

# PhD Faculty Research Interests

- \*Cindy Anderson:** studying hypertension in pregnancy and epigenomic markers of heritable and future development of hypertension after preeclampsia.
- \*Susie Breitenstein:** developing and testing interventions to improve social and emotional outcomes for families of young children; studying use of community health workers in care delivery.
- \*Mei-Wei Chang:** testing theory-based, culturally sensitive interventions for obesity prevention among low-income overweight and obese young mothers (both pregnant and non-pregnant).
- Christine Dyar:** understanding and reducing health disparities affecting sexual and gender minority populations.
- Eileen Faulds:** examining diabetes technology self-management with wearable device data (i.e., insulin pump, glucose monitoring, automated insulin delivery); developing mHealth self-management interventions
- \*Jodi Ford:** investigating the effects of the social environment on chronic physiologic stress and ultimately, physical and mental health over the transition from adolescence to young adulthood.
- Chris Fortney:** studying palliative and end-of-life care in the neonatal population by looking at infant symptoms from multiple perspectives and examining associations with decision-making, coping, and distress.
- Shannon Gillespie:** developing and clinically validating biologically-informed screening tools for the prediction and targeted prevention of complications of pregnancy.
- \*Margaret Graham:** increasing interprofessional team health care delivery for better outcomes among minority and underserved people.
- \*Gunther, Carolyn:** studying the behavioral and environmental factors relating to diet and foods/nutrition that influence a child and adolescent's risk for obesity.
- \*Mary Beth Happ:** developing and testing interventions to help seriously ill patients and their families communicate needs, symptoms, and other important 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 support needs of families of youth with serious mental illness or behavioral issues; developing family-centered interventions for positive family outcomes.
- \*Jie Hu:** developing and testing family-based and culturally tailored diabetes self-management interventions to improve health outcomes in minority populations.
- Jin Jun:** studying health, wellbeing, and resilience of healthcare providers by addressing individual and system-level factors to create high-performing healthcare organizations.
- \*Sheryl Justice:** investigates host-pathogen interactions that modulate severity of urinary tract infections and translates these observations into new therapeutic and preventative approaches.
- \*Jodi McDaniel:** determining effects of omega-3 fatty acids on inflammation as it relates to chronic wound healing and cognitive function.
- \*Bern Melnyk:** Developing and testing programs to improve coping/mental health outcomes and/or healthy lifestyle behaviors in children, teens, college-age youth, adults and clinicians; implementation science for EBP.
- Lisa Militello:** exploring the role of digital health behavior change interventions to promote healthy lifestyle behaviors in children and families, particularly with regard to social determinants of health.
- Ethan Morgan:** studying sexual and gender minority populations, particularly in terms of 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, developing and testing interventions to reduce sexual risk
- Karen Moss:** pain and advanced care planning and decision-making for older adults with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias and their family caregivers with a specific focus on African Americans
- Marliese Nist:** developing interventions to reduce stress exposure and response and improve neurodevelopmental outcomes for preterm infants.
- Timiya Nolan:** developing and testing age- and culturally- targeted interventions to improve quality of life and health among 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, particularly related to research ethics and integrity, and healthcare provision. Conducting Cochrane systematic reviews.
- \*Rita Pickler:** studying the care of preterm infants and their families, transitional needs for children with acute and complex illnesses, developmental outcomes for children at high risk, high risk perinatal outcomes.
- \*Brittany PUNCHES:** applying health services research to develop and test emergency care prevention interventions addressing population health with primary focus on pain, substance use, and trauma recovery.
- \*Karen Rose:** focusing on supporting family caregivers of persons with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias using technology.
- \*Laureen Smith:** designing and testing interventions to help underserved rural Appalachian adolescents improve and sustain healthy behaviors to prevent obesity as well as mitigate obesity and extreme obesity.
- \*Janna Stephens:** improving the health of young adults and reducing their risk for developing cardiovascular disease.
- \*Judy Tate:** improving cognitive function and self-care among older adults after hospitalization, family caregivers of ICU patients and survivors, symptom management in the ICU, patient provider communication.
- Susan Thrane:** studying integrative interventions) for symptom management for children, adolescents, and adults with life-limiting or life-threatening illness receiving palliative or hospice care.
- \*Heather Tubbs Cooley:** evaluating outcomes of nursing services and care delivery in neonatal and pediatric care; understanding system factors influencing nursing care quality; patient safety; health informatics.
- \*Sharon Tucker:** studying behavioral/environmental interventions for improving physical and mental health among adults and families, and implementation models and strategies to improve the uptake of evidence.
- \*Diane Von Ah:** advancing science in the area of cancer survivorship including symptom management and quality of life.
- \*Karen Patricia Williams:** translating evidenced-based interventions in community-based and family-focused cancer prevention.
- \*Celia E. Wills:** testing interventions to improve decision-making and health self-care management in adults with chronic conditions; testing virtual simulation training to improve caregiver decision-making in the home.
- \*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.