

Founded in 1939, the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing is ranked tenth overall among the nation's top schools of nursing in the most recent U.S. News and World Report's "America's Best Graduate Schools," and among the top ten in research dollars by the National Institutes of Health. The School of Nursing educates nurses for an increasingly demanding environment through a curriculum that combines rigorous academic work with varied and intensive clinical experiences and a growing involvement in research. More than 11,000 students have graduated from the School of Nursing's baccalaureate, masters, RN options, and doctoral programs.



**The University of Pittsburgh  
School of Nursing**

*Advancing the Science of Nursing*

[www.nursing.pitt.edu](http://www.nursing.pitt.edu)

University of Pittsburgh  
School of Nursing

*Faculty Research  
Interests Directory*

Fall 2008



For more than 50 years, researchers at the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing have helped redefine the science and practice of nursing through research. Nurses are changing clinical practice and changing people's lives.

A research-intensive environment at the School is reflected in our rankings. Among schools of nursing, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) statistics

have the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing among the top 10 in the amount of awards received for the tenth consecutive year! As of June 2008, we are ranked 5th.

The NIH rankings are indicative of the substantial contributions our faculty members are making to the development and evaluation of issues related to nursing care. Our researchers are committed to generating new knowledge in healthcare—knowledge that improves healthcare outcomes, supports evidence-based practice, and impacts public health policy. An overview of some of the current faculty research at the School of Nursing is highlighted in the winter 2006 issue of Pitt Nurse.

In addition, the School is the first school of nursing in the nation with an active genomics laboratory in-house and the first to require a full semester of genetics for undergraduate nursing students.

The School is also one of the first three schools in the nation to offer both BSN to PhD and MSN to PhD options. The PhD program is intended to prepare scholars who will advance the science and practice of nursing and related disciplines. We currently have competitive pre- and post-doctoral fellowships for nurses interested in technology (T32 NR 008857) and genetics (T32 NR 009759). Information about individual studies can be found at [www.nursing.pitt.edu](http://www.nursing.pitt.edu).

Janice S. Dorman, PhD, MS  
Associate Dean for Scientific and International Affairs

### Research foci at the School include:

- Behavioral management of chronic disorders, including adherence, self-management, technology, and prevention activities
- Patient management in critical care, including communication, recovery and end of life care
- Consumer informatics, including education, care management, usability, and health literacy
- Genetics applications in nursing care, focusing on molecular genetics and psychosocial implications
- Technology, focusing on telehealth, simulation and distance education

### Facilities available to researchers include:

- The Center for Research and Evaluation (CRE), introduced in 1987 to support basic and biobehavioral research, with a focus in the areas of chronic disease, critical care, adolescent health, and administrative resources and outcomes;
- The Center for Research in Chronic Disorders, a center funded by the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) and headed by Dean Jacqueline Dunbar-Jacob, PhD, RN, FAAN;
- The Molecular Genetics Laboratory directed by our own research faculty with formal training in the field of genetics;
- And the newly established Clinical Research Suite, which is used to conduct clinical research, consultation sessions, and focus group sessions.

**Stilley, Carol, PhD, RN**  
[css100@pitt.edu](mailto:css100@pitt.edu)

My research focuses on the psychological and neuropsychological aspects of chronic illness, with an emphasis on treatment **adherence**. I am also interested in **adherence** and health outcomes after liver **transplantation** as it relates to personality traits as well as the impact of recorded music therapy among **cancer** patients.



**Albrecht, Susan, PhD, RN, FAAN**  
[saa01@pitt.edu](mailto:saa01@pitt.edu)

As Associate Dean for Student and Alumni Services Development and Public Relations, my administrative responsibilities include oversight of the academic and nonacademic support provided to prospective and current undergraduate and graduate students. I also direct communications with graduates of the School of Nursing, other nursing schools and the media, as well as fundraising events, graduation and other activities. My research interests focus on **adolescent health**, **smoking cessation** during **pregnancy**, relapse **prevention** and prevention of initiation of smoking in adolescents.

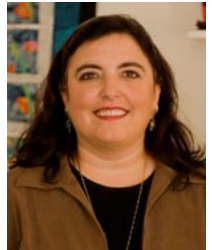


**Weber, Scott, EdD, MSN, APRN**  
[webersjm100@pitt.edu](mailto:webersjm100@pitt.edu)

The overall objective of my research is to gather baseline information on **health status** of **sexual minority parents** for use in designing an intervention to reduce both morbidity incidence and prevalence of substance abuse, anxiety disorders, and depressive illness in these clinical populations.

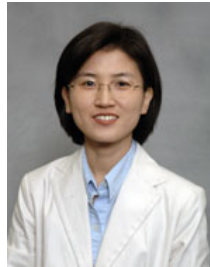
**Alexander, Sheila, PhD, RN**  
[salexand@pitt.edu](mailto:salexand@pitt.edu)

My primary research interest involves identifying **genetic** and cerebrospinal fluid markers of **recovery** in the acutely neurologically injured patient. Currently, I am attempting to identify predictors of neuronal viability and long term **recovery** after severe traumatic **brain injury**. I am also collaborating on a study of apolipoprotein E genotype and calcium levels on cerebral vasospasm following subarachnoid hemorrhage.



**Yang, Kyeongra, PhD, MPH, RN**  
[yangk@pitt.edu](mailto:yangk@pitt.edu)

My research focuses on health-promoting behaviors and related **psychosocial factors**. Of particular interest is the role of culture in individual's decision to participate in **physical activity**. In my future study, I plan to expand my research to include **adherence** to **physical activity** among people with chronic diseases, particularly the impact of **yoga** on individual at risk for **type 2 diabetes**.



**Bender, Catherine, PhD, RN**  
[cbe100@pitt.edu](mailto:cbe100@pitt.edu)

My research interests include the neuropsychological sequelae of **cancer** and cancer treatment and the physiological mechanisms underlying these problems. More specifically, my research has focused on the description of changes in **cognitive function** and mood that occur in patients with **cancer**, particularly as a consequence of cancer treatment. Additionally, I am conducting studies to test **behavioral** and pharmacological **interventions** to ameliorate cognitive impairment and prevent **depression** associated with cancer treatment.

**Braxter, Betty, PhD, RN, CNM**  
[bjbst@pitt.edu](mailto:bjbst@pitt.edu)

My research interests include **smoking cessation** during pregnancy and relapse-prevention in young women. Currently, I am interested in utilizing doulas to provide a smoking relapse **prevention** intervention during postpartum. I am also interested in tobacco related health disparities.





**Burke, Lora, PhD, MPH, RN**  
[lbu100@pitt.edu](mailto:lbu100@pitt.edu)

The focus of my research is compliance or **adherence** to **cardiovascular disease** risk reduction treatment strategies. More specifically, my research tests the efficacy of **behavioral interventions** to improve **adherence** to **obesity** treatment modalities using diet and exercise, e.g., **adherence** to a cholesterol-lowering eating plan. My interests also include self-efficacy theory, it is used as a theoretical basis for **interventions** as well as measurement of the construct.



**Schlenk, Elizabeth, PhD, RN**  
[els100@pitt.edu](mailto:els100@pitt.edu)

My research is focused on **adherence** to chronic disorder regimens, with a particular focus on **adherence** to exercise regimen. I have conducted observational and **intervention** studies with colleagues from across several disciplines that have focused on type 2 **diabetes**, hypertension, Raynaud's disease, fibromyalgia syndrome, rheumatoid arthritis, and **osteoarthritis**. I have am testing a self-efficacy based **intervention** to improve **physical activity** and fitness in older adults who are overweight or obese and have osteoarthritis of the knee.

**Burns, Helen, PhD, RN**  
[burnsh@pitt.edu](mailto:burnsh@pitt.edu)

As Associate Dean for Clinical Education, my administrative responsibilities include providing oversight for academic affairs for the undergraduate and Master's programs and the Continuing Education Program in the School of Nursing. My scholarly interests include nursing workforce, **dissemination** and translation of research into practice, and nurse **adherence** to evidence-based practice guidelines for **diabetes** and other chronic diseases.



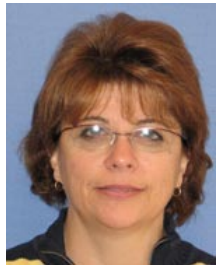
**Sereika, Susan, PhD**  
[ssereika@pitt.edu](mailto:ssereika@pitt.edu)

My area of research is **statistics**. The area of statistics that particularly interests me is the modeling and assessment of longitudinal data. I have collaborated as a co-investigator and statistician on a number of research projects with either intramural or extramural funding in the health sciences, many of which have targeted regimen **adherence** using multiple modes of monitoring.



**Sherwood, Paula, PhD, RN, CNRN**  
[prs11@pitt.edu](mailto:prs11@pitt.edu)

My research examines **behavioral** and biological markers of distress in **caregivers** and patients with neurologic disorders. I am currently working with **family caregivers** in the neuro-oncology and subarachnoid hemorrhage population to identify long-term consequences of providing care and to develop an **intervention** to alleviate the stress that may accompany providing care as the patient recovers or fails to recover from treatment.



**Caruthers, Donna, PhD, RN**  
[caru@pitt.edu](mailto:caru@pitt.edu)

The focus of my research is **adherence** to **behavioral** and **pharmacological treatments** in the treatment of **chronic disorders**. Currently, my research populations include patients living with **HIV** and treated with antiretroviral medications and patients seen within the healthcare system who continue to smoke. Future research will examine the use of the **adherence** interventions to enhancing tobacco abstinence with other populations living with chronic health disorders with both **behavioral** and **pharmacological treatments**.



**Stewart, Janet, PhD, RN**  
[stewj@pitt.edu](mailto:stewj@pitt.edu)

My research is focused on pediatric **cancer**, specifically children and their families' adjustment to the diagnosis and treatment trajectory. I have developed and tested an instrument to measure uncertainty in children and adolescents with **cancer**, and I am also working collaboratively with the Children's Oncology Group to study parental treatment **decision making** through a **qualitative** study of parents' experiences, and a feasibility study of a **web-based electronic data collection system** that will be employed in a larger, multi-center study of parental treatment **decision making**.



**Charron-Prochownik, Denise, PhD, RN**  
[dcpro@pitt.edu](mailto:dcpro@pitt.edu)

My research emphasis is in theory-based studies identifying cognitive/psychosocial predictors of health behavior changes in children and adolescents with type 1 **diabetes**. I have conducted several funded projects in the area of instrumentation, program development and **evaluation**, and survey designs. Most recently, my emphasis is on computer-based, **education-counseling intervention** studies: reproductive health and preconception counseling in adolescents with **diabetes**, and determination and notification of **genetic** risk of type 1 **diabetes** in children.





**Mitchell, Ann, PhD, RN**  
[ammi@pitt.edu](mailto:ammi@pitt.edu)

My scholarly interests include **mental health** outcomes research, bereavement following sudden, unnatural death specifically by suicide, and complicated **grief**. Pilot data from a recent study will be used to develop and evaluate the effectiveness of a crisis **intervention** program for survivors of suicide within one month of the death of a **family** member or significant other. I am also a consultant for a study examining nurse's attitudes toward the death of a patient for which they have cared.



**Chasens, Eileen, DSN, RN**  
[chasense@pitt.edu](mailto:chasense@pitt.edu)

My program of research focuses on explaining the factors that influence **sleep**, sleepiness, and daytime activity in persons with **chronic disorders**. More specifically, I am interested in explicating the relationships between **sleep apnea**, daytime sleepiness and functional outcomes in type 2 **diabetes**. Furthermore, I am testing **interventions** to promote **sleep** and improved daytime function for obese patients with type 2 **diabetes**.

**O'Donnell, John, MSN, RN**  
[jod01@pitt.edu](mailto:jod01@pitt.edu)

As Director of the Nurse **Anesthesia** Program, my scholarly interests include **education** and **simulation** training, as well as **anesthesia**. One of my current interests is to work to shift the paradigm of training for intravenous catheter insertion from the apprenticeship model to the **simulation** model. If the **simulation** model is effective, this type of training could impact the method of instruction for intravenous catheter insertion across all nursing disciplines, reducing potential patient discomfort, the incidence of practitioner injury and/or exposure to blood born pathogens.



**Cohen, Susan, DSN, APRN**  
[cohensu@pitt.edu](mailto:cohensu@pitt.edu)

I am currently the principal investigator of studies that focus on **women's health** and **complementary and alternative medicine**. I'm conducting a **clinical trial** of the use of meditation to reduce menopausal hot flashes in both breast **cancer** survivors and women with naturally occurring **menopause**. My research reflects my study of the intersection of women's lives and their health.



**Puskar, Kathryn, DrPH, FAAN**  
[krp12@pitt.edu](mailto:krp12@pitt.edu)

My major interests focus on **adolescent health**, life transitions, **depression** and coping methods. I am currently funded to conduct an anger assessment and a school-based **intervention** for rural youth entitled 'Teaching Kids to Cope with Anger.' The intent is to reduce high-risk behavior and **health disparities** and improve **rural health** for youth.



**Conley, Yvette, PhD**  
[yconley@pitt.edu](mailto:yconley@pitt.edu)

My research interests are in the field of **molecular genetics**. I have a fully equipped **molecular genetics** laboratory located within the School of Nursing, and my lab is involved with several research projects. My current research involves candidate gene analysis for Alzheimer's disease and age-related **macular degeneration**, mitochondrial **genetics of recovery** following traumatic **brain injury**, and the **genetics** of calcium homeostasis and **aging**.

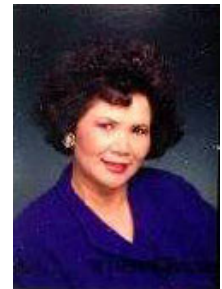
**Rosenzweig, Margaret, PhD, CRNP-C, AOCN**  
[mros@pitt.edu](mailto:mros@pitt.edu)

My research focus involves **symptom management** in palliative care. I am exploring the variables of income and race on symptoms and **symptom management** barriers in women with metastatic breast **cancer**, as well as the course of treatment, reported symptoms and clinical attention to end-of-life as women receive sequential palliative chemotherapy in metastatic breast **cancer**. I am interested in the unique holistic approach that nursing brings to the palliative care setting.



**Constantino, Rose, PhD, JD, RN, FAAN, FACFE**  
[rco100@pitt.edu](mailto:rco100@pitt.edu)

The area of research that I examine is health outcomes of abused women who experience domestic violence and enter a woman's shelter, and women whose spouse committed suicide. My past studies have shown that there is a difference in the psychological, physical and **behavioral** health outcomes between abused women who receive **intervention** and abused women who do not receive **intervention**. I am also looking at specific factors in loss, and abusive experiences, and in the **intervention** that account for these differences.



**Courtney, Karen, PhD, RN**  
[courtk@pitt.edu](mailto:courtk@pitt.edu)

My area of research interest is broadly defined as **health systems** research. I am interested in how place or location can affect **health outcomes** on both an individual level and a population level. Some of my past research at an individual level has looked at how privacy in residential care facilities can affect an older adult's decision to adopt information-based assistive **technologies**. On a population level, my research has examined nursing workforce distribution and community health outcomes.



**LaRue, Elizabeth, PhD, MLS, AHIP**  
[eml17@pitt.edu](mailto:eml17@pitt.edu)

My career focuses on people and **information** and **technology**. My interests include **health informatics**, **health literacy** and information retrieval by mobile individuals. I also study tools for finding information and teach people how to find and evaluate information.



**Crighton, Margaret, PhD, RN**  
[crighton@pitt.edu](mailto:crighton@pitt.edu)

My research focuses on improving the care of older **cancer** patients through studies to understand their experience of **neutropenia**, a side effect of cancer treatment that leaves patients at risk for life threatening infection. My studies approach **neutropenia** from the patient's personal experience.

**Lee, Heeyoung, PhD, APRN-BC**  
[leehee@pitt.edu](mailto:leehee@pitt.edu)

My research involves working with mentally ill patients and their families. Mainly, my research focuses on **mental health outcomes** including psychiatric symptoms, psychosocial functioning, and family functioning in **adolescents** with schizophrenia and their family.



**Davies, Marilyn, PhD, RN**  
[daviesm@pitt.edu](mailto:daviesm@pitt.edu)

My primary research interest is focused on in vitro and in vivo **pharmacologic studies** that address whether heritable differences in the major targets of medications used to treat psychiatric illnesses (schizophrenia, bipolar disorder and depression) explain inter-individual differences in **therapeutic response**, including side effects.



**Lingler, Jennifer, PhD, RN, FNP**  
[linglerj@pitt.edu](mailto:linglerj@pitt.edu)

My research has focused primarily on psychosocial well-being in persons with **cognitive impairment** and their family caregivers. I am currently investigating illness perceptions and their relation to **health behaviors** in persons at heightened risk for Alzheimer's disease. I am also pursuing an exploration of the mechanisms by which patient and caregiver factors interact to influence decisions regarding enrollment and retention in clinical research on Alzheimer's disease.



**DeVito Dabbs, Annette, PhD, RN**  
[ajdst42@pitt.edu](mailto:ajdst42@pitt.edu)

My scholarly interests include health-related **quality of life** after **lung transplantation**, active partnerships between patients and clinicians, **qualitative research**, and mixed-methods analysis techniques. The descriptive studies that I have conducted to date provide evidence that positive outcomes after transplantation are dependent on recipients' abilities to adjust to the challenges that accompany the health transition after transplantation and become active partners in their care.

**Matthews, Judith, PhD, MPH, RN**  
[jtmatt@pitt.edu](mailto:jtmatt@pitt.edu)

Throughout much of my career, I have focused on **community health** nursing practice, **education**, and research. My particular interest is in developing, applying, and evaluating **technological solutions** - including use of the Internet and robotic assistive **technologies** - that enhance independence among community-residing persons with **chronic disorders** and promote the competence, health, and well-being of family.





**Henker, Richard, PhD, RN**  
[rhe001@pitt.edu](mailto:rhe001@pitt.edu)

My research activities center around thermoregulation and the inflammatory response. Specific studies include: **evaluation** of responses to various treatments of fever in critically ill patients, description of core and brain temperatures in head injured patients, and comparison of various methods of measuring temperature in the critically ill. Most recently, I was funded to conduct a **genetic** study of the relationships between mu receptor genotype and post-operative **pain** response following **anesthesia**.

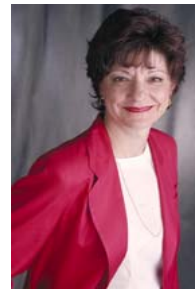
**Donovan, Heidi, PhD, RN**  
[donovanh@pitt.edu](mailto:donovanh@pitt.edu)

My research focuses on **symptom management** for women with ovarian **cancer**, with a particular emphasis on developing psycho-**education** programs to help women manage their multiple symptoms. Much of my work is conducted in collaboration with the National Ovarian **Cancer** Coalition (NOCC). Currently, we have developed a theory-guided **symptom management intervention** to be delivered by nurses via secure internet messaging to women with ovarian **cancer**, and plan to assess beliefs that may interfere with symptom reporting.



**Hoffman, Leslie, PhD, RN, FAAN**  
[lhof@pitt.edu](mailto:lhof@pitt.edu)

I am Chair of the Acute and Tertiary Care Department, and my primary research interest involves identifying methods of resolving or minimizing dysfunction resulting from **pulmonary disease** in chronically and critically ill patients. Currently, I am identifying predictors of discharge to home and changes in **quality of life** in patients on prolonged **mechanical ventilation**. I am also testing several markers to identify patients most likely to experience cerebral vasospasm following subarachnoid hemorrhage, and I direct a project designed to expand our clinical emphasis in trauma/emergency preparedness.



**Dorman, Janice, PhD**  
[jsd@pitt.edu](mailto:jsd@pitt.edu)

As Associate Dean for Scientific and International Affairs and Director of the Center for Research and Evaluation, my administrative responsibilities include oversight of the Visiting Scholars and Doctoral Programs. I am a **genetic** epidemiologist, and my research interests include genetic education for families with **type 1 diabetes** and other autoimmune disorders in families. In addition, I direct an institutional training grant focusing on **genomics** in nursing research, and I also co-direct the WHO Collaboration Center for Disease Monitoring, Telecommunications and the Molecular Epidemiology of Diabetes Mellitus.

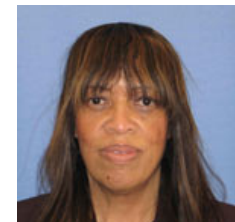


**Hravnak, Marilyn, PhD, RN, CRNP-CS, CCRN, FCCM**  
[mhra@pitt.edu](mailto:mhra@pitt.edu)

I am pursuing research interests in the area of health outcomes and **health services** research in cardiothoracic and critical care. I am particularly interested in examining racial disparities in **patient outcomes** following invasive coronary procedures. Specifically, I am examining differences in modifiable coronary heart disease risk factors, health care access and utilization, and post-surgical outcomes in African Americans and Caucasians undergoing coronary artery bypass grafting (CABG).

**Doswell, Willa, PhD, RN, FAAN**  
[wdo100@pitt.edu](mailto:wdo100@pitt.edu)

My area of research is **adolescent health**, pubertal development and early sexual behavior, especially among African American girls between the ages of 9-14 years. I am conducting an **intervention** to impact their intention and actual involvement in early sexual behavior. In addition, I am studying mother-daughter dyads to pilot an **intervention** designed to enhance mothers' ability to communicate values about **prevention** of teen sexual behavior with their daughters.



**Kitutu, Julius, PhD, MSc, MEd**  
[jmm@pitt.edu](mailto:jmm@pitt.edu)

As Director of Student Services, I am interested in addressing the issue of nursing career preparation and job satisfaction. My specialty area is **statistics**, particularly modeling pooled data, cross-sectional, as well as longitudinal data. My current research focuses on the **career trajectory of nursing graduates** from the University of Pittsburgh, School of Nursing.



**Dunbar-Jacob, Jacqueline, PhD, RN, FAAN**  
[dunbar@pitt.edu](mailto:dunbar@pitt.edu)

I am the Dean at the University of Pittsburgh, School of Nursing, as well as the Director of the School of Nursing's Center for Research in **Chronic Disorders**. My research reflects my study of patient compliance and **adherence** for over 20 years, addressing a variety of patient populations including **rheumatological conditions**, cardiovascular risk factors, **diabetes**, **cancer** screening and **transplantation**. I also have experience with the **behavioral** science aspects of **clinical trial** management, including the Lipid Research Clinics Program, the **Diabetes** Control and Complications Trial and the **Women's Health** Initiative.

**El Saadawi, Gilan, MD, PhD, MS**  
[gis2@pitt.edu](mailto:gis2@pitt.edu)

My research interests are in human computer interaction and standardized markup languages. Currently, I have interests in projects that refine, implement and evaluate innovative **web-based resources** that provide patient-centered information. I am also interested in developing semi-automated computer tools for **clinical trial** protocols.



**Garand, Linda, PhD, RN, CS**  
[ligst4@pitt.edu](mailto:ligst4@pitt.edu)

My research interests focus on preventing psychiatric morbidity among family **caregivers** of persons with cognitive impairment while examining both psychological (mood) and immune (Psychoneuroimmunology) outcomes of nursing interventions with family caregivers. I am currently testing the effects of a community-based psychoeducational **intervention** designed to prevent psychiatric morbidity in spouses of persons at risk for **dementia**. The intent is to protect the **mental health** and well-being of **caregivers**.



**Engberg, Sandra, PhD, RN, CRNP**  
[sje100@pitt.edu](mailto:sje100@pitt.edu)

I am Chair of the Department of Health Promotion and Development, and my scholarly interests include **gerontology**, **women's health** and urinary **incontinence**. My research has focused on **interventions** for urinary **incontinence** in older women, men with prostate **cancer** and homebound elders. I am also studying the cost-effectiveness of providing **behavioral** therapies, including acupuncture, for urinary **incontinence** in this population.

**Hannan, Margaret, PhD, RN**  
[mhannan@pitt.edu](mailto:mhannan@pitt.edu)

My research focuses on examining **reproductive health** communication between mothers and their adolescent daughters with a chronic disorder, such as **diabetes** and **liver transplant** recipients. A long-term goal is to develop an intervention to enhance this **communication** for mothers. I have conducted a mixed methods study and will continue to conduct both qualitative and quantitative studies.



**Erlen, Judith, PhD, RN, FAAN**  
[jae001@pitt.edu](mailto:jae001@pitt.edu)

I am the PhD Program Coordinator, the interim Chair of the Department of Health and Community Systems, and my research reflects my interest in ethics, **adherence**, and **quality of life**. I am currently testing the effect of nurse delivered telephone **interventions** based on social cognitive and self-efficacy theories to improve **adherence** in persons living with **HIV** infection who are prescribed combination antiretroviral therapy. I am also the Principal Investigator of an institutional training grant focusing on **technology-supported interventions** to improve outcomes in critical and chronic care.



**Happ, Mary Beth, PhD, RN**  
[mhapp@pitt.edu](mailto:mhapp@pitt.edu)

My research focuses on understanding and improving **communication** with nonspeaking patients in **acute and critical care** settings through the use of **technology**. I have conducted research with patients who require long-term **mechanical ventilation**, exploring the feasibility of using electronic voice output **communication** aids with nonspeaking ICU and postoperative head and neck **cancer** patients. My current research also includes a study using **qualitative** and **mixed methods** event analysis techniques.



**Founds, Sandra, CNM, FNP, PhD**  
[foundss@pitt.edu](mailto:foundss@pitt.edu)

As a nurse midwife, I am interested in investigating complications of **pregnancy**. Specifically, I plan to examine **gene expression** in chorionic villi samples obtained from women who do and do not develop **preeclampsia** during their **pregnancy**. Differences in **gene expression** patterns may reflect genomic and proteomic interactions that contribute to the etiology of **preeclampsia**.

**Hawthorne-Burdine, Dorothy, PhD, RN**  
[dhb6@pitt.edu](mailto:dhb6@pitt.edu)

My research focuses on the sexual and **mental health** of school-age girls at menarche. I use both **qualitative and quantitative methods** to examine the menstrual attitude, self-concept, social competence, depressive affect and sexual health practices of girls with and without a **sickle cell anemia**. Results from data I collected in three southern states show parents most often use two sexual-health strategies, increased parental supervision and gender-sexuality-scripting, to keep their school-age daughters from engaging in sexual activities.

