Leadership is top of mind in nursing these days. We at the University of Michigan continually work to enhance nurse leadership capacity and to meet increasing scope in health promotion, research, evidence-based practice, and patient-centered care.

That’s the message we shared with new University of Michigan President Mark Schlissel when he came to visit during the early weeks of his tenure. He observed a simulation in the Clinical Learning Center (CLC). “President Schlissel seemed down-to-earth,” said CLC Director and Clinical Assistant Professor Michelle Aebersold, PhD, RN. “He understood simulation and debriefing as powerful teaching tools.”

His next stop was at the research lab of Associate Dean for Research Janean E. Holden, PhD, RN, FAAN. “It was a pleasure to meet President Schlissel and to have him take an interest in the work we do,” she said. “His commitment to and understanding of the research was clear.”

President Schlissel also met with students and faculty, listening to their hopes and concerns about the future of the University of Michigan and nursing education in general.

Dean Kathleen Potempa was pleased with the opportunity to share the complexity of the U-M School of Nursing enterprise, which includes helping young students (even teenagers) deal with life and death issues. “He got to see how patient-focused our research is, and also how well our nursing students are prepared to go forth, achieve high board scores, and get right to work promoting and improving health.”

President Schlissel was inaugurated on September 5, stating he wants to enhance the university’s already eminent standing as a place where gifted scholars focus on research, teaching and mentoring the next generation to become engaged citizens and leaders.

“I am walking in new directions, and I am asking a lot of questions. I am meeting with students, staff and faculty, learning their aspirations, what they are most proud of, and what they are anxious about as we move forward together,” he said. “More than anything, I am listening.”

UMSN Dean Kathleen Potempa, PhD, RN, FAAN, has been elected to the Institute of Medicine (IOM) of the National Academies, one of the highest honors in the fields of health and medicine. “I am honored and willing to serve to better the health of our nation and other nations around the world,” Dean Potempa said. “This is an important and timely opportunity to address the key principles espoused in the landmark 2010 IOM report on the Future of Nursing that is invigorating nursing and health care.”

U-M had six IOM members elected for 2014 (among just 70 nationwide); they are experts in genetic and statistical analysis, Lou Gehrig’s Disease (ALS), head and neck cancer, health policy, and health science.
The countdown has begun for our new building opening in 2015, the anniversary of 125 years of nursing at U-M in 2016, and the university-wide bicentennial in 2017. So what a perfect time to celebrate the many nursing leaders this school has produced! This newsletter is full of examples of leadership in practice, research, and education.

Looking back through key moments of our history, nothing stands out more than the growth of the nursing doctoral program over the last four decades. We anticipated that doctorally-prepared nurses would be called upon in ever-greater numbers to lead improvements in health care systems and evidence-based practice. More and more, they are doing so in remarkable ways.

I invite all UMSN alumni to ask themselves: Is now the time to return home as a first step in moving forward? We’re making it easier than ever before to obtain our field’s ultimate degrees:

Our DNP program’s best-of-both-worlds format is web-blended for working professionals’ convenience and offers opportunities for valuable mentorship. Time on campus once a month creates strong bonds with world-class UMSN faculty. The DNP program is augmented by scholarships for select participants. Residency options are customizable and far-ranging.

Our newly revised PhD program’s funding packages for incoming PhD students enable them to study full-time. Upon entering the program, all students must match with faculty mentors conducting high-impact research in health promotion and chronic conditions among vulnerable populations, spanning efficacy to effectiveness. Along with their PhD classes, students work with their research faculty mentors at least 20 hours per week, including time with interdisciplinary teams, developing advanced research knowledge and skills.

As part of the graduate student research assistant (GSRA) funding package, PhD students receive:

- Full tuition and fees for three years (up to four in certain situations)
- A monthly stipend
- Health insurance (U-M GradCare)

Learn more about these leading doctoral programs at nursing.umich.edu.

Kathleen Potempa, Dean
UMSN WELCOMES JANEAN HOLDEN TO HER NEW ROLE AS ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR RESEARCH

Professor Janean E. Holden, PhD, RN, FAAN, has been officially approved by the University of Michigan Regents as UMSN's associate dean for research. Dr. Holden has been consistently funded for her research by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) since 1999 and brings many years of experience and expertise to the position.

“Dr. Holden has made significant discoveries related to neural pathways that contribute to chronic pain,” says UMSN Dean Kathleen Potempa, PhD, RN, FAAN. “She continues to pursue a focused program of research and regularly disseminates her research as evidenced through numerous scientific publications and presentations. Her scientific papers are noteworthy because of their depth of evidence often including a series of experiments around the scientific hypotheses in a single publication. She is currently investigating drugs in an animal model that may interfere with pathways that sustain the chronic pain cycle.”

ADDITIONAL UMSN FACULTY IN NEW LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

Associate Professor Jody Lori, PHD, CNM, FACNM, FAAN
Senior Director of Global Affairs

Associate Professor Cynthia Arslanian-Engoren, PHD, RN, ACNS-BC, FAHA, FAAN
Director of Faculty Affairs and Development

Assistant Professor Patricia W. Coleman-Burns, PhD, MA
Lead Faculty for the Second Career Program

RESEARCH NEWS:

ANOTHER YEAR OF RECORD-BREAKING FUNDING

UMSN’s Dr. Marita Titler Co-Leads Patient-Engagement Component of $30 Million National PCORI and NIH Study

Each year, one out of three adults over age 65 falls, often resulting in moderate to severe injuries and even deaths. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) have joined to support a clinical trial to test individually tailored interventions to prevent fall-related injuries. Marita Titler, PhD, RN, FAAN, associate dean of clinical scholarship and practice at UMSN is co-leader of the national patient/stakeholder engagement component of the study. Nationwide, the study team will include more than 100 researchers—and stakeholders, patients and their representatives at sites across the country. Nurses will be utilized as falls managers at those sites.
UMSN will fulfill a growing global need of understanding and improving non-communicable diseases (NCD) by building research collaborations at U-M and at Thai health care agencies and universities. The “Strengthening Nurse NCD Research and Training Capacity in Thailand” project is funded by a $1.15 million NIH/Fogarty grant. It includes mentored research and training at UMSN for post-doctoral scholars and project implementation and yearly research workshops in Thailand. The program will build on the longstanding collaboration between UMSN and the Praboromarajchanok Institute for Health Workforce Development. UMSN Dean Kathleen Potempa is the primary investigator.

UMSN Establishing Center Dedicated to Complex Patient Needs
UMSN researchers have developed a Center for Complexity and Self-Management of Chronic Disease (CSCD), supported by NIH and National Institute for Nursing Research funding. The center will provide resources and support from an interdisciplinary perspective for innovative research and to develop strong pilot data, with the intention of utilizing the pilot studies for larger trials dedicated to helping patients self-manage their complex health issues. The CSCD strives to partner with a variety of stakeholders including researchers, patients, and policy makers. Professor Debra L. Barton, RN, PhD, FAAN, who is UMSN’s Mary Lou Willard French Professor of Nursing, and Associate Professor Ivo Dinov, PhD, will serve as co-primary investigators for the five-year grant.

New $1.6 Million Grant Will Investigate Nurse and Physician Communication
“Communication technology can increase or reduce adverse effects for patients depending on how nurses and physicians are using it,” says Milisa Manojlovich, PhD, RN, CCRN, UMSN associate professor. “Unfortunately, communication failures are one of the most common causes of adverse events for hospitalized patients.” As the primary investigator on a new $1.6 million grant from the federal Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Dr. Manojlovich will investigate how communication technologies such as electronic health records, email, and pagers are being used and where common failures occur. Her research team (which includes MDs) plans to use their results to make recommendations for design configurations that will improve the functionality of health IT.

New $2.3 Million Workplace Intervention Aims to Reduce Risk for Oncology Nurses
Chemotherapy infusion sites are the focus of a new U-M study of oncology nurses’ exposure to hazardous drugs and ways to reduce the exposure. “There are significant acute and long-term side effects from hazardous drug exposures in oncology settings, but not enough evidence-based, risk-reduction efforts to protect health care workers,” says UMSN Assistant Professor Christopher Friese, PhD, RN, FAAN. He is principle investigator for a four-year study called DEFENS: Drug Exposure Feedback and Education for Nurses’ Safety, which is funded by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).

Associate Professor Focusing on Biostatistical and Data Management in Parkinson’s Study
UMSN’s Ivo Dinov, PhD, will co-lead the biostatistical and data management efforts of a new $11.5 million grant focused on Parkinson’s disease and associated falls. With the funding from the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Stroke, U-M will create a Udall Center of Excellence for Parkinson’s Disease Research, one of only nine in the country. Dr. Dinov and colleagues will develop and test advanced digital tools to design and analyze large-scale heterogeneous Parkinson’s Disease data.
I often start presentations with an image of Florence Nightingale and the text “Go with the Flo,” because informatics (the science of working with data) and profound leadership are not new concepts. Nightingale illustrated that in 1863 in her infamous “Notes on Hospitals.” Yet, many of Nightingale’s teachings still fall on deaf ears.

Today we have access to huge collections of data. As technologies increase, we need new ways of thinking and engaging our students and peers. When UMSN faculty worked to revise curriculum that would both capture the imagination of new students and intrigue those who have been around the block, we focused on the power of teams, expertise sharing, the engaged student, and unconventional thinking.

We could teach students pure applied informatics, but without sharply honed leadership skills the impact might be markedly blunted. Additionally, a leader’s hands are tied if they are not skilled in the concepts of informatics in health care. Our program will educate leaders who can excel in a world that demands expertise in information management and leadership.

In nearly 15 years of involvement with the World Health Organization (WHO), I have had a front row seat to the changing face of global health as related to “Information and Communications Technologies” (ICT). Watching developing nations adopt ICT and benchmark progress is inspiring and humbling. I also see this in action as part of UMSN’s mission to strengthen the international experiences of our students.

As a member of the WHO e-Health Technical Advisory Group (TAG), I find it important to ensure that the perspectives of the nursing profession are considered. Leading by example, I introduce perspectives that are often not heard.

No longer is informatics viewed as a “nice to have” course. I believe it is a core competency. Informatics and leadership are mainstream aspects of practice. Applying these competencies is critical to the profession and to the health and safety of our patients. At UMSN, we embrace this philosophy and are working to create the next generation of leaders who will help us transform health care.
UMSN ALUMNI ARE EXCELLENT IN LEADERSHIP POSITIONS REPRESENTING PRACTICE, RESEARCH, POLICY, BUSINESS AND EDUCATION.

We are proud to showcase impressive and diverse areas where our nursing alumni are moving America forward from coast to coast—and beyond!

Where are YOU?
We want to know how and what our alumni are doing. Please take a moment to update your contact information:
https://leadersandbest.umich.edu/alumni_update/profile_update

Regents of the University of Michigan: Mark J. Bernstein, Julia Donovan Darlow, Laurence B. Deitch, Shauna Ryder Diggs, Denise Ilitch, Andrea Fischer Newman, Andrew C. Richner, Katherine E. White, Mark S. Schlissel, ex officio
A Summer Internship to Remember

University of Michigan Health System (UMHS) faced a daunting task this summer with the “Go-Live” stage of implementing MiChart, its electronic health record system. MiChart enhances patient care because it improves personalized information and communication among members of the health care team such as the patient, nurses, doctors and pharmacists. The transition was a major endeavor, as UMHS had more than 14,000 users to train in a variety of settings, from the intensive care unit to outpatient clinics.

UMHS recruited a large cohort of student interns to act as trainers and “at the elbow” support as MiChart went live. More than a dozen nursing students participated, including BSN and graduate students.

“The MiChart internship was an incredible experience,” says Michael Talsma, a UMSN master’s student. “It’s not every day that a student has the opportunity to participate in a premier health system’s EHR implementation. Having the opportunity to be in the trenches, in conjunction with having a high-level view by shadowing my preceptor (MiChart Project Director and UMSN alumnus Hilary King), was truly valuable, as it gave me much greater insight and understanding of the process.”

“I thought the experience was extremely beneficial for nursing students,” says UMSN junior Danielle Smith. “I feel like I can perform better at clinicals. This internship gave me the chance to work directly with nurses for an entire summer, and I had the ability to ask any questions I’ve ever had, and many of the nurses were happy to show me new things. I can talk confidently with every profession in the hospital, and act as a team player.”

It’s not just the students who found the experience beneficial. The program is a “win-win” according to Sue Schade, UMHS’s chief information officer. “The success of our intern program is not hard to measure,” she says. “The manager responsible for the interns regularly hears ‘We love our students’ from the users.”

UMHS Chief Nursing Informatics Officer Marna Flaherty-Robb agrees. “The students had valuable experiences, and the staff valued them being invested as both learners and helpers,” she said.

“I have seen the value of effective communication, teamwork, efficient problem solving, customer service, patience, and improvisation/creative solutions, along with many other professional skills,” says Talsma. “I would encourage any students who are considering a future in Health IT to get experience in being part of a “Go-Live.” When all the planning, practice, and preparation come to fruition, it is truly an amazing thing to see.”

Nursing students get into the action for electronic medical record implementation at U-M Health System.
I really enjoy reaching out to nursing alumni and it’s just a plus when they choose to give.”

Jade Curl is putting her nursing student status to good use in an uncommon way. As U-M Telefund’s only nursing student, Curl reaches out to U-M alumni, most often to nursing alumni, to discuss their philanthropic interests. Fitting in three shifts per week is not an easy task for the sophomore who already has a busy schedule due to classes and clinicals, but Curl says the job is a great fit for her. “I receive financial support but I still have to work,” she says. “This job helps pay my rent and my work will also help future students and I feel good about that. It’s also really beneficial to speak to the alumni because I learn so much about the different aspects of their nursing careers.” Curl, who has worked for Telefund since Sept. 2013, has raised more than $50,000 for the university ($36,260 for nursing!) and was recently promoted to supervisor.

You can make your gift at any time online at giving.umich.edu/give/nursing

HILLMAN SCHOLARS EXPLORE “NURSES AS DESIGNERS”

In late spring, 26 Hillman Scholars from the University of Michigan, University of North Carolina and University of Pennsylvania converged for a three-day annual meeting in Ann Arbor. The theme, “Nurses as Designers” was selected to encourage the scholars to explore how design, technology, and partnerships with disciplines such as engineering can improve health care.

The Hillman Scholars Program in Nursing Innovation is a prestigious program for BSN students to transition directly into the PhD program with the intent of giving them longer career trajectories to increase the impact of nursing research on health care. These scholars are championed as the next generation of high-impact nurse leaders and researchers.

The annual meeting included a session with designers from Little Devices at MIT. The lab combines engineering, biology and global health to create and revolutionize technologies that can improve patient care outcomes. The designers also lead MakerNurse, a nursing-focused innovation program supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

“I think it was great to meet other scholars pursuing the same goal,” says UMSN Hillman Scholar Jessica Marsack. “This program is rigorous, so it’s nice to be around others who understand the struggle; being with like-minded people can rejuvenate our interests and reinvigorate our passions.”

GIVING BLEUDAY

Giving Blueday, December 2, 2014, is the University of Michigan’s first university-wide day of giving. Scheduled on Giving Tuesday – a global day of giving following Thanksgiving weekend – Giving Blueday is a day to make a difference in thousands of lives and impact the future of our world.

From midnight through 11:59 p.m. EST on December 2, the university will invite supporters worldwide to be Victors for Michigan by making donations. With social media challenges, special events, and real-time updates throughout the day, we’ll encourage alumni, students, faculty, staff, parents and other devotees to show their Michigan pride with a gift to the university.

Giving Blueday will be a day for everyone who loves Michigan to join together to support students, transform lives, shape the world, and make great things happen.

Together, we can turn Giving Tuesday into Giving Blueday!
Faculty members Drs. Lisa Kane Low, Marjorie McCullagh, and Denise Saint Arnault were recently inducted as Fellows in the American Academy of Nursing. Candidates need the sponsorship of two current fellows and are reviewed by a panel of fellows for evidence of significant contributions to nursing and health care. The new fellows were inducted during the AAN’s annual conference, held October 16-18, 2014, in Washington, D.C. They join more than 30 active UMSN professorial and emeritus faculty who are members of the Academy. UMSN alumni selected as AAN fellows include Tess L. Briones, PhD, RN; Lorraine B. Robbins, PhD, FNP-BC ’04; Tsu-Yin Wu, PhD ’99; and Karen K. Kirby, MSN, RN ’75. All of the new fellows can now use FAAN credentials.

Two UMSN alumni are in the cohort of 20 nurse leaders nationwide who have been named Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Executive Nurse Fellows for 2014, to participate in a three-year, world-class leadership development program that is enhancing the effectiveness of nurse leaders working to improve the nation’s health care system. They are Suzanne (Begeny) Miyamoto, BSN ‘02; MS ‘04; PhD ‘09, director of government affairs and health policy at the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, Washington, D.C.; and Jeffrey Adams, BSN ’96, PhD, RN, director of the Center for Innovations in Care Delivery, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston.

Retirements
Beatrice J. Kalisch, PhD, RN, FAAN, Professor Emerita
Carolyn M. Sampselle, PhD, ANP, FAAN

Memorials
Maureen Elizabeth Kelley Belden, a former clinical instructor at the School of Nursing, passed away in July after a long illness. Maureen received her master’s degree in nursing from U-M in 1993 and worked as primary care nurse practitioner. She joined the faculty as a lecturer and taught undergraduate students for more than a decade. She was also part of the team that implemented the Undergraduate Initiative for Excellence.

Associate Professor and Assistant Research Scientist Emerita Ninfa Springer passed away in May. She was among the first UMSN faculty members to utilize computer exercises in her courses. Professor Springer’s research focused on the nutritional status of pregnant women, infants and children. She also worked frequently with other disciplines including information technology, pharmacology and special education for her research and publications.

Joyce O’Connor, UMSN’s long time laboratory coordinator for the Clinical Learning Center passed away in April. For more than 25 years, Joyce was a key part of making sure the learning exercises and valuable lessons from simulation training ran smoothly and were impactful for students.

Grace Joppich, the site representative of the U-M BSN Completion Program in Traverse City, MI for 16 years, passed away in August. She was well known to U-M’s “northern” students who recognized her support and advocacy for them as individuals and for the profession of nursing.

A newly published book is supporting the growing trend of patient empowerment and a team atmosphere in health care. “Person and Family Centered Care,” was written by Jane Barnsteiner, PhD ’84 and Joanne Disch, PhD ’85, who are both UMSN alumni, and Mary K. Walton, MSN. The writers say their own experiences as professional nurses, as patients, and as family members of patients inspired them to create a guide for more effective and satisfying health care for patients, families, and health care professionals. The book provides context for the evolution of person- and family-centered care in the United States and abroad, as well as models and strategies to promote this approach. Topics include the patient engagement, the power of an inter-professional team, helping nurses avoid compassion fatigue and emerging trends. The book is published by Sigma Theta Tau International.
Congratulations,
School of Nursing
Class of 2014!
SAVE THE DATE

Dean’s Research Day  
From Molecules to Community:  
The Science of Pain  
March 30, 2015

NEW ACADEMIC BUILDING

Construction on our new academic building is on schedule for a fall 2015 opening. The final piece of structural steel was placed in August. Since then, crews have been busy working on the interior framing and exterior surface. Masons have been hard at work to complete the brick exterior, while other crews are installing the plumbing, electrical and ductwork.

Naming opportunities begin at $25,000. Contact the Development office to learn more: 734-763-9710 or nursingalum@umich.edu

Check out our live web cam of the construction site: http://nursing.umich.edu/about-our-school/new-academic-building