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.

*May serve as advisors to PhD students. January 2022; RHP
*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.