PhD Faculty Research Interests

Cindy Anderson* studying hypertension in pregnancy and epigenomic markers of heritable and future development of hypertension after preeclampsia

Michele Balas* developing and testing nurse-led, interprofessional interventions to reduce delirium in critically older adults and in long term acute care

Susie Breitenstein* developing and testing interventions to improve social and emotional outcomes for families of young children; use of community health workers

Mei Wei Chang* testing theory-based, culturally sensitive interventions for obesity prevention among low-income overweight and obese young mothers

Sonia Duffy* studying behavior change interventions for cancer patients, veterans, and blue collar workers; RCTs, implementation science, big data

Eileen Faulds examining diabetes technology self-management with wearable device data; developing mHealth self-management interventions

Jodi Ford* investigating social environment, chronic physiologic stress and physical and mental health in the transition from adolescence to young adulthood

Christine Fortney studying palliative/end-of-life care in infants, examining infant symptoms and associations with parent decision-making, coping, and distress

Shannon Gillespie developing and clinically validating biologically-informed screening tools to predict and prevent complications of pregnancy

Margaret Graham* increasing interprofessional team health care delivery for better outcomes among minority and underserved people

Mary Beth Happ* developing and testing interventions to help seriously ill patients and families communicate needs, symptoms, and other messages

Tondi Harrison* developing and testing interventions to moderate the adverse effects of early hospitalization on neonates and young infants

Kayla Herbell studying psychosocial and mental health needs of families of youth with serious mental illness or behavioral issues; developing family-centered interventions

Jie Hu* developing and testing family-based, culturally tailored diabetes self-management interventions for minority populations

Jin Jun studying provider health, wellbeing, and resilience through individual and system-level factors to create high-performing organizations

Jennifer Kue* understanding and addressing cancer health disparities, cancer screening, and survivorship, specifically among refugee and immigrant communities

Jodi McDaniel* determining effects of omega-3 fatty acids on inflammation as it relates to chronic wound healing and cognitive function

Bernadette Melnyk* developing and testing programs to improve coping/mental health outcomes and healthy lifestyle behaviors; implementation science for EBP

Lisa Militello exploring digital health behavior change interventions to promote healthy lifestyle behaviors in children and families

Todd Monroe* examining sex-differences in the neurobiology of pain during in adults with and without Alzheimer’s disease or related dementias
Ethan Morgan  
studying sexual and gender minority populations, HIV/STIs and other infectious diseases, inflammation, chronic disease, and substance use

Dianne Morrison-Beedy*  
HIV/STI/pregnancy; women’s and adolescent health; behavioral change and motivationally-based interventions; reducing sexual risk

Karen Moss  
studying pain and advanced care planning/decision-making for adults with Alzheimer’s disease and family caregivers, especially African Americans

Timiya Nolan  
developing and testing age and culturally targeted interventions improving quality of life/health in young African American breast cancer survivors

Tara O’Brien  
developing and testing mHealth interventions to improve physical activity adherence in older adults with chronic disease

Donal O’Mathuna*  
conducting research on ethical issues in disasters and humanitarian crises, and healthcare provision; conducting Cochrane systematic reviews

Rita Pickler*  
studying the care of preterm infants and their families and developmental outcomes for children at high risk for poor outcomes

Karen Rose*  
 focusing on supporting family caregivers of persons with Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias using technology

Laureen Smith*  
designing and testing interventions for underserved rural Appalachian adolescents to improve and sustain healthy behaviors

Janna Stephens  
 improving the health of young adults and reducing their risk for developing cardiovascular disease

Judy Tate*  
 improving cognitive function and self-care in older adults after hospitalization, ICU family caregivers, symptom management, communication

Susan Thrane  
 studying integrative interventions for symptom management for children, adolescents, and adults receiving palliative care

Heather Tubbs Cooley*  
evaluating outcomes of nursing care delivery in neonatal and pediatric care; system factors and nursing care quality; patient safety; health informatics

Sharon Tucker*  
 studying behavioral/environmental interventions for physical and mental health among adults and families; implementation models and strategies

Karen Patricia Williams*  
 translating evidenced-based interventions in community-based and family-focused cancer prevention

Celia Wills*  
testing interventions to improve decision-making and health self-care management in adults with chronic conditions; testing virtual simulation

Loren Wold*  
 studying the effects of environmental triggers on the heart, from the organ to the tissue and cell

Kathy Wright  
 developing and testing interventions to improve brain health and blood pressure in African American older adults with hypertension

*May serve as advisors to PhD students.