate professor is the Carol A. Blackwell Distinguished Scholar and co-director of the T32. Her research background has included using Uncertainty in Illness Theories to guide the creation and examination of models of care for childhood cancer survivors, especially adolescent-young adult survivors, and the development and evaluation of a general means for monitoring fidelity in behavioral clinical trials that target chronic illness populations.

Todd Schwartz, DrPH provides statistical input spanning from study inception and design, through data analysis and manuscript preparation/dissemination with interdisciplinary research teams ranging from cardiology to rheumatology to diabetes to maternal depression. He also has research interests in statistical education in the field of nursing, as well as improving awareness of less familiar statistical methods, especially categorical data analysis, in nursing research.

Gwen Sherwood, PhD, RN, 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.

Lixin Song, PhD, RN, assistant professor. Her research crosses a range of areas in psycho-oncology, health disparities, and cancer care outcomes. Her major attention is to stress and coping of cancer patients and family caregivers and communication and interaction between cancer patient, family caregiver, and health care providers.

Mi-Kyung Song, PhD, RN, assistant professor and a faculty fellow at the Parr Center for Ethics. Her research focuses include developing and testing a psycho-educational intervention to help ESRD patients and their family members prepare for end-of-life decision making and a palliative care intervention to improve symptom management and treatment decision making for lung transplant recipients with chronic rejection and their family caregivers; and systematic evaluation of intervention fidelity.

Theresa Swift-Scanlan, PhD, RN, assistant professor, has a UNC NIH/KL2 award and a Susan G. Komen grant to study DNA methylation changes in breast cancer and the clinical implications of these modifications for early detection and improved risk assessment. In collaboration with the Perou Lab in the Lineberger Cancer Center, she is conducting DNA methylation studies in prognostically distinct breast tumor subtypes in association with other clinical outcomes and tumor features. These findings will then be validated in the large population-based Carolina Breast Cancer Study in collaboration Dr. Robert Millickan at the UNC School of Public Health.
**Suzanne Thoyre, PhD, RN**, associate professor & director, PhD and Post-Doctoral Programs, and co-director of the T32 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, FAAN** 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.

**Jia-Rong Wu, PhD, RN** assistant professor, whose research interests include medication adherence, health disparities, and psychosocial and environmental factors that influence medication adherence and health-related outcomes in patients with heart failure. Currently, she is testing an intervention to enhance medication adherence and health-related outcomes for patients with heart failure.

**SeonAe Yeo, PhD, RNC, FAAN**, associate professor, studies exercise interventions for high-risk pregnancy including gestational hypertension, gestational diabetes, and preeclampsia. She is currently studying the effects of stretching exercise on autonomic nervous system in obese and sedentary pregnant women. Her other research interest includes language barriers and culturally competent prenatal care.

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**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
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**Mail Application to:**
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Postdoctoral Institutional NRSA
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
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Chapel Hill, NC 27599-7460

**Visit our web site:**
http://nursing.unc.edu

Last Revised: November 21, 2011
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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 _______________________________________________

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