Pitt nurse

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH SCHOOL OF NURSING MAGAZINE Summer 2022

THE LEGACY OF Dean Jacqueline Dunbar-Jacob ear Pitt Nursing family and friends, It is with mixed emotions that I introduce what will be the last issue of Pitt Nurse magazine during my tenure as dean. This summer, I am stepping down as dean to begin a one-year sabbatical and then retire. It has been an exciting and rewarding 35 years on the faculty, 21 of those as dean. Over those years, nursing has changed, and the School

News & World Report and our school ranked 21st internationally in the QS World University Rankings by Subject. I want to thank all of you for your contributions to our success.

In this issue of Pitt Nurse, we reflect on the evolution of the field of nursing and of the Pitt School of Nursing over these past two decades, highlighting some of the significant changes we have seen. For example, we have seen the

It is going to continue to be an exciting adventure in nursing as the next decades unfold. I know all of you will continue to showcase your pride for such an impressive academic institution and school.⁷⁷ introduction of clinical nurse leader education and certification, the evidence base for baccalaureate preparation for nurses, and the introduction of the Doctor of Nursing Practice as the emerging preferred degree for advanced practice. We have seen an increasing emphasis on evidence-based practice with the concurrent educational emphasis on how we do that. We have seen growth

in research to support the practice of nursing. As this third decade of the 2020s develops, we are seeing a turn toward competency-based education and the assessment, through the licensing examination, of critical thinking skills.

It is going to continue to be an exciting adventure in nursing as the next decades unfold. I know all of you will continue to showcase your pride for such an impressive academic institution and school. Thank you for all you have done to contribute to the success of the Pitt School of Nursing. It has been my honor to serve you.

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Jacqueline Dunbar-Jacob, PhD, FAAN Dean and Distinguished Service Professor of Nursing University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing

of Nursing has evolved along with it. We are fortunate to have outstanding students, alumni, faculty, staff, donors and friends of the school. As dean, I have had the privilege of watching our students excel and begin their nursing careers or progress to a higher level of practice. As a parent, I had the privilege of watching my daughter, Alexa, graduate from the first cohort of baccalaureate students from the nursing program at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown and from our MSN-CNL program on the Pittsburgh campus—a truly proud moment of my life that solidified my pride in leading one of the most prestigious schools of nursing in the country. Our rankings validate our success, with our BSN, online MSN, and DNP programs all ranked in the top 10 by U.S.

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A nursing robot that Dunbar-Jacob helped to create more than 20 years ago is on display at Carnegie Mellon University.

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EVOLVING EDUCATION TO DEVELOP THE BEST NURSES POSSIBLE

The University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing has led the evolution of nursing education and research by responding to the needs of health care, society and patients since the school was founded in 1939.

25 STUDENTS SHINE AT THE SPRING **GRADUATION AND PINNING** CEREMONY

Students were honored during the Spring Graduation and Pinning Ceremony in April at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center.

Above: A gavel in Dean Dunbar-Jacob's office commemorates her 2004-05 term as president of the Academy of Behavioral Medicine Research.

Pitt Nursing Alum Wins Distinguished Alumni Service Award

three-time graduate of the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing took home the 2021 Pitt Alumni Association Bill Baierl Distinguished Alumni Service Award.

Debra N. Thompson (BSN '77, MSN '81, PhD '10) was presented with the award in recognition of volunteer service to the University that has had a significant impact on advancing the University's mission.

Thompson has worked to improve safety and quality care at numerous health care organizations around the world. Her work with the Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative helped frontline leaders to become change agents. As the lead for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality team, Thompson helped to identify the obstacles that senior leaders face while executing patient safety plans.

Thompson is actively involved with the Pitt Alumni Association and regularly volunteers at Pitt Nursing as a speaker for graduation ceremonies, alumni events, and mentoring activities. She holds an adjunct faculty appointment at Pitt Nursing.



Nurse Practitioner is the Best Job in Health Care, Second Best Job Overall

S. News & World Report recently ranked the nurse practitioner (NP) role first on its 2022 Best Health Care Jobs list and second on its 2022 100 Best Jobs list. The annual rankings consider several factors, including salary, potential for job growth, and worklife balance.

The University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing has been consistently ranked among the country's top schools of nursing by U.S. News & World Report in recent years. The school's Doctor of Nursing Practice and Bachelor of Science in Nursing programs are both ranked seventh. Most recently, U.S. News & World Report ranked the school's online Master of Science in Nursing program number one in the nation.

More than 13,000 students have graduated from Pitt Nursing and are changing the face of nursing and health care. Graduates don't just treat patients; they also lead health care systems around the world and play an integral role in developing and implementing policies that have a global impact.

"U.S. News & World Report's ranking of NPs as the nation's top health care job demonstrates the strength of the profession in serving patients and communities and meeting the skyrocketing demand for high-quality health care across the country," says April N. Kapu, president of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners. "These rankings highlight what we have known for some time: The NP role is not just a job, it's a calling for more than 325,000 NPs who are working tirelessly on the front lines of health care, from hospitals to primary care clinics, in patients' homes and via telehealth. NPs are highly trained and committed health care providers improving the

Nurse practitioners don't just treat patients; they also lead health care systems around the world and play an integral role in developing and implementing policies that have a global impact.



health of their patients and communities. As we enter the third year of the COVID-19 pandemic, America's NPs will continue delivering highquality care in every health care setting and expanding access to care in vulnerable and underserved communities. Their dedication makes me proud to be an NP."

Pitt Nursing Professor Praised for COVID-19 Treatment Contributions

ince 2020, John Gallagher (DNP '16), professor at the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing, has been a member of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) COVID-19 Treatment Guidelines Panel, working tirelessly on COVID-19 treatment guidelines for frontline workers. He's the only nurse on the panel and was put forward for the position by the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses.

His work has helped to create the treatment guidelines that have been used across the country during the pandemic by clinicians caring for patients suffering from the illness.

"For me, this is an honor and a privilege to serve on a panel that forms the guidelines supporting the clinicians at the bedside in care of patients and families," says Gallagher.

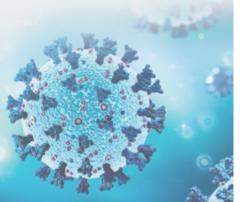
His work hasn't gone unnoticed. In December 2021, he received a letter of appreciation from two of the nation's top doctors—Francis Collins, then director of NIH, and Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and chief medical advisor to the president commending his work on the treatment guidelines.

"Your devotion to the process, participating in virtual meetings that typically occurred multiple times per week, and numerous hours spent in writing and editing content, are much appreciated," Collins and Fauci wrote. "We are proud that, with your help and contributions, the guidelines have been updated 38 times since their first release in April 2020, reflecting our rapidly changing understanding of COVID-19. This has enabled the guidelines to be a 'gold standard' for currency and accuracy."

"I was very proud that our individual efforts were recognized," says Gallagher. "This panel operates at the highest level of integrity, and the guidelines we produce are based on the best scientific evidence available."

Collins and Fauci went on to write that Gallagher was able to do this important work while also handling overwhelming COVID-19 responsibilities in his own backyard. "It is this level of first-hand knowledge that has been invaluable in maintaining a set of living guidelines informed by both data and real-world experience," they wrote.

Gallagher has more than 30 years of experience in trauma and critical care nursing and is an accomplished clinician, educator and leader. His contributions have been recognized with fellowship in the American College of Critical Care Medicine.



Pitt Nursing Alum Named President of UPMC Children's Hospital

iane Hupp (DNP '14) started her career at UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh 36 years ago as a volunteer. Since then, she has risen through the ranks of various administrative leadership roles, most recently serving as chief nursing officer, vice president of patient care services, and vice president of operations.

She added a new position to her resume on Jan. 18, 2022, when UPMC announced Hupp as the new president of UPMC Children's.

"It is a great honor and privilege to now serve as president of UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh," says Hupp. "Delivering the highest level of care to our children and families has been a passion for the majority of my life, and I am simply humbled and grateful for the opportunity. The community and beyond needs us now more than ever as we commit to continuing to serve all who seek our care."

Hupp has been at the forefront of the COVID-19 pandemic response efforts at UPMC Children's. Though a partnership with the Pittsburgh Penguins, Hupp helped to coordinate the largest drive-through mass vaccination clinic in the city.

"I am immensely proud that we found the leader with the expertise, business acumen, compassion, and commitment to build upon the excellent reputation of this nationally ranked pediatric hospital right here within our own walls," says Mark Sevco, president of UPMC Hospitals. "Diane has dedicated her many talents to our goal of providing the right care for every patient, every time, while inspiring high patient and family satisfaction."

Pittsburgh Magazine Honors Pitt Nursing Alumni, Faculty

Congratulations to the following University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing alumni and faculty members for being honored by Pittsburgh Magazine through its 2021 Excellence in Nursing Award program:

Janet Barber (BSN '82)

Krista Bragg (MSN '00, MSN '06, DNP '10)

Alison Colbert (PhD '07)

Christin Durham (BSN '02)

Richard Henker (MSN '02), professor

Shenoa Jamieson (MSN '06)

Rebecca Kronk (MSN '99)

Jonna Morris (PhD '18), assistant professor

William Pileggi (MSN '97)

Judith Shovel (BSN '80)

Catherine Thomas (BSN '14, MSN '19)

Charles Warner (BSN '13, DNP '18)

Susan Wesmiller (BSN '77, MSN '83, PhD '10), associate professor

Colbert (Excellence in Nursing— Researcher), Jamieson (Excellence in Nursing—Clinician), and Pileggi (Excellence in Nursing— Advanced Practitioner) were award winners. The others received honorable mentions.

Fellowship Status Awarded to Pitt Nursing Alumni and Faculty

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF NURSING

It's one of the highest accolades in the nursing field, an honor that the most accomplished leaders in nursing education, management, practice and research dream to achieve. Every year, the American Academy of Nursing (AAN) recognizes nurses for their extraordinary nursing careers, those who have gone above and beyond and who continue to make advances in health care. Those leaders who embody AAN's values of equity, diversity, inclusivity, inquiry, integrity, and courage are recognized as fellows. In 2021, AAN selected 225 notable nurse leaders for fellowship status, including the following University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing alumni and faculty.

Betty Braxter is an associate professor and associate dean for undergraduate education at Pitt Nursing. Braxter's research interests include smoking cessation during pregnancy and relapse prevention in young women. She is looking into using doulas to provide a smoking relapse prevention intervention to postpartum women and is interested in tobacco-related health disparities.

Heeyoung Lee is an associate professor at Pitt Nursing. Lee's background is in mental health nursing and training in self-management interventions for those with serious mental illness. Her research interests are in creating intervention programs for health promotion and disease prevention for individuals with serious mental illness.

Tamra Minnier (BSN '84, MSN '85) is the senior vice president, health services division, and chief quality and operational excellence officer for UPMC. Minnier coordinates the activities of 40 hospitals, 800 doctors' offices and outpatient sites, and more than 4 million health plan enrollees as well as various international clinical sites in Italy and Ireland. She has served in leadership roles in nursing and held hospital executive positions.

Susan Wesmiller (BSN '77, MSN '83, PhD '10) is an associate professor at Pitt Nursing. Wesmiller's research interest is in the science of symptoms. Her current research project focuses on the genomic underpinnings of treatment-induced nausea and vomiting in women with breast cancer and was funded by the National Institute of Nursing Research.

AAN's 2021 inductees represent 38 states, the District of Columbia, and 17 countries and were recognized at the organization's annual health policy conference, held Oct. 7-9, 2021.



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF NURSE ANESTHESIOLOGY

"Highly accomplished leaders with diverse achievements and impactful contributions"—that's how the American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology (AANA) describes its inaugural class of fellows, a professional designation that recognizes certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs). The fellow selection process is rigorous and competitive, and the contributions made by members of the inaugural class are impactful. AANA fellows are proven leaders in the nurse anesthesia profession dedicated to the advancement of clinical practice, education, research, and advocacy.

The following University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing alumni and faculty were among the 65 CRNAs recognized in the first class of AANA fellows.

Brent Dunworth (BSN '96, MSN '99, DNP '16) is the director of advanced practice, chief CRNA, and an assistant professor of clinical anesthesiology at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. Dunworth is the enterprise CRNA leader for a multihospital system with 16 locations and 400 CRNAs. He created an innovative system that allowed CRNAs to move between those facilities more efficiently and cost-effectively without impacting patient care. His skills and expertise also helped him to design a doctoral completion program. Richard Henker (MSN '02), professor at Pitt Nursing, is an advocate for global anesthesia and has created nurse anesthesia programs in Cambodia, Bhutan, Belize, and Laos through Health Volunteers Overseas. Henker is working on funding a nurse anesthesia program in Vientiane, Laos, thanks to a partnership with the president of the Lao Society of Anesthesiologists.

Michael Neft is an associate professor, vice chair of the Department of Nurse Anesthesia, and assistant director of the Nurse Anesthesia Program at Pitt Nursing. Neft spent 21 years as an officer in the U.S. Army Nurse Corps, where he mentored students and oversaw the worldwide assignment and career management of all Army CRNAs. His research deals with the lived experience of second-victim CRNAs. John O'Donnell (MSN '91) is a professor in and chair of the Pitt Nursing Department of Nurse Anesthesia; director of the Pitt Nursing Nurse Anesthesia Program; and senior associate director of the Winter Institute for Simulation, Education, and Research at the University of Pittsburgh. O'Donnell is known as an advocate for use of health care simulation and participated in the first AANA live simulation demonstration. O'Donnell's Gather-Analyze-Summarize debriefing model and Improving Simulation Instructional Methods faculty development courses, which he co-wrote, are available in five languages in 20 countries.

Kelly Wiltse Nicely (MSN '05) is an assistant professor and CRNA program director at the Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing at Emory University. As program director, Wiltse Nicely aided in shepherding the program through the initial accreditation process and welcomed the inaugural cohort of nurse anesthesia students in August 2017.



New Equity Design Thinking Educational Series

s a clinician, educator, and researcher in the health technology field for several decades, Annette DeVito Dabbs,

PhD, FAAN, professor at the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing, has seen firsthand the gaps in understanding of the researchers and designers developing health technologies.

"My assessment of the gaps in training for members of this transdisciplinary research workforce included the limited exposure to the root causes for health disparities and the need for a better understanding of design justice," she says.

Design justice refers to how the design of technologies influences the distribution of risks, harms, and benefits among various groups of people. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the importance of design justice when it upended access to care and illuminated the impact of structural racism as a cause for widening disparity in health outcomes.

But a new educational series on equity design thinking is intended to build knowledge, understanding, and skills to ensure design justice such that health technologies are equitable, inclusive and cocreated by the communities of interest.

"The goal is to train a research workforce that has the content expertise and skills to meaningfully address gaps in scientific advancement that are not well served by a more siloed approach to research and training," DeVito Dabbs says.

The Equity Design Thinking educational series was funded by the National Institute of Nursing Research as a supplement to Pitt Nursing's T32 training grant, Technology Research in Chronic and Critical Illness. The T32 grant has been in place for 15 years, thus demonstrating

Design justice refers

to how the design of

harms, and benefits

of people.

among various groups

technologies influences

the distribution of risks,

the importance of this training for nurse-scientists.

"The educational series extends the work of our T32, which is designed to provide rigorous research training and interdisciplinary culturalization to build nursing se

to build nursing science aimed at promoting health, managing illness, reducing disability, and enhancing quality of life through the aid of technology," DeVito Dabbs says. "We now add a greater emphasis on leveraging technology and design justice to reduce health disparities and promote health equity for vulnerable populations due to social inequalities." The series is entirely web based and includes 10 60-90-minute modules covering a wide range of topics, such as the history of social justice move-

> ments; the dimensions of inequality, equity, and health disparity; how technology can advance or undermine the health of a community; and different methods of promoting equity design thinking. Users have access to the entire site and can pick and choose the modules they want to complete. A tool

kit for educators and training grant directors also is provided, and users can print certificates upon training completion.

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The goal is to train a research workforce that has the content expertise and skills to meaningfully address gaps in scientific advancement that are not well served by a more siloed approach to research and training."

Annette DeVito Dabbs

"Learning and applying equity design thinking to the development of health technologies will extend healthy lives and reduce the burdens of illness, disability, health disparities, and inequalities that result from the exclusion of communities in the process in meaningful ways," she says. "This curriculum is designed to address these gaps."

According to DeVito Dabbs, the content for the series was developed by a team of scholars from the University of Pittsburgh, Carnegie Mellon University, the University of Massachusetts Amherst, and Cornell University and from various disciplines related to technology, ethics, philosophy, design justice, structural racism, feminism, and emancipatory theory. "We engaged advisors and advocates who represent the communities that we serve, including people of color, low-income groups, women, children, older adults, the LGBTQ+ community, breast cancer survivors, the deaf, people with autism, and others. Assembling such a diverse team of faculty contributors, advisors, and advocates was informed by design justice and the need for cocreation of more inclusive, equity-centered innovation research training practices."

The website for the educational series, PittEquityDesignThinking.org, launched on Jan. 31, 2022, and is free to the general public.

Faculty Member Receives Social Justice Fellowship

he University of Pittsburgh Office of Health Sciences Diversity, Equity and Inclusion has awarded a School of Nursing faculty member a Social Justice Fellowship in partnership with Autism Connection of Pennsylvania.

Assistant Professor Daniel Wilkenfeld is an experienced instructor and researcher in philosophy who does a lot of work in nursing ethics and the ethics of disability.

"Being autistic myself and having an autistic child, I'm very interested in how we treat autistic children," he says. "Through the partnership, we're striving to reduce the racial disparity in when children are diagnosed as autistic. Our main two ideas are to construct media to help remove some of the stigma of autism in underserved populations and to come up with interactive ways to help people with the assessment forms that can otherwise be fairly difficult to navigate."

Wilkenfeld received this fellowship as a result of his work to address structural inequality and racism while also participating in experiential learning opportunities centered on health-related social justice and racial equity issues.

"I'm thrilled to get a chance to work on this more, as it seems like a great chance to help both my autistic and geographic communities," he says.

Nursing Student Association Wins SNAP Honors

he University of Pittsburgh Nursing Student Association (NSA) took home top honors at the Student Nurses' Association of Pennsylvania (SNAP) Annual Convention in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, in November 2021. NSA's NCLEX Challenge Bowl team won the championship for the first time. SNAP also awarded the team the Chapter Excellence Award and the Community Health Award, and junior Kaitlyn Eastburn took home the Best Poster Award. Eastburn also was elected legislative coordinator on the SNAP Board of Directors, while junior Kate O'Meara

was elected Northwest regional coordinator.

Left to right: Hope Karnes, Kaitlyn Eastburn, Melissa Lancellotti, Clare Stansbury, and Krista Devane

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Nursing Professors Selected as Sigma Honorees

The Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing has selected two University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing faculty members to be among the 2022 inductees to its International Nurse Researcher Hall of Fame. Honorees have gained national and/or international recognition for their work, which Sigma says improves the profession and the people it serves.

Eileen Chasens, PhD, FAAN, professor, and Margaret Rosenzweig, PhD, FAAN, Distinguished Service Professor of Nursing, were chosen for the honor based on the significant impact their research has had on the nursing profession.

"This is an outstanding international recognition of the impact of the research conducted by these outstanding scholars," says Jacqueline Dunbar-Jacob, PhD, FAAN, dean and Distinguished Service Professor of Nursing. "We at Pitt are very proud of them."

hasens' research focus has been on elucidating the link among chronic conditions that are epidemic in the United States and globally: type 2 diabetes, obesity, and obstructive sleep apnea. The negative impact of impaired sleep on glycemic control, diabetes self-management, and functional outcomes has been her focus over the past 20 years, and her expertise in research has been recognized by the National Institutes of Health and led to her induction as a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing. Chasens' leadership role has been recognized by both the Sleep Research Society and the American Association of Diabetes Care & Education Specialists. Her groundbreaking research on the effect of impaired sleep on health and well-being in persons with chronic diseases earned her a reputation as a national expert on the role of sleep disorders in the self-management of diabetes. Chasens has served on the American Academy of Nursing's



Eileen Chasens



Margaret Rosenzweig

Task Force on Nurse Fatigue and is an active consultant to large health care organizations on reducing nurse fatigue to increase patient safety.

osenzweig has been continuously funded since 2003, and her research focuses on the factors that ensure that all women with breast cancer receive timely diagnoses, treatment, and support. Her research, education, and outreach initiatives are directed toward Black women with breast cancer, women with metastatic breast cancer, and community engagement to address racial and economic disparity in breast cancer survival. She is the principal investigator on an R01 grant funded by the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities. As an educator and practitioner, Rosenzweig recognized that nurse practitioners and physician assistants new to cancer practice are poorly prepared to deal with the complexities of the specialized practice,

This is an outstanding international recognition of the impact of the research conducted by these outstanding scholars."

Jacqueline Dunbar-Jacob

so she adapted a curriculum that she developed at Pitt Nursing and worked with UPMC Hillman Cancer Center to provide training to newly hired providers. It was so successful that she developed a curriculum that was funded by the National Cancer Institute and shared across the nation. Her research findings into racial cancer treatment disparity were awarded funding by Susan G. Komen and the American Cancer Society for the development and implementation of a six-site regional randomized trial of a supportive and educational intervention to meet the unique educational needs of Black women for whom breast cancer chemotherapy was recommended.

Both Chasens and Rosenzweig have authored more than 100 publications. Chasens has been recognized as a leader in sleep research for more than 20 years, while Rosenzweig is considered a national leader in the education of oncology nurse practitioners. Both have shared their expertise and presented at numerous international, national, and local conferences.

The 2022 International Nurse Researcher Hall of Fame honorees will be recognized at Sigma's 33rd International Nursing Research Congress in July in Edinburgh, Scotland.

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Reflections

from Dean Jacqueline Dunbar-Jacob

t is hard for me to believe that it has been 21 years since I took on the position of dean of the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing. As a former colleague recently pointed out to me, the time has been sandwiched between touching down at Reagan National Airport on the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, just 11 days into my deanship, witnessing the exodus from the Pentagon, and the beginning of the third year of the COVID-19 pandemic. Much has happened in those two decades, within both nursing and the school.

The value of education in nursing has been established, and efforts have been made to raise the educational level of nurses, including promoting the baccalaureate degree for entry into practice and the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree for entry into advanced practice. The value of evidence-based practice has been established, and efforts have been made to increase the use and dissemination of research among nurses. The value of a quality- and safety-based environment has been established and integrated into practice and education. In all areas of nursing, the focus is on a well-educated workforce, practicing according to the evidence, and improving the quality of care delivered to patients.

Two decades ago, when I assumed this job, we were a small but active school of nursing. We had entered the new millennium with some confidence that the number of nurses nationally was adequate to meet demands following the 1996 Institute of Medicine report "Nursing Staff in Hospitals and Nursing Homes: Is It Adequate?" At Pitt in 2001, we had a total enrollment of 918 students, including a first-year class of 88 students from I am happy to have been a part of the past two decades, and I look forward to seeing, from a new vantage point, what the future continues to bring for nursing education and practice."

been working on enrollment increases continuously for the past two decades, including opening baccalaureate nursing programs on the Johnstown and Greensburg campuses. At present, the School of Nursing has a total enrollment of 1.064 students on the

315 applicants. The graduation rate within four years of the first year students enrolled in fall 2001 was 74.4%. In 2022, we graduated 244 from the Pittsburgh campus and an additional 69 from the Johnstown and Greensburg campuses, for a total of 313 new nurses entering the workforce, with an 85.7% fouryear graduation rate. We received 2,478 applications last year. While the growth in our undergraduate program has been significant, I am very proud to say we have not compromised quality education. In the first-ever U.S. News & World Report ranking of BSN programs, Pitt came in seventh in the country.

During this period, nursing saw an increase in non-hospital-based positions for registered nurses, including case management, quality improvement, home care, research, and education. These positions led to declines in the number of nurses engaged in direct care in acute settings. Further, we all know that the current pandemic has led to largescale losses of nurses from hospital settings. For these and other reasons, we have entered another shortage period—the last being in the 1980s. Multiple recommendations are being made for health systems, but at the same time, schools of nursing are being encouraged to increase their enrollments. As noted, we at Pitt have Pittsburgh campus, of which 762 are in the undergraduate program. The Johnstown campus has an additional 144 and Greensburg 157. Even with our enrollment increases, the demand for nurses continues.

odels of clinical education, efforts to increase the faculty workforce, and increasing technology are likely to be considered in the future as the need to educate nurses continues. The barriers to increasing enrollment nationwide include the significant shortage of nursing faculty, the competition for clinical placements, and the costs of education. While interest in nursing careers is high (witness our growth from 262 applications in 2001 to more than 2,400 in 2021), nationally the numbers of PhD graduates have not grown, and most DNP graduates enter practice rather than education. Indeed, data for Pennsylvania, gathered by Pitt in my role as data champion for the Pennsylvania Action Coalition, indicate that fewer than 40% of PhD graduates and 2% of DNP graduates enter academic positions. Complicating this further is the report by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing that states that nearly a third of the faculty workforce is expected to retire by 2025.

The demand for qualified faculty has increased over these two decades. We also have seen an increasing demand for advanced practice nurses, particularly as many states legislated full practice authority. Today, full practice authority is provided for nurse practitioners in 26 states, for nurse anesthetists in 34 states, and for nurse-midwives in 32 states. While Pennsylvania has not approved full practice authority as of this writing, it is being worked on at the legislative level. And we, at Pitt, transitioned from the MSN-prepared advanced practice registered nurse to DNP preparation (BSN-DNP) in 2007, with increasing rates of full-time study among our DNP and PhD students. Our hope is to provide well-qualified graduates to direct care settings as well as to academia. Indeed, our graduate education transitions have been coupled with an emphasis on quality education. U.S. News & World Report currently ranks our online MSN program first and our DNP program seventh in the United States.

But the last two decades have not focused on education alone. Scholarship is an important element in academic life, as one of the objectives of universities is the creation (and subsequent translation) of new knowledge. Our faculty have been highly successful in obtaining external funding for research, including two training grants. Indeed, we have consistently ranked among the top 10 schools of nursing in National Institutes of Health funding. Our research activity has allowed us to form seven hubs of research focusing on genomics, e-health, cancer survivorship, sleep, perinatal health, aging and gerontological nursing, and policy/health services research. Our PhD students have obtained external funding for their research as well. Our DNP students have been highly successful in completing meaningful quality projects. Our master's students have completed important projects within their

placement settings. We joined with the University Honors College (now David C. Frederick Honors College) in the early 2000s, enabling qualified students to graduate with honors and a completed thesis. Our early efforts to infuse research into our curriculum led us to open a mentored undergraduate research experience, and we have had hundreds of students complete this exciting opportunity to work with faculty and have had approximately 25 undergraduate students present their work at national conferences each year. In 2001, I heard from students that they did not see why they needed to learn about research or how it fit into nursing. I haven't heard that complaint in years. And for me, personally, during the past two decades, I have been fortunate to be able to continue with my research/scholarship in an environment that valued such endeavors and provided many enthusiastic colleagues also traveling that same path.

The last two decades also found us increasing our international footprint. We have been blessed with projects in China in partnerships with Capital Medical University and Fudan University, in Kazakhstan with Nazarbayev University, and in Switzerland with the University of Basel Institute for Nursing Science as well as with numerous individual faculty collaborations around the world. It has been exciting to see the variability in education and practice in nursing around the world as well as the unified focus on raising the quality and scope of nursing education and practice.

It has been a busy two decades, with what seems like continuous change in the interest of remaining current (or just ahead of the curve) and in providing the best that can be offered in nursing. The future of nursing continues to be strong, as more registered nurses, more advanced practice nurses, more nurse scientists, and more faculty are needed to meet future demands. Scholarship continues to be needed to inform ever-expanding practice expectations and quality in care delivery. I am happy to have been a part of the past two decades, and I look forward to seeing, from a new vantage point, what the future continues to bring for nursing education and practice.

As the pandemic drags on, COVID-19 continues to lay bare the fact that we have a dearth of nurses in this country, but in true Pitt fashion, our School of Nursing is stepping up and helping to address this critical demand. Under Jackie's direction—and despite the obstacles the pandemic has presented—our students have consistently met all academic requirements and graduated on time, ready to work on day one and to help bring this pandemic to an end.



"This approach is emblematic of the school's legacy of service, in which Jackie has played a significant part. During her tenure as dean, the school has grown into a top research institution and one of the most highly ranked nursing schools in the world. On behalf of the Pitt community, I want to thank Jackie for nearly four decades of service to our university, our students, and our community. Her leadership will be sorely missed."

> Patrick Gallagher, PhD Chancellor, University of Pittsburgh

In my role as senior vice chancellor for the health sciences, I appointed Jackie to this position with the expectation that she would elevate her school to a level of excellence consistent with the trajectory already under way at that time. Jackie has more than exceeded that expectation, leaving as her legacy a school with the stature and visibility of the top-most nursing schools nationally. She has brought to her school science, sensitivity and sensibility. Its research status has steadily strengthened, becoming one of very few schools of nursing focused on basic discovery research as well as the clinical applications of such research (e.g., in human genetics). She has not only served as teacher and mentor but has modeled this role for her faculty. As a person charged with the development of many careers, especially careers that involve the lives of patients, she has excelled. With her training and experience in behavioral science and practice, she has created a culture and environment for students, faculty, and staff that make the school novel if not unique. On a personal level, Jackie has been my good friend as well as my professional colleague-as much a function of her 'chemistry' as of her intellect. I wish her many years to come of all the best, knowing that, with or without a title, she will continue to influence the lives of many."

Arthur S. Levine, MD

Distinguished University Professor of Medicine, Molecular Genetics, and Neurobiology and Executive Director, Brain Institute, University of Pittsburgh

Dean Dunbar-Jacob's Impact Assessed

acqueline Dunbar-Jacob, PhD, holds many titles: dean of the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing; Distinguished Service Professor of Nursing; professor of psychology, epidemiology, and occupational therapy. She's a prominent researcher whose work has been recognized around the world. She holds fellow status in the American Academy of Nursing, Society of Behavioral Medicine, Academy of Behavioral Medicine Research, American Psychological Association, and American Heart Association.

She also is a leader, having served as president of the Friends of the National Institute of Nursing Research, Society of Behavioral Medicine, and Academy of Behavioral Medicine Research, and has held the top position at Pitt Nursing since 2001. As dean, she has helped the school to grow by starting new programs that have gained national attention, has welcomed a more diverse student population, and has led the school in offering some of the best programs in the country.

RANKINGS

Under Dunbar-Jacob's leadership, the School of Nursing has consistently been ranked among the best in the county and the world. In 2022, U.S. News & World Report ranked the online master's program number one in the nation, joining the DNP and BSN programs (both ranked seventh), while the 2021 QS World University Rankings by Subject ranked the School of Nursing 21st in the world.

In the 2017-18 academic year, the National Research Council ranked Pitt Nursing's PhD program 10th best in the country, while College Choice ranked the nurse practitioner program as 11th best. Graduate school concentrations also have received top honors. The nurse anesthesia program was ranked fourth in 2017, the last year this category was ranked, by U.S. News & World Report. And for 2023, the publication ranked the administration/ management DNP specialty fifth and the family nurse practitioner specialty 13th. Everything CRNA ranked the CRNA program second in the country in 2022.

Over the past two decades, Pitt Nursing has been consistently among the top 10 schools in the country receiving funding from the National Institutes of Health.

These rankings have helped the school to become extremely competitive and desirable, attracting students from all over the world.

RESEARCH HUBS

Dunbar-Jacob has played an integral role in making the School of Nursing a topranked research school. As part of that, the school hosts rigorous research programs aimed at advancing nursing science and practice. The school is home to multiple research hubs that provide funding opportunities to foster collaborative and interdisciplinary research programs. Both students and faculty who share similar research interests collaborate in the hubs. Among the topics researched within the school are genomics and patient outcomes, maternal/perinatal and reproductive





health, sleep and circadian rhythms, cancer survivorship, the use of technology in acute and chronic care, aging and gerontological nursing, and policy and health services research.

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

In 2008, under Dunbar-Jacob's leadership, Pitt Nursing created an opportunity for BSN students to be introduced to research methods and get involved in faculty-led projects and scholarship. Since then, the Undergraduate Research Mentorship Program has enrolled hundreds of BSN students, matching them with faculty mentors and projects. Students work with their mentors to support research activities directly, write research papers, attend conferences, and learn leadership skills. Dunbar-Jacob herself has mentored students participating in the program.

In 2022, 19 School of Nursing students presented their research abstracts at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research, with Pitt Nursing leading the University in the number of students presenting at this interdisciplinary conference a year earlier.

"Students have benefited from this mentor-mentee relationship, and the majority of them end up developing their own interests and ideas for research," says Julius Kitutu. "In addition, students in the program are encouraged and supported financially to attend local, national, and international conferences if they are the first authors of the presentation. We are proud to support these students in their academic and research pursuits."

STUDENT BODY GROWTH AND DIVERSITY

The School of Nursing has seen tremendous growth in its student population under Dunbar-Jacob's leadership. The school raised its admission requirements, making it more selective but also more

Jackie Dunbar-Jacob has had an unwavering commitment to the nursing profession and a profound influence at the local, state, national and international level. Her work

national, and international level. Her work leaves an undeniable legacy within nursing practice, research and academics."

Helen Burns, PhD, FAAN Senior Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer, Excela Health

Being a continuous source of inspiration regarding [the] highest standards of academic leadership and professional excellence, Dr. Dunbar-Jacob has been a determining force in my professional development starting from PhD until today. Her mentorship stimulated my research program on medication adherence in transplant populations and helped me to grow in my leadership roles."

> Sabina De Geest, PhD, FAAN, FRCN, FEANS Director, Institute of Nursing Science, and Chair, Department of Public Health; University of Basel; Basel, Switzerland

Dean Dunbar-Jacob is fiercely committed to producing a nursing workforce that provides the highest quality of care. She models the ways that nurses can contribute across different sectors and informs the policies that drive health care and nursing in Pennsylvania. She is also exceptionally smart and always brings great ideas to the table. We are lucky to have her here in Pennsylvania."

> Sarah Hexem Executive Director, National Nurse-Led Care Consortium and Pennsylvania Action Coalition

Dr. Dunbar-Jacob has been a true nurse advocate by elevating the practice of nursing and nursing research. Pitt has become one of the best schools in the United States. Personally, Jackie has provided [me with] ever-present support. She has guided my confidence and belief in what is possible in nursing leadership in U.S. health care."

Tamra Minnier, MSN, FACHE, FAAN Senior Vice President, Health Services Division, and Chief Quality and Operational Excellence Officer, UPMC







Dean Jacqueline Dunbar-Jacob with then Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg and then Senior Vice Chancellor for the Health Sciences Arthur S. Levine at a 2004 event

attractive to high-achieving students. Undergraduate enrollment has risen by 600% over the past 20 years, with a retention rate of 97%, and applications to get into the school have skyrocketed. Twenty years ago, fewer than 60 students were admitted to the BSN program. In 2021, almost 2,500 students applied to the program, and the school met its class size goal, enrolling 179 students. The school also is finding ways to attract students from out of state. In 2020, out of 185 first-year students, 46% were from outside Pennsylvania. In 2021, 52% of first-year students were from out of state.

Dunbar-Jacob also has helped the student population to become more diverse. In 2001, 28 Black students were enrolled in the School of Nursing's BSN program. Twenty years later, the number jumped to 40. The Hispanic student population also saw growth over the past 20 years, from only four students enrolled in the 2001-02 school year to 57 students in 2021-22. The Asian student population saw the most significant growth: Seven students were enrolled in the school's undergrad nursing program in 2001-02 compared to 101 students in 2021-22.

Dunbar-Jacob hired Kitutu, the school's associate dean for student affairs and alumni relations and its chief diversity officer, in 2001. Kitutu and the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee help to lead the school toward becoming more welcoming and inclusive to students, faculty, and staff of all backgrounds.

Not only is the school's student population growing, but its graduates are proving to be increasingly successful. The pass rate for the school's graduates on the National Council Licensure (NCLEX) certification exam has risen more than 20 percentage points during Dunbar-Jacob's time as dean; currently, 92% of students pass the NCLEX the first time. Retention rates have remained above 95% over the past three years at the BSN, MSN, and DNP levels, while 100% of students stay committed to the PhD program.

NURSING PROGRAM EXPANSION: UPJ AND UPG

To increase the nursing program's student capacity, Dunbar-Jacob helped to establish nursing programs at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown (UPJ) and University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg (UPG), the latter being the first BSN program to be offered in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania.

UPJ's nursing program launched in 2009 in response to an increasing need for nurses in rural communities. Twenty-two students graduated from the first class in 2013. By the end of the 2022-23 school year, 350 students will have graduated from the program.

UPG's BSN program launched in the 2017-18 academic year. Four years later, the first eight students graduated from the program. The school expects to have more than

200 students in the program by next spring.

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

Scholarship funds that have helped hundreds of students on their education journey have been approved during Dunbar-Jacob's tenure. The dean has been instrumental in securing scholarship funds, including the William Randolph Hearst Endowed Scholarship Fund for undergraduate students, through a \$150,000 gift from the Hearst Foundations in 2004. In 2013, an additional \$100,000 was added to expand the endowment's reach and include support for graduate students.

One of the largest scholarship funds, the Lila Decker Endowed Nursing Scholarship, was created in 2011 and raised more than \$250,000 in its first year.

The dean also played an instrumental role in securing a grant through the Helene Fuld Health Trust. The Helene Fuld Health Trust Scholarship Fund is for students enrolled in the Accelerated Second Degree BSN Program. The trust committed to a three-year \$650,000 grant when it was established in 2014. Dunbar-Jacob herself has taken her expertise overseas. She is an advisory professor at the University of Fudan in Shanghai, China; honorary professor of nursing at Capital Medical University in Beijing, China; and visiting professor of nursing at Taipei Medical University in Taipei, Taiwan.

In 2018, the Pitt Nursing Uniform Fund was established to help incoming sophomores purchase their first Pitt Nursing uniform. The fund started as a crowdfunding campaign and has hit its goal every year.

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Over the past 20 years, the School of Nursing's international footprint has expanded considerably, thanks in part to active partnerships in several countries under Dunbar-Jacob's leadership. The school is fostering research and educational relationships with universities in Switzerland, Belize, Thailand, China, Finland, Chile, the United Kingdom, Italy, Cambodia, and Bhutan. Students also are given the opportunity to experience another country's health care system thanks to the creation of the Student International Travel Fund.

In 2012, Nazarbayev University in Kazakhstan selected the University of Pittsburgh to guide it in establishing a new medical school. The School of Nursing helped the university to design its new nursing program curriculum, blending self-directed learning with a more traditional teaching method or a competency-based model approach. In the spring Dean Dunbar-Jacob has been an incredible leader [not only] for the University of Pittsburgh but also for the profession. I had the privilege of serving on the Pitt [Nursing] Board of Visitors and could observe firsthand Dean Dunbar-Jacob's leadership. She is a phenomenal strategist, which has kept the School of Nursing ranked in the top 10 for as long as she has been dean. As a dean, I often used the Pitt School of Nursing with my leadership team as an exemplar of excellence in education. Remarkably, Dean Dunbar-Jacob has achieved these outcomes while continuing her program of research, a commitment I have tried to emulate. The University of Pittsburgh and School of Nursing are very fortunate to have had such a talented

individual at the helm as dean."

Terri E. Weaver, PhD, FAAN, ATSF, FAASM Professor Emerita, Department of Behavioral Nursing Science, and Dean Emerita, College of Nursing, University of Illinois Chicago

As dean, Jackie has been a committed and influential leader in bringing Pitt's School of Nursing to a top-level nursing school in the United States and internationally in terms of nursing education at different levels, nursing research, and international collaboration. She has made great contributions to the development of nursing science and nursing education, both in the United States and in the world. With her effort, passion, dedication, and leadership, Pitt Nursing and Capital Medical University [CMU] School of Nursing have established a long-term collaborative relationship, with projects ranging from short-term student exchanges and faculty development to the first international student program for CMU BS students who were supported financially by the Beijing municipal government to study at Pitt Nursing for one year and the successful approval of the first and the only nursing international cooperative training project to date in the history of the China Scholarship Council. All the above-mentioned collaborative projects have benefited the development of schools at CMU and at Pitt. Jackie is an exceptional leader, genuine friend, and passionate scientist and educator. We [at the CMU School of Nursing] all admire her and appreciate her contributions to the nursing community. I am sure we will all remember, respect and appreciate the efforts and endeavors she has made in her career, and she will continue to inspire us in shaping our future cooperation and development in our two schools."

> Ying "Helen" Wu, PhD, FESC, FAAN, FIAHSI Dean and Professor, School of Nursing; Capital Medical University; Beijing, China

of 2021, the first class of 42 students received their BSN degrees.

Dunbar-Jacob herself has taken her expertise overseas. She is an advisory professor at the University of Fudan in Shanghai, China; honorary professor of nursing at Capital Medical University in Beijing, China; and visiting professor of nursing at Taipei Medical University in Taipei, Taiwan.

NURSING CONTINUING EDUCATION AND **PROFESSIONAL** DEVELOPMENT

Dunbar-Jacob has been a champion for professional development and continuing education, seeing them as necessary services for the community, alumni, faculty, and beyond. In 2008, the Department of Continuing Nursing Education was established to provide a variety of high-quality live and online educational activities that focus on advanced practice, education, leadership, and reentry into practice, providing the skills and knowledge nurses need to stay relevant. The University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing is accredited as a provider of nursing continuing professional development by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

FACULTY AND ALUMNI AWARDS AND HONORS

Under Dunbar-Jacob's leadership, faculty and alumni have been nominated for and received multiple awards every year, and she's always encouraging faculty to be recognized for their achievements. Faculty have won prestigious awards that have helped to put Pitt Nursing at the forefront of research, including Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Awards. Faculty have consistently been inducted as fellows of the American Academy of Nursing and American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology and as members of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing, Eastern Nursing Research Society, and Friends of the National Institute of Nursing Research. Alumni who are advancing the nursing profession in the hospital, the laboratory, the classroom, or government offices also are recognized through Distinguished Alumni Awards, **Outstanding Young** Alumni Awards, and

NEW PROGRAMS



Dean Jacqueline Dunbar-Jacob hosting the 2016 Cameos of Caring

Nursing Honorary Alumni Awards.

Dunbar-Jacob has played a pivotal

the School of Nursing. When the

role in creating new programs within

American Association of Colleges of

Nursing voted to endorse the Doctor

of Nursing Practice as the preferred

degree for advanced practice, Pitt

students were admitted into the

began to be phased out. Added

neonatal nurse practitioner and

these programs to the DNP level

education, but all full-time faculty

As the advanced practice master's

programs closed, a clinical nurse

leader master's program was opened,

ter's program in nursing informatics.

first to become virtual options at the

University of Pittsburgh; the clinical

nurse leader program moved online

in the 2009-10 school year, while

the nursing informatics program

went virtual in the 2012-13 school

year. Dunbar-Jacob also helped the

RN-BSN program expand to offer

joining the already successful mas-

The programs became two of the

required higher levels of faculty

have received their doctorates.

to the existing programs were the

nurse-midwifery programs. Moving

DNP program, rather than MSN

Nursing became one of the earliest

adopters. In 2007, advanced practice

programs, and those MSN programs

RN-MSN and RN-DNP options to help meet the demand for more highly trained nurses across the country.

Joining the robust traditional BSN program was the newly developed Accelerated Second Degree BSN Program in 2004. Since its inception, 852 new nurses have graduated and entered the field of nursing. Dunbar-Jacob is working to help even more highly educated nurses enter the field with a new entry-level MSN program that's in the works.

In the 2014-15 academic year, Pitt Nursing made the decision to open a midwifery program. By 2016, it had achieved preaccreditation status through the Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education. In December 2021, the program was reevaluated through a lengthy and thorough process, and two months later, it received full accreditation through 2027.

LASTING IMPACT

Dunbar-Jacob has achieved a lot during her tenure as dean at the Pitt School of Nursing. Her impact is felt both inside and outside the classroom, as thousands of trained nurses leave the School of Nursing and are delivering high-quality care that's guided by research, intellect, and passion around the world.

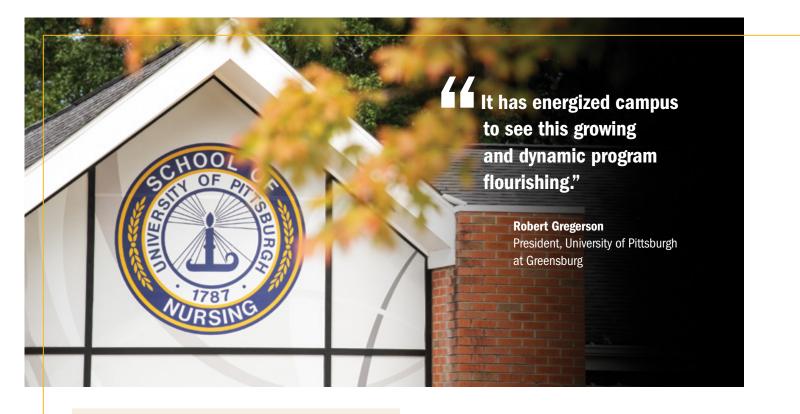
During Dunbar-Jacob's time as dean, she sustained SOT her research activities, receiving NIH funding for two research project (R01) grants, a center grant, and a program project grant, building on her previous U- and RO1s and exploratory center grant. This followed a period of work as a behavioral scientist in three large-scale multicenter trials. Her focus, since her dissertation, has been on patient adherence to treatment regimen, primarily medications. She served as chair of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Patient Reported Outcomes Measurement Information System (PROMIS) for five years. Her work has led to election to the Sigma International Nurse Researcher's Hall of Fame, Pathfinder Distinguished Research Award from the Friends of the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR), The Nightingale Award of Pennsylvania for research, and the Chancellor's Distinguished Research Award. She is an elected fellow in the Academy of Behavioral Medicine Research, the Society of Behavioral Medicine, the American Heart Association, the American Psychological Association, and the American Academy of Nursing.

Dean Dunbar Jacob has also been active in service. She served as president of the Friends of the NINR (2004-05), as well as a member of the NINR Council. She also served as president of the Society of Behavioral Medicine (1993-94) and the Academy of Behavioral Medicine Research (2004-05). During her tenure as dean, she has served on three UPMC Quality Improvement boards (Health Plan, System-wide, and Shadyside-Presbyterian) as well as on the boards of the Aging Institute and of the Home Healthcare and Hospice Care division and the Beckwith Institute for Healthcare Innovation. She has served for the past two decades on the boards of the Jewish Healthcare Foundation Health Careers Futures and the ACLD Tillotson School. She was an active member of the PA Center for Health Careers and has been a longstanding member of the steering committee of the Pennsylvania Action Coalition, serving as data champion.

Broad Recognition

In addition to her role as dean, Jaqueline Dunbar-Jacob is a prominent researcher whose work focuses on patient adherence to treatment regimens. Her work has been recognized with the University of Pittsburgh Chancellor's Distinguished Research Award, the Nightingale Awards of Pennsylvania award for nursing research, and induction into the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing Nurse Researcher Hall of Fame. She has received funding from seven of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and has served on three NIH safety and data monitoring boards. She has served on numerous panels and search committees and has published more than 130 papers and chapters.

In 2015, Dunbar-Jacob was named among the 30 most influential nursing deans in the United States by Mometrix. She is a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing, American Psychological Association, Academy of Behavioral Medicine Research, Society of Behavioral Medicine, and American Heart Association.



UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH AT GREENSBURG

n 2017, the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg established the first BSN program to be offered in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania. Eight students in the inaugural class received their BSN degrees in 2021.

According to Robert Gregerson, PhD, president of the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg, nursing enrollments have increased steadily from that first year to 158 students in 2022. He expects to have more than 200 students in the program once it has moved to the new life sciences building in spring 2023.

"It has energized campus to see this growing and dynamic program flourishing," Gregerson says. "We are bringing students to campus who we would not previously have been able to enroll. It is critical that we become part of the solution to the nation and region's nursing shortage, and as a partner of the Pitt School of Nursing, we are training and graduating very well-prepared nurses to enter the health care workforce. That is an essential part of our commitment to community development and resiliency."

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH AT JOHNSTOWN

-he University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown launched its nursing program in 2009, thereby positioning itself as the premier nursing school in the region.

"The distinctive, world-class University of Pittsburgh nursing program has had a transformative impact on the quality of care in our

hospitals, as many of our graduates serve in the top-rated hospitals in the area and, by all accounts, are the finest health care providers in the area," says Jem Spectar, PhD, president of the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown.

The inaugural class of 22 students graduated in 2013. Currently, 173 students are enrolled in the Nursing and Health Sciences Division. By the end of the 2022-23 academic year, an estimated 350 students will have graduated from the program.

"Having a program of such exceptional quality has helped us attract some of the finest nursing students in the area, elevating the overall quality of our student body and, more importantly, graduating some of the finest nurses anywhere," Spectar says.



of Pittsburgh School of Nursing Dean Jacqueline Dunbar-Jacob collaborated on two decades ago is now on display at Carnegie Mellon University's Hunt Library. "Looking Back to Move Forward/A Re:collection of Robotics at Carnegie

Mellon" showcases Nursebot as one of its featured projects. Dunbar-Jacob saw Nursebot for the first time in more than 15 years at the exhibit in February. She shared these thoughts on Nursebot that also can be read at the exhibit.

REMEMBERING NURSEBOT

Jacqueline Dunbar-Jacob Dean and Distinguished Service Professor of Nursing

"The Nursebot Project came about quite serendipitously. In 1989, we [the Center for Research in Chronic Disorders] sponsored a small invited conference on quality of life in chronic disease and invited a young assistant professor from Carnegie Mellon University, Sebastian Thrun, to give us an eye into the future-how technology, and specifically robotics, might improve quality of life in the future for persons with chronic and handicapping conditions. Sebastian delivered an exciting presentation and stayed for much of the conference. When the conference ended, we turned to each other and said that we had to find a project to work on together. It was very clear that the needs in health care and the solutions in robotics made natural partners. We met for coffee many times over the next year with an engineering colleague to brainstorm ideas. I think the chance to be in a place you normally aren't or to hear a voice you normally don't can inspire ideas and opportunities that you wouldn't normally think of. And so it was with Nursebot. As the idea-how to help older adult with disabilities live at home safely-grew, so did the need for an expanded

group of colleagues. Soon we had multiple specialties and multiple students and faculty working on design and prototypes and testing with evolving sophistication over time. The National Science Foundation liked our idea and our unusual multidisciplinary approach. They provided funding for the project in its early days. It was not only a novel idea at the time with good potential for being useful, it also provided a great platform for teaching and learning. The learning was not only on the part of the many students who engaged with the project but also with the faculty and staff who engaged as we learned what each other could contribute to this innovation. It also was a productive venture. Google Scholar lists about 1,000 publications that address Nursebot. And it spun off more than two decades of collaborations between the School of Nursing at Pitt and the computer science department at Carnegie Mellon. It is amazing what can be generated from a casual conversation between seemingly unrelated colleagues. As Margaret Mead said: 'Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.' Hail to the multiple Nursebot teams."

EVOLVING EDUCATION TO DEVELOP THE BEST NURSES POSSIBLE

n the decades since its founding in 1939, the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing has led the evolution of nursing education and research by responding to the needs of health care, society and patients. The impact that the school has had on nursing education, research and practice can be felt in hospitals from Southwestern Pennsylvania to Cambodia and Thailand, in universities around the world, and at the highest levels of military and international health organizations.

The pace of educational change has accelerated at Pitt Nursing over the past 20 years under the leadership of Dean Jacqueline Dunbar-Jacob, PhD, FAAN, with the addition of new programs and a targeted response to external factors. Today, Pitt Nursing programs are consistently ranked among the best in the United States and around the world.

CLINICAL NURSE LEADER

In 2005, the School of Nursing became one of the first schools in the county to begin educating clinical nurse leaders (CNLs) after the role was introduced by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing in 2004. CNL became the first new role since the nurse practitioner role was created in the 1970s. In 2008, Pitt made its CNL program an area of concentration, allowing graduate students to prepare for the certification while earning an MSN degree.

CNLs are the only graduate nurses educated in quality, safety, education, and leadership, and no other graduate-level role in nursing has this specific skill set. In the 2009-10 school year, the program was offered to students online.

Graduates sit for a national exam to attain CNL certification, which 100% of Pitt Nursing grads did during the last certification period in 2021.

"Our program prepares students to be leaders within health care systems," says Assistant Professor Victor Bench, DNP, who advises students in the concentration. "The CNL role can be implemented within a lot of different settings. There's so much diversity and opportunity for personal and professional growth in this position."

The other area of concentration in the master's program, informatics, was introduced to students virtually in the 2012-13 school year. Both rigorous programs have gained national attention, and in 2022, U.S. News & World Report ranked Pitt Nursing's online master's program number one in the nation.

"The School of Nursing is thrilled to be ranked first in online master's programs, joining our DNP program, now ranked seventh, and our BSN program, ranked seventh," Dunbar-Jacob says. "We strongly believe that a quality education is important for quality health care."

DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE

When the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) released its directive to move the current level of preparation for advanced nursing practice from the master's level to the doctoral level, it was teamwork that led to the successful development of the School of Nursing's DNP program.

"It takes a village," says Dunbar-Jacob. "It has taken a dedicated team of leaders to ensure that we continue to produce a more educated nurse with greater capabilities in the health care workforce."

Through Dunbar-Jacob's leadership, the DNP program has been elevated and expanded. Additional content and areas of concentration have been added, and clinical time has doubled. The result is a program that went from a year and a half to three years to complete and also has provided long-term opportunities beneficial to the practitioner, industry, and patients.

"The greater depth of education, I think, really supports that expanded role for advanced practice nurses," Dunbar-Jacob says. "The increased clinical hours and depth in care management as well as increased experience in evidence-based practice and in quality improvement bring an enhanced contribution to the communities in which they practice." Nurses with a DNP are prepared to lead initiatives within clinical environments to improve patient care. They also are qualified to enter the classroom to educate new nurses, says Patricia Tuite, PhD, director of the DNP program and associate professor at Pitt Nursing.

"We have PhD-prepared nurses generating new science and DNP nurses to direct and practice the new science," says Tuite. "Their findings, their research, their experience become beneficial to the practice of nursing. At Pitt, all our faculty members have doctorates, a standard we adopted from our dean out of a desire to ensure we have the best-prepared faculty. With this terminal degree, they can bring that experience into the classrooms, helping to ensure the preparedness of the next generation of advanced practice nurses and nurse leaders."

THE FUTURE OF NURSING EDUCATION

2021 offered a glimpse into the future of nursing with two major publications: AACN's "The Essentials: Core Competencies for Professional Nursing Education" and the National Academy of Medicine's "The Future of Nursing 2020-2030: Charting a Path to Achieve Health and Equity."

These publications helped Dunbar-Jacob to start envisioning what the future might look like at the School of Nursing.

"One report directs the outcomes of baccalaureate and graduate education for nursing and how the curricula need to align to be accredited," says Dunbar-Jacob. "The other report essentially highlights the need for nurses to be more engaged in social determinants of health. Together, they provide us with guidance on what is necessary from a programmatic perspective in developing the most well-rounded nursing professionals." The "Essentials," which has been published since 1986, transforms how nurses are prepared in baccalaureate, master's, and doctoral programs. The most recent iteration calls for a transition to competency-based education. This new model focuses on two levels of professional nursing education: entry level and advanced level.

"The main takeaway from the 'Essentials' report, I would say, is moving to a competency-based model of education, which will require substantial curriculum revision," says Dunbar-Jacob. "Rather than saying we need to expose students to certain learning, what we are charged with doing is having the student show or demonstrate how they have mastered certain skills."

For example, it means that instead of designing a course in which the objective is to describe the cognitive changes over the developmental periods in childhood, the course would be designed to require students to show which cognitive changes are occurring, according to the "Essentials."



We are committed to producing a more educated nurse with greater awareness and greater capabilities so they are able to bring an added depth to the health care field, resulting in better care and outcomes for patients."

Dean Jacqueline Dunbar-Jacob

In competency-based education, instructors will be looking for whether the student is able to describe and give examples of cognitive capabilities over childhood and to recognize the level of function in a child. Students would have to be able to show to the faculty that they have mastered that skill.

"We are just getting started with the curriculum revisions," Dunbar-Jacob says. "What we need to do is align the curriculum with these new essentials. The benefit of the process, however, is that we have time. A specific deadline has not been given, even though the suggestion has been made that the overhaul be completed within three years. It is an intense overhaul, nonetheless."

While curriculum revision is a large undertaking, Dunbar-Jacob considers the opportunity to be an exciting one.

"It gives us an opportunity to reflect on what we have and how we can make it better. We are very early in the beginning stages, however. When we are done, we will be able to say, with confidence, that this is what a baccalaureate nurse knows and can do and this is what a nurse with a doctorate nurse knows and can do," she says.

While the "Essentials" is focused on academic preparedness, "The Future of Nursing" is focused on awareness. The report explores how nurses can work to reduce health disparities and promote equity while keeping costs at bay, using technology, and maintaining patient- and family-focused care into 2030.

Dunbar-Jacob describes it as care integration. The major direction that comes from "The Future of Nursing" is that nurses, essentially, need to be conscious of the social determinants that impact a patient's health. "Nurses need to be more engaged in the community by working in the public health sector, school systems, long-term care facilities, community agencies, and ambulatory care settings that deliver care to individuals," she says.

In practice, the impact of both reports on the school is the same: an examination of the overall curriculum. As the curriculum is being revised, it also is necessary to evaluate how students will be provided with more community-based experiences and how they will be exposed to social determinants of health. The result will be students who graduate with a solid understanding of the equity issues impacting patients' health.

Some of that work has already begun. A broadbased understanding of economic, cultural, religious, and ethnic diversity is built into a term-long first-year seminar. The course focuses on the implications of the many forms of diversity and the role of advocate that nurses play as they deliver care.

While Dunbar-Jacob helped to lay the groundwork for where the School of Nursing is today, education will continue to evolve, and whoever is at the helm of the school will have to ensure it not only meets but matches the standards necessary to develop the best nurses possible.

"We are committed to producing a more educated nurse with greater awareness and greater capabilities," she says, "so they are able to bring an added depth to the health care field, resulting in better care and outcomes for patients. That is our commitment and our goal."

Students Shine at the Spring Graduation and Pinning Ceremony

t the Spring Graduation and Pinning Ceremony, held on April 29, 2022, at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center, the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing presented awards to graduating students who have had an impact on the school, the University of Pittsburgh, and the greater community.

The Undergraduate Outstanding Research Award was given to Alexandra Tolassi (pictured below). Faculty members have described Tolassi as one of the future leaders of nursing research, and in two and a half years, she mastered the research process. Her thesis, "Associations between Treatment-seeking Delay and Clinical Course of Patients with Suspected Acute Coronary Syndrome at Initial Emergency Department Encounter," was selected for a podium presentation at the 2021 national conference of the Society for Academic Emergency Medicine.

Melissa Lancellotti was awarded the Nursing Student Association (NSA) Professionalism Award. She was a member of NSA for four years, including two years on the board as business manager. The NSA board said that she consistently demonstrated the qualities of leadership and professionalism and was chosen for the award because of her extensive involvement in state and national conventions and her professionalism and grace when advocating for NSA. Lancellotti also was awarded the Kappa Beta Exemplary Senior Award for her participation and involvement in the Chi Eta Phi Greek organization at Pitt.

Clare Stansbury was awarded the NSA Leadership Award and the Undergraduate Outstanding Community Service Award for her leadership in NSA. Stansbury organized the first Out of Darkness Campus Walk for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention at Pitt and raised \$19,000, almost twice her goal. She also was instrumental in keeping NSA members engaged in virtual activities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Graduate Nursing Student Organization Graduation Award was given to Huan Mwana. During her predoctoral studies in the family nurse practitioner DNP program, the Graduate Nursing Student Organization said, she demonstrated excellence in leadership, gave back to the Pitt community, and had the passion to grow as an individual and health care provider. The members of the group believe that her commitment to building relationships with interdisciplinary professionals across the schools of the health sciences at Pitt will translate into her health care practice, positively impacting patient outcomes.

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Alexandra Tolassi

donor profile: Opal Stockwell

More than 70 years ago, Opal Wetzel Stockwell (BSN '51) began laying the foundation for her legacy at the University of Pittsburgh. Born on June 6, 1928, in Western Pennsylvania, Stockwell enrolled in Pitt's School of Nursing in the late 1940s. Along with 34 other women from across the country, Stockwell began her education in Pitt's newly established five-year nursing program. In 1950, just months before she was set to graduate, the Korean War began. Stockwell recalls one of her classmates' having to drop out to follow her husband to his various military posts.

"She did come back and graduate later, but we still considered her part of our class," says Stockwell.

Upon graduating in 1951, Stockwell became the first member of her family to graduate from the University of Pittsburgh, though her younger sister would later follow in her footsteps and also graduate from Pitt Nursing. Her father and four brothers, on the other hand, had all graduated from Pennsylvania State University.

"You can image what happened when we would have the Pitt [vs. Penn State] football game," says Stockwell. "My poor mother would be getting beaten up by both sides."

During her time at Pitt, Stockwell met her late husband, Elbridge Stockwell Jr., a graduate of Pitt's Swanson School of Engineering, whom she married shortly after her graduation, and two of the couple's four children graduated from Pitt as well. "To this day, we're still a Pitt family."

To commemorate her affiliation with the University, Stockwell has generously pledged funds to endow the new Opal Wetzel Stockwell Scholarship Fund to support those pursuing advanced nursing degrees.

"I had a partial scholarship that helped me a lot when I was going to Pitt," says Stockwell. "And I know fees and tuition are going up and up and a lot of young people would like to go to these programs but are unable to do so."

Thanks to Stockwell's charitable gift, students can worry less about educational expenses and focus more on important things like their studies, their families, and creating their own Pitt legacy. I had a partial scholarship that helped me a lot when I was going to Pitt. And I know fees and tuition are going up and up and a lot of young people would like to go to these programs but are unable to do so."





Thank you to all the members of the University of Pittsburgh community—alumni, parents, faculty, staff, students, and friends—who made the sixth annual Pitt Day of Giving a success.

The School of Nursing raised more than \$35,000 thanks to 220 donors.

Stay Up to Date with Professional Development

The University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing is proud to present new online/enduring nursing professional development activities.

Healthcare Provider Training on LGBTQIA+ Health: An Introductory Module on Best

Practices provides a brief introduction to best practices in LGBTQIA+ health and speaks to the specific needs of this population to increase knowledge, promote positive attitudes, and improve clinical preparedness among professional nurses. This is an hour-long interactive session.

Key Concepts in Health Policy is

a two-part series consisting of **Health and Society** and **American Democracy and Its Challenges**. Well-constructed public policy is necessary to promote the health and well-being of the population; however, 21st-century America is marked by deep divisions in terms of public policy solutions to our most intractable issues. Health policy challenges are not immune to these deep divisions, as the debate during and since the passage of the Affordable Care Act illustrates. Positions on key public policy issues are driven by a variety of philosophical and social ideals. Each session is an hour in length and provides valuable information for all professional nurses.

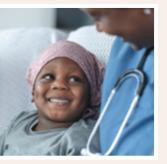
Once an activity is successfully completed, the participant receives a certificate for one contact hour. The cost is \$25 per activity.

For more information and to register, visit nursing.pitt.edu/continuing-education.

In Memoriam

Denise Angers (MN '76) Rose Bologna (BSNEd '62) Mary Jane Bond (BSN '69) Amelia Bunder (BSNEd '50) Beverly Cohen (MN '71, PhD '80) Wilma Couper (BSN '52) Rose Ferraro (BSNEd '51) Marjorie Hughes (BSN '45) Cynthia Hunter (BSN '77) Nancy Kosanovich (BSN '64, MNEd '67) Mary Laska (MSN '72) Alice Maloney (BSN '73) Kimberly Marks (BSN '84) Margaret Meeker (BSN '69) Janetta Mintus-McFarland (BSN '73) Alice Newton (BSN '43) Jean Poland (BSN '72) Mae Stewart (BSN '60) Diane Tighe (BSN '54)

New Pediatric Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Program



The University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing is thrilled to offer a new postgraduate certificate program that will help to meet the growing need for certified pediatric acute care nurse practitioners across the country.

In March, the Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing approved the school's pediatric acute care nurse practitioner postgraduate certificate program, making it the first certificate program of its kind in Western Pennsylvania. Currently, the only pediatric acute care nurse practitioner certificate programs in Pennsylvania are offered at two universities in the Philadelphia area.

"Pitt Nursing is very excited about the opportunity to increase the nurse practitioner workforce in acute pediatric care and looks forward to enrolling the first cohort this fall," says Jaqueline Dunbar-Jacob, PhD, FAAN, dean and Distinguished Service Professor of Nursing. Today there are more than 3,000 certified pediatric acute care nurse practitioners working in the United States, but the demand for qualified applicants far exceeds the current supply. The new certificate program at Pitt Nursing will prepare graduates to take the national certification exam and to provide quality health care to acutely, critically, and chronically ill children and their families.

Pitt Nursing's certificate program can be completed in two terms of full-time study and also can be pursued part time. The program is conducted on site and includes a minimum of 500 clinical hours needed for certification. The certificate will prepare nurse practitioners who have already earned their degrees and certifications in other specialties to sit for certification as a pediatric acute care nurse practitioner and to work in a general or specialty pediatric acute care nurse practitioner role, including in a pediatric emergency room.

Learn more at nursing.pitt.edu/ degree-programs/certificates.

Kirsti "Kish" Hetager Stark (BSN '74, MSN '85)



Kirsti Stark was a two-time graduate of the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing. She had a passion for helping those impacted by mental illness and worked at

Mayview State Hospital and UPMC Western Psychiatric Hospital. She taught nursing at Penn State Fayette and later joined the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing as an academic advisor for graduate nursing students. She spent more than six years in this role, guiding her students through their academic endeavors.

Julius Kitutu, associate dean for student affairs and alumni relations and the chief diversity officer at Pitt Nursing, shared that Stark also took time to collaborate with faculty in her area of expertise—always promoting an individual's mental health.





Salah Al-Zaiti

Robert Bauer







Kathi Elliott

Brayden Kameg

FACULTY GRANTS

Salah Al-Zaiti, PhD, FAHA

National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR)

Predicting Patient Instability Noninvasively for Nursing Care

Betty Braxter, PhD, FAAN

University of Pittsburgh Momentum Funds Seeding Grant

A Pilot Exploring Self-advocacy as a Factor in Maternal Mortality and Morbidity in Pregnant Black Women

Yvette Conley, PhD, FAAN

NINR

Targeting Research and Academic Training of Nurses in Genomics

Jacqueline Dunbar-Jacob, PhD, FAAN

Jewish Healthcare Foundation

Revisiting the Teaching Nursing Home

Jonna Morris, PhD

Breathe Pennsylvania

Facilitators and Barriers to Positive Airway Pressure Treatment Adherence in Women with Obstructive Sleep Apnea

Nancy Niemczyk, PhD

Health Resources and Services Administration

Group-based Trajectory Analysis of the First Stage of Labor

Marci Nilsen, PhD, and Jennifer Seaman, PhD McElhattan Foundation

Equipping Frontline Providers to Deliver High-quality End-of-Life Care: Interprofessional Certificate and Continuing Education Program for End-of-Life Care and Communication

Margaret Rosenzweig, PhD, FAAN Pitt Innovation Challenge 2021

Dignity, Legacy, Advocacy, and Support for Individuals with Advanced Cancer: A New Model for End-of-Life Care in the Black Community

Susan Wesmiller, PhD, FAAN

Oncology Nursing Foundation

Symptoms Experienced by Women One Year following Surgery for Breast Cancer: A Multi-omics Approach to the Development of Individual Biosignatures

Cecelia Yates, PhD

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania State Health Improvement Plan

Targeted Peptide Therapeutics to Mitigate Hyperinflammation and Tissue Damage in COVID-19 Patients

Jamie Zelazny, PhD

National Institute of Mental Health Social Media as a Predictor of Proximal Risk in Youth Suicide Attempt Study

Fei Zhang, PhD

National Institute of General Medical Sciences

Synthesizing Intraoperative Multivariate Time Series with Conditional Generative Adversarial Networks

FACULTY APPOINTMENTS, AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

Salah Al-Zaiti, PhD, FAHA, was selected by the American Heart Association's Council on Cardiovascular and Stroke Nursing to receive the 2021 Research Article of the Year Award. The award was presented at Scientific Sessions 2021.

Sarah Belcher, PhD, was named a member of the UPMC Palliative Care Research Center core faculty.

Victor Bench, DNP, was selected as a Commission on Nurse Certification item writer committee member for the next three years.

Lora Burke, PhD, FAHA, FAAN, was recognized by Expertscape as an expert in obesity.

Yvette Conley, PhD, FAAN, was the recipient of the Lucie Young Kelly Faculty Leadership

Award for 2021 for her scholarly clinical/ teaching project, Undergraduate Preparation for Research in Nursing Science. The goal of the project is to have a nationally recognized summer research program for BSN students, with an emphasis on recruiting students from minority-serving institutions and increasing the diversity of scholars who will enter nursing PhD programs. Conley also was selected as the recipient of the 2022 Eastern Nursing Research Society Distinguished Contributions to Nursing Research Award.

Brayden Kameg, DNP, was the 2021 Nightingale Awards of Pennsylvania winner in the Doctorate of Nursing Practice category.

Michael Neft, DNP, was selected to serve on the American Academy of Nursing's Audit and Risk Committee for the 2021-23 term.

Susan Sereika, PhD, was recognized as an expert in weight loss by Expertscape.

Teresa Thomas, PhD, was awarded a UPMC Hillman Cancer Center Junior Scholar Award in Population Science.

Tyler Traister, DNP, published a book through Springer Publishing, "Fast Facts About LGBTQ+ Care for Nurses: How to Deliver Culturally Competent and Inclusive Care."

Karin Warner, DNP, was selected as the "Shielding from Harm" columnist for the Journal of Radiology Nursing. Her first article was published in the March 2022 issue.

Susan Wesmiller, PhD, began her term as president of the International Society of Nurses in Genetics in November.

Cecelia Yates, PhD, was named one of 83 senior members of the National Academy of Inventors for 2022.





Jonna Morris

Marci Nilsen









Cecelia Yates

Fei Zhang

STUDENT GRANTS

Jessica Davis, PhD student

Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing

Neonatal Diet Type and Associations with Adverse Feeding Outcomes and Gut Microbiome Composition in Neonates with Critical Congenital Heart Defects

Tara Davis, PhD student

International Society of Nurses in Genetics Multi-omics of the Nrf2 Antioxidant Response Element Signaling Pathway in

Women Experiencing Breast Cancer-related Fatigue

Stephanie Helman, PhD student

National Institute of Nursing Research Use of Predictive Analytics to Quantify Neonatal Hypothermia Burden after Cardiac Surgery

Mary Hoberg, PhD student Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses

Improving Understanding and Detection of Postpartum Anxiety

McKenzie Wallace, postdoctoral scholar Rockefeller University Heilbrunn Family Center for Research Nursing

Longitudinal Cytokine Profiles in Obese Pregnancy With and Without Preeclampsia

STUDENT AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

MSN student **Anne Algeo** (BSN '13, MSN '21) was awarded a Jewish Healthcare Foundation fellowship.

Junior BSN students **Maura Gallagher** and **Madeleine Ricci** were selected for Susan D. Flynn Oncology Nursing Development Program fellowships. PhD student **Maura McCall** received the Biobehavioral Cancer Control Program Abstract Presentation Award from the UPMC Hillman Cancer Center.

PhD student **Lauren T. Narbey** was selected to present at the American College of Nurse-Midwives' 67th Annual Meeting & Exhibition in Chicago in May.

NOTABLE ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS

Robert Bauer (BSN '08, MSN '15) was promoted to associate medical director of the ICU at UPMC Magee-Womens Hospital.

Kathi Elliott (MSN '08) was appointed cochair of Pittsburgh Mayor Ed Gainey's Community Health and Safety Transition Committee.

Kali Galeassi (BSN '20) received a DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses in May 2021.

PITT NURSE MAGAZINE CREATIVE TEAM

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Email Maddy Dix, alumni coordinator, at madelinedix@pitt.edu.

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