PhD in Nursing Program Newsletter

“Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.”
William Butler Yeats

Successful Dissertation Defenses

Congratulations to all who have recently defended their dissertations!

Abdulrhman Al Bougami, PhD
“The Relationship between Cultural Competence Levels and Perceptions of Patient-Centered Care among Filipino and Indian Expatriate Nurses working in the Saudi Arabian Healthcare Sector”
Dissertation Chair: Karen Pounds, PhD, PMHCNS, BC

Maram Taher Alghabbashi, PhD
“Toward an Understanding of Married Saudi Women’s Attitudes and Knowledge Concerning STIs: Mode of Transmission, Personal Risk, and Perception of Their Ability to Decrease Personal Risk”
Dissertation Chair: Barbara J. Guthrie, RN, PhD, FAAN

Daniel David, MS, PhD
“Cognitive Impairment & Heart Failure: Identifying Factors that Diminish Self-Care”
Dissertation Chair: Elizabeth Howard, PhD, RN, ACNP, ANP-BC

Dr. David is currently a postdoctoral VAQS fellow at the VA medical center in San Francisco, UCSF-division of geriatrics.

Shirley Gillies, PhD, RN, FNP
“Fear Avoidance Beliefs and Non-Specific Chronic Low Back Pain”
Dissertation Chair: Elizabeth Howard, PhD, RN, ACNP, ANP-BC

Kerry Nolte, PhD, ARNP
“Protecting Themselves: Toward an Understanding of Black Women’s Approaches to Encouraging a Male Partner to Test for HIV”
Dissertation Chair: Barbara J. Guthrie, RN, PhD, FAAN

Valeria Ramdin, PhD, APRN-BC, CNE
“Socioecological Factors Associated with Vitamin D Deficiency: Implications for Adults with Obesity and Chronic Pain”
Dissertation Chair: Elizabeth Howard, PhD, RN, ACNP, ANP-BC

Dr. Nolte recently presented to the International Council of Nurses in Hong Kong (see page 3).
Welcome, New Students!

Jacqueline Brady, RN, BSN, MEd, completed her undergraduate work at Simmons College in Boston and her Masters of Education work at Cambridge College in Cambridge, MA. Jackie has been a pediatric nurse working in the community setting for over 20 years. She has spent the last ten years working for Boston Public Schools (BPS) and currently works as a full-time school nurse at the Mario Umana Academy. The “Umana” in East Boston is a dual language school that serves nearly 1000 students. Prior to her current position, she worked for five years as the school nurse at the Mildred Avenue Community School in Mattapan and also spent seven years as a school nurse working in Quincy Public Schools. Jackie’s clinical and research interests lie in working with children who have experienced “toxic stress” and abuse. She developed a “Re-Entry to School” tool for children who are returning post-hospitalization for mental and behavioral issues and that tool is now being implemented at the Umana. Jackie is looking forward to working with Dr. Linda Grant, Medical Director for BPS, for her doctoral research practicum.

Richard Hebert, MSN, ACNP, graduated from Northeastern University’s Paramedic Program in 1991. During the next 12 years, he worked as a paramedic for several municipal systems in central Massachusetts. He graduated from Cape Cod Community College in 2003 with an ADN. He worked as a staff nurse for Boston Medical Center for one year then worked as an emergency nurse for Jordan Hospital in Plymouth. He obtained his BSN and MSN from Northeastern University in 2008 and became an ANCC board certified Acute Care Nurse Practitioner, after which he joined the internal medicine service at Jordan Hospital and worked as a Hospitalist. After two years, he was promoted to Director of Mid-level Practice, then to Assistant Medical Director of the In-house Internal Medicine Service (the only non-physician to hold a medical director position at Jordan Hospital). During his tenure, the service doubled in size, created the hospital’s first observation unit, and decreased ER admission times. He eventually found his passion in critical care medicine and took the position of critical care night intensivist. In the PhD program, he plans to focus on the management and prevention of aspiration pneumonia during acute alcohol withdrawal.

Elizabeth Henderson, MS, MSN, AFN-BC is currently a Nursing Practice Specialist on the Burn, Reconstructive Surgery & Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Unit at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH). She has worked at MGH for over 16 years, spending the majority of her clinical career as a nurse in the emergency department at MGH working with a diverse patient population including both victims and perpetrators of violence. Liz has a Master of Science degree in Biomedical Forensic Science from Boston University and a Master of Science in Nursing with a specialty in Forensic Nursing from Boston College. At Northeastern, her focus as a doctoral student is on violence and injury prevention with a special interest in firearm-related suicide prevention. Liz’s interest in suicide prevention and firearm related injury stems from gaps in practice experienced during her tenure as an ED nurse and solidified by evidence in the literature pertaining to the identification, assessment, and discharge disposition of those who present to the acute care setting as a danger to themselves or to others. For her research practicum, she plans to work with a researcher who is also faculty of Emergency Medicine at UMASS Worcester.

Susan Maher is also a first year PhD student in the School of Nursing.

Continuing students Anna Etchin (top) and Rachel Pozzar presented at the Council for Advancement in Nursing Science (CANS) 2016 State of the Science Congress: Determinants of Health in Washington, DC in September (see page 3).
Publications


**Scannell, M.** (In press). CDC 2015 HPV vaccine recommendations for patients who have been sexually assaulted. *Journal of Forensic Nursing.*

Presentations

**Melissa Cyr** gave a podium presentation in June 2016 entitled “The psychosocial, economic, and occupational impacts of psoriasis” at the Maui Dermatology conference in Colorado Springs, CO.

**Anna Etchin** gave two podium presentations entitled “Bureaucratic and hard to access: Homeless veterans’ and community providers’ perceptions of, and experiences with, VA healthcare” at the Health Services Research and Development National Meeting in Arlington, VA, and “Healthcare experiences, perspectives, and preferences of veterans experiencing homelessness” at the Council for Advancement in Nursing Science (CANS) 2016 State of the Science Congress on Nursing Research in Washington, DC.

**Elizabeth Henderson** spoke at the International Association of Forensic Nurses’ annual conference about dangerous patients and the role of the ED nurse in preventing suicide.

**Kerry Nolte** gave a podium presentation in September 2016 entitled “Taking care of ourselves: The experiences of African American women discussing HIV testing with their male partners” at the 9th International Council of Nurses International Nurse Practitioner / Advanced Practice Nursing Network Conference in Hong Kong.

**Rachel Pozzar** presented a poster in September entitled “Mom, you need to live: The role of family in the treatment decision-making processes of women with bladder cancer” at the CANS 2016 State of the Science Congress on Nursing Research: Determinants of Health in Washington, DC.

Research

**Melissa Cyr** is a graduate research assistant for Dr. James Benneyan at the Healthcare Systems Engineering Institute. Her primary work involves the ‘Access to Care’ project for the Centers for Health Organization Transformation (CHOT) funded by the National Science Foundation. She is also working on two coauthored engineering manuscripts using predictive simulation modeling in health screening.

**Anna Etchin** completed her research practicum at the Department of Veteran Affairs Medical Center in Jamaica Plain, Boston, MA. She continues to work on projects with the Translational Research Center for TBI and Stress Disorders (TRACTS).

**Casey Garvey** is currently working on a pilot study on the effects of illness perception, stigma, trauma-related symptoms and antiviral treatment initiation among US veterans with hepatitis C. The pilot will inform his final dissertation.

**Bertha Lee** is currently completing her SGA working with older adults residing under the Boston Housing Authority with Dr. Elizabeth Howard. In addition, she is carrying out a reliability and validity study on wearable activity trackers with Dr. Dinesh John.

**Rachel Pozzar** is continuing her research practicum with Dr. Donna Berry at the Phyllis F. Cantor Center for Research in Nursing and Patient Care Services at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. She is also completing a course in mixed methods research through the Harvard Catalyst.
Volunteer & Community Service

Melissa Cyr serves as Clinician-in-Residence at the Healthcare Systems Engineering Institute and is an ad-hoc reviewer for The Journal of the Dermatology Nurses' Association.

Anna Etchin traveled to San Marcos, Honduras on a medical brigade with Cape CARES. Along with a team, Anna provided medical care to villagers with no access to healthcare.

Rachel Pozzar volunteered at the 2016 National Ovarian Cancer Coalition’s Run/Walk to Break the Silence on Ovarian Cancer and the 2016 Boston Marathon Jimmy Fund Walk. She also serves as a graduate teaching assistant for Northeastern University’s family nurse practitioner program.

Kathryn Robinson is coordinating a walk-a-thon benefitting the American Cancer Society’s Making Strides Against Breast Cancer, to be held in October 2016.

Meredith Scannell was the recipient of the 2015 Journal of Forensic Nursing Education Article of the Year Award, for her article entitled “Sexual assault simulation course for healthcare providers: Enhancing sexual assault education using simulation.”

Awards & Honors

Three PhD in nursing students were named Jonas Scholars and received scholarships from the Jonas Center for Nursing and Veterans Healthcare. Elizabeth Henderson and Rachel Pozzar will each receive a PhD Jonas Nurse Leader Scholarship, while Anna Etchin will receive the PhD Jonas Veterans Healthcare Scholarship. The Jonas Scholars at Northeastern University are made possible by a grant from the Jonas Center for Nursing and Veterans Healthcare. To learn more about the Jonas Center, visit http://www.jonascenter.org/.

Meredith Scannell attended the 20th Annual Qualitative Research Institute in Mixed Methods Research at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill School of Nursing in June 2016. The Institute was taught by Drs. Margarete Sandelowski and Sharron Docherty of UNC-Chapel Hill and Duke University, respectively. (Photo, L-R: Eskandar, Docherty, Sandelowski, Lee.)

Upcoming Events

Eastern Nursing Research Society 29th Annual Scientific Sessions
“Leading the Way: Building Strength and Unity in the Diversity of Nursing Science”
April 5-7, 2017, Philadelphia, PA

The Simplicity Behind Complexity: A Workshop Series
Presented by the Bouvé College Office of Research (BCORe) at Northeastern University, this workshop series will explore various analytic approaches and their applications. Workshops are open to all faculty and doctoral students. Upcoming topics are as follows:

November 9, 2016: Multilevel modeling
February 8, 2017: Intensive longitudinal analysis
April 12, 2017: Structural equation modeling

Space is limited! Email BCORe@northeastern.edu for more information or to register.

This newsletter was produced by PhD students
Anna Etchin and Rachel Pozzar