Postdoctoral Fellowship

Interventions for Preventing and Managing Chronic Illness

FUNDING SOURCE

The UNC-CH School of Nursing received continuing funding for an Institutional National Service Award from the National Institute of Nursing Research (Grant Number T32 NR007091 1996-2016) to support postdoctoral 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 training program is to prepare fellows who have the knowledge from nursing and related disciplines on the prevention or management of chronic conditions and to develop the skills to conduct complex intervention studies in prevention and management of chronic illness that require an interdisciplinary perspective, sophisticated analytic techniques, or novel conceptualizations. Fellows conduct a research study, take coursework in nursing and related fields, participate in activities of interdisciplinary research centers, and develop a proposal for funding.

AWARD AND FELLOWSHIP BENEFITS

Awards are for two years with monthly stipends depending on length of time since completion of doctorate, plus tuition assistance, health insurance, one conference trip a year, tuition coverage for a summer CE Research Institute, and an allowance for educational/research expenses.

1. Opportunity to go beyond doctoral coursework to develop the skills to conduct complex intervention studies in prevention and management of chronic illness that require an interdisciplinary perspective, sophisticated analytic techniques, or novel conceptualizations. Fellows can choose to focus on specific subpopulations, including specific age groups, high-risk groups, or on specific points in the illness trajectory.

2. Supervised training with ongoing nursing intervention studies and studies of chronic illness with nationally known nurse researchers who serve as mentors

3. Involvement with an interdisciplinary research center on The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill campus

4. Annual stipend for two years, amount varies based on length of time since completion of doctorate

5. Tuition assistance and health insurance

6. $1,925.00 allowance for research related expenses

7. Tuition coverage for a summer CE Research Institute

8. An $800 allowance towards one approved conference trip each year

REQUIREMENTS OF POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS

All applicants for the postdoctoral program have an earned doctorate from a doctoral program in nursing or a related field prior to beginning the fellowship.

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

1. Completion of a doctoral program in nursing or related field

2. Conducting a research study on a topic related to interventions for preventing and managing chronic illness

Revised: November 7, 2011
3. Participation in mentor’s research four hours per week

4. Participation in an interdisciplinary research center at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

5. Participation in University and School of Nursing research ethics seminars

6. Development of a grant proposal to be submitted for external funding at the end of the fellowship

7. Completion of two courses over the post-doctoral fellowship period: Theory Based Interventions, Designing Interventions Studies. Additional coursework available at fellow’s discretion

8. Meeting at least twice yearly with fellow’s advisory committee

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Application Deadline: Rolling Admissions

The following information comprises the School of Nursing Postdoctoral Fellowship Application. Provide the information on separate paper with your name on each page.

1. Provide a brief written proposal (5-10 pages, not including references) for the research that you plan to carry out in an area of interventions for preventing and managing chronic illness. Ideally, the research study should be related to mentor’s research. Include purpose, supporting literature, significance of study, subjects, design, and procedures. Study should be able to be conducted in one year.

2. Describe previous research experiences.

3. Describe your research goals and how the fellowship program will help you to achieve them. Explicitly describe activities to be included in planned training program.

4. Describe your fit with your mentor’s research program.

5. Submit a copy of most recent curriculum vitae.

6. Submit official transcripts for all undergraduate and graduate programs attended.

7. Submit examples of two recent scholarly papers.

8. Submit two letters of reference supporting your qualifications. If five years or less have passed since completion of doctoral program, one of these letters must be from the chair of your dissertation committee. The letters should be emailed directly to Merle Mishel, Program Director (mishel@email.unc.edu).

9. Submit a letter from your potential 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. The letter should be emailed directly to Merle Mishel, Program Director (mishel@email.unc.edu)

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.

**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 and co-director of the T32 is the Carol A. Blackwell Distinguished Scholar. 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 Millikan 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 multidisciplinary 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.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Merle Mishel, PhD, RN, Program Director
(919) 966-4274
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
Postdoctoral 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

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Interventions for Preventing and Managing Chronic Illness

Application Deadline: Rolling Admissions

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 ___________________________________________

Title of Project Proposal __________________________________________

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Mail Application to:
Office of Admissions & Student Services
Postdoctoral 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

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