

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
Michelle Failla	Studying pain perception and expression in populations with differences in social communication (i.e., autism, dementia), with a focus on underlying neurobiological mechanisms
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
Carolyn Gunther*	Studying the behavioral and environmental factors relating to diet and foods/nutrition that influence a child and adolescent's risk for obesity
Claire Han	Biosocial mechanisms and precision-health intervention of symptom toxicities and cancer survivorship outcomes in GI cancer survivors: Primarily, colorectal cancer with chemotherapy and immunotherapy, immune-related multi-omics prediction models of GI and psychoneurological toxicities through the microbiome-brain-gut axis, particularly in vulnerable cancer populations with social-structural disadvantages
Mary Beth Happ*	Developing and testing interventions to help seriously ill patients and their families communicate needs, symptoms and other important messages
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
McKenzie Jancsura	Developing and testing biologically informed behavioral/social interventions to mitigate preeclampsia and other adverse pregnancy outcomes, particularly among women with obesity
Holly Jones	Investigating the impact of perceived stress on symptom expression, behaviors and cardiovascular health in midlife using mixed methods and interventional research approaches

Jin Jun	Studying health, well-being 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 the severity of urinary tract infections and translates these observations into new therapeutic and preventative approaches
Becky Lorenz	Studying the effects of poor sleep and methods to improve sleep among adults with neurodegenerative diseases, specifically Alzheimer's Disease and Multiple Sclerosis, and their caregivers
Bern Melnyk*	Developing and testing programs to improve coping/mental health outcomes and healthy lifestyle behaviors in children, teens, college-age youth and adults; interventions to reduce burnout, depression and suicide risk and improve health and well-being in nurses/clinicians; implementation science for EBP
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	Palliative and end-of-life outcomes; pain and advanced care planning outcomes for Black/African American older adults living with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias and their family caregivers; developing and testing family caregiver peer support interventions
Donya Nemati	Identifying behavioral determinants for lifestyle modification that impact risk factors for cardiovascular disease. The aim is to develop innovative community-based interventions and home-based strategies to improve cardiometabolic outcomes among racial groups and reduce health disparities.
Marliese Nist	Developing interventions to reduce stress exposure and response and improve neurodevelopmental outcomes for preterm infants
Dónal O'Mathúna*	Conducting research on ethical issues in disasters, humanitarian crises and during violent conflict, particularly related to research ethics, integrity and healthcare provision Researching One Health ethics
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, and high-risk perinatal outcomes
Brittany Punches*	Applying health services research to develop and test emergency care prevention interventions addressing population health with a 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
Jiwon Shin	Studying the trajectory of positive and negative psychological outcomes in ICU survivors and family caregivers and developing interventions to improve post-ICU recovery using dyadic frameworks
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

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, and patient-provider communication

Use of technology to assist with social engagement for older adults in long-term care and community-dwelling family caregivers of persons with dementia

Heather Tubbs Cooley*

Evaluating outcomes of nursing services and care delivery in neonatal and pediatric care; understanding organizational factors influencing quality of care; patient safety; health services research

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 cancer survivorship including symptom management and quality of life

Karen Patricia Williams*

Translating evidence-based interventions in community-based and family-focused cancer prevention

Kathy Wright

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

