

# UMSN Research Newsletter

## December 2021

### Message from the ADR

As I write this newsletter content during the week of Thanksgiving, I cannot help but think about the meaning of the holiday. The word “thanksgiving” means to show an expression of gratitude—to be grateful, according to the online Oxford languages dictionary. I find I am grateful for many things, and several of those things are all of you, my colleagues and friends.

I know we have all been busy adjusting to a “new normal” (yes, I am sick of that term as well; but it **is** descriptive) around living with what is now an ongoing or chronic pandemic. It makes me think about many of the populations we work with in some respect who are dealing with chronic conditions—something that is always there, be it in the background or sometimes at the forefront, but always something we have to consider, to make accommodations for. I think in that way, the pandemic can remind us in a more experiential way how important our School mission is—to advance health for all—and how critical each one of you are, **no matter what your role is**, in moving that mission forward.

I would like to send a shout out filled with gratitude to a number of people who are devoting time to important **office of research related** committee work. The committee members and committee charge are listed below. All of you are volunteering precious hours above and beyond your usual work, and I want to say thank you.

**Office of Research Mission Working Group:** Drs. Terri Voepel-Lewis, Matthew Davis, Robert Knoerl, Robert Ploutz-Snyder, Rushika Patel and Michelle Aebersold. Committee Charge: To assist in the implementation of the strategic activities of the UMSN Office of Research. To provide stakeholder perspectives about current and future activities with respect to how they help drive the mission and vision forward. To ensure an inclusive culture around strategic objectives and activities. This group also recently reviewed all internal pilot grants for UMSN donor funding.

**Provost Cluster Hire Search Committee on Anti-Racism:** Chair: Dr. Patricia Coleman-Burns; Members: Drs. Lenette Jones (lead on proposal), Sheria Robinson-Lane, Rob Stephenson, Rushika Patel, Deb Barton, and Steve Erickson (Pharmacy School Representative). Glen Marian and HR are providing administrative support. The cluster hire represents the School of Information, College of Pharmacy, School of Medicine’s Department of Learning Health Sciences and the School of Public Health in addition to Nursing. The charge of this group is to interview and hire a mid- to senior-level tenure track faculty member for UMSN with expertise in anti-racism and/or social justice methods and health equity research.

**UMSN Cluster Hire Search Committee on Anti-Racism/Health Equity:** Chair: Dr. Rushika Patel; Members: Drs. Yasamin Kusunoki, Phil Veliz, Hala Darwish, Sheria Robinson-Lane, Marie Anne Rosemberg, Deb Barton, and a 1<sup>st</sup> year PhD student, Jung Yoen Son. Megan Belansky and HR are providing administrative support. This committee will be in existence for up to 2 years to interview and provide hiring recommendations for up to 4



Debra Barton, RN, PhD, FAAN

faculty members of any rank to join existing faculty in advancing our research mission of improving health equity, with an emphasis on anti-racism and/or social justice methods or frameworks.

**Research Day Planning Committee:** Chair: Dr. Deb Barton; Co-Chair: Dr. Phil Veliz; Members: Drs. Deborah Lee, Laura Prochnow, Barbara Medvec, Denise St. Arnault, Rushika Patel, Patricia Coleman-Burns, Robert Ploutz-Snyder, and Jacob Kuzma (IT), Mike Brinich and Taylor Schaffer (Communications and Marketing), Colleen Zimmerman (Development), Dorothy Nagel (Continuing Education Specialist), Carri Polick (PhD student) and Glen Marian (Administrative Coordinator). Charge: To plan an event that celebrates the School's accomplishments around knowledge development and application and scholarship; provides for interdisciplinary interactions among faculty, staff, students, alumni and regional collaborators, is a forum to share research and scholarship activities and promote exposure to the latest research topics and methodologies.

In addition, I want to recognize and say thank you to all of you who are spending countless hours mentoring and leading teams, educating our next generation of nurses, caring for people in our communities and hospitals, and putting in numerous grant proposals to create knowledge that can address important gaps in care and health outcomes. Thank you to all of the staff in every department and role who keep the School going every day – year after year. Thank you to our alumni who remain engaged in the activities of the School and continuously demonstrate your support. Thank you also to our students who motivate us as a School, hold us accountable and are our hope for health and health care transformation for all in the years to come.

I wish you all a joy-filled holiday season,

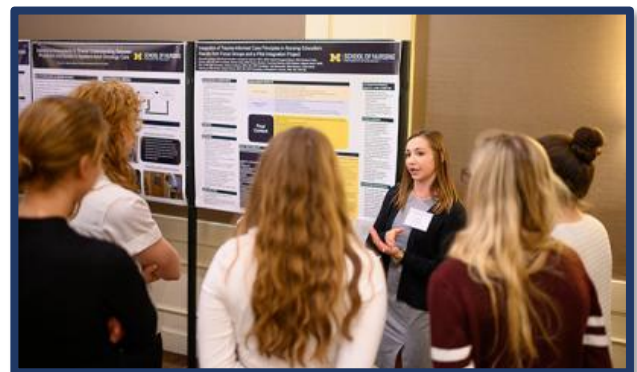
**Deb**

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## U-M School of Nursing's Research Day Virtual Conference

### Title: Perspectives in Health Equity

The intent of this theme is to bring diverse voices to the table to represent various experiences, roles and disciplines (i.e., teams) in addressing inequities that exist in health and health care. The mission of the University of Michigan School of Nursing is to advance health for all. Whether you are leading quality improvement initiatives in inpatient settings, developing new knowledge to improve health outcomes in a specific population, implementing strategies to address access barriers, or educating the next generation of nurses, you and your collaborators have a role in advancing health for all.



UMSN Research Day 2019

### WHEN Is Research Day?

**Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, April 12-14, 2022**—Please note these dates on your calendars.

The call for abstracts will go out **December 15, 2021**, and abstracts will be due on **February 4th, 2022**.

### What is the Same, and What is Different?

- This year's event will remain 100% virtual. The event will feature live presentations from two plenary speakers and a live panel of experts as well as virtual blitz presentations.
- To beat "online fatigue," the event will occur over three days for about 3 hours per day. The exact times each day are still being determined.

- On **Thursday, April 14, from 11 am to 1 pm**, there will be a room in the SN building, **426 Ingalls**, where the DEI plenary will be live-streamed for community viewing. An in-person networking event will take place in the lobby soon after this plenary talk, as the pandemic allows.

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## GRO – NIH News

### **Important reminder about any letters of intents (LOIs), white papers, or grant proposal submissions to any sponsor:**

University of Michigan policies require that ALL proposals submitted on behalf of the University of Michigan for your research work must be approved first by GRO and then by ORSP. This refers also to all sponsors and any mode of submission, including those with their own online systems for submissions of proposals or LOIs by a project team. A Proposal Approval Routing Form (PAF) must be approved prior to submitting online in any systems. For LOIs, it is also important to touch base with the GRO office to be sure that an LOI is not required to be submitted as a PRE proposal. An SOP for these actions for further information will be available on the Research Canvas site that is currently in process.



***Always submit an NOI through the SON Research website and GRO will assist in determining the proper course for your proposals.***

**Biosketch and Other Support changes:** Beginning with submissions for “Just in Time” requests and new grant submission **beginning January 25, 2022**, there are new requirements for Other Support documents and biosketches. If you have not looked at these new templates, please go to the NIH notice <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-21-073.html> and take a look. Importantly, for the Other Support document, all consulting agreements and in-kind support must be declared, and you must share the actual documents related to any foreign agreements.

**Post-award grant activity changes:** There are new changes coming to the former Post-Award Change Request (PAC-R). The PAC-R was the document the PI/investigator signed to make changes during post-award activities, such as re-budget requests and no cost extensions, or even a change in the PI. This used to be started by the post-awardee, who would send it to the PI for a signature, and then GRO would upload the document back into the system.

Effective **11/15/21**, there is a new system in the eRPM, AWD records that makes this PAC-R document fully electronic. This will now be filled in by the post-award contact (or others if associated with the PAF) and routed electronically to all parties, as required based on the requirements of the action we are seeking. So instead of an email request from your post-award administrator, you will get an automated request from the PAF system to go in and sign these. The new title of this document is ACR or Award Change Request. So please be aware of this change and look for automated important messages that may go to SPAM or JUNK mail! In order to sign these, PIs and Co-Is will have to have an up-to-date M-Inform disclosure in the system.

**COVID related funding:** [NIH announced](#) an award of nearly \$470 million to build a national study population of diverse research volunteers and support large-scale studies on the long-term effects of COVID-19. This was awarded to New York University, and is part of the RECOVER initiative (researching COVID to enhance recovery).

To learn more, please read the [NIH news release](#) and visit the [RECOVER website](#).

## Reminders

- The Office of Foundations Relations has released a website with a listing of foundation funding opportunities (URL: <https://foundations.umich.edu>)

- While it is not 100% inclusive of all funding sources, you might find some new grants/foundations you haven't heard of. Take a look; you can search by a list of foundations, or you can search in opportunities for various content areas.

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## Optimizing Collaboration on Grant Submissions

### An Important Reminder from Rob Ploutz-Snyder, Director of ABL/DMC and Assistant Dean for Research and Scholarship

We are fortunate in the School of Nursing to have a core resource known as the Applied Biostatistics Laboratory (ABL) and Data Management Center (DMC). This resource allows faculty in the School to collaborate closely with faculty and staff in ABL/DMC who are experts in various biostatistical methods and theories and study design. We currently have 3 PhD prepared faculty and 2 professional staff who have master's degrees in some aspect of statistics, analytics or data science. It is important to integrate ABL colleagues into your study team communications and preparations for grant submissions the same way you integrate any other co-investigators to allow sufficient time for collaboration. So, for example, if you are planning to submit a new R01 for the June 5<sup>th</sup> NIH deadline, you should submit your GRO Notice of Intent as soon as you know of your plan to submit, and if you also hope to recruit one of the Research Faculty within the Applied Biostatistics Laboratory as a Co-I or Multiple-PI, you want to reach out to us no later than April 5<sup>th</sup>, or preferably a little earlier than that.



Rob Ploutz-Snyder, PhD, PStat®

Why is that timing important? **First and foremost, we want to collaborate with you, and we want these collaborations to be successful!** We have a lot of experience working with and leading teams of researchers, and while nobody can guarantee successful funding as a collaborator, experience has taught us that **if we are not invited to join your research team early on, we simply cannot deliver our best, most compelling work.**

When we are engaged early in the design phases of grant development, we are able to join your team meetings as ideas begin to develop—long before your aims page has been drafted. We can assist in things like choosing primary outcomes in such a way as to maximize your statistical power and/or reduce error variance. We can help you with experimental design decisions that can dramatically improve study efficiency, often resulting in more manageable budgets. We will be able to help you appreciate how different analytical approaches may augment your initial ideas in meaningful ways, sometimes resulting in that “third aim” that perhaps you hadn't thought of yet. If prospective research is where you're heading, we can help you appreciate the pros and cons of designing cluster-randomized designs, versus more traditional RCT designs.

We may advise designs that you haven't even considered, like adaptive trial designs, n-of-1 designs, or other hybrid designs. If you are hoping to take advantage of large secondary dataset, either as a focus of your next proposal, or to augment it, contacting us early is essential too. You may find that we already have experience working with those datasets, and our knowledge can be extremely valuable to you. If the dataset is somewhat new to us, having us engage early will enable us to come up to speed with the strengths and limitations of those data sources, and if well enough in advance of the grant deadline, we may even be able to submit a manuscript using these secondary sources with your PI-Team in advance of the grant proposal itself, which would be extremely beneficial for the grant review.

Regardless of the type of research you have in mind, bringing your team together months prior to the submission deadline is good practice all around. When your team helps you to develop the Aims and Hypotheses from the ground up, as ideas mature, you will have additional confidence in knowing that your colleagues are right-there-

with you. You won't have to explain all of the nuances of the design choices, outcomes, etc., because your team will have helped to solidify all of those decisions themselves, and everyone will be better equipped for writing and supporting their portions of the proposal.

Likewise, contacting the GRO office early—as soon as you begin to consider a new or revised proposal—is extremely important. You may not fully realize or appreciate the “behind-the-scenes” work that goes into a successful grant submission. Our Grants and Research Office is staffed with extremely talented, driven individuals, and they are highly motivated to make your grant shine as it leaves the School and University. Remember that our GRO office is supporting **many** proposals at **every** NIH deadline, not to mention deadlines for other funding agencies. It may seem like it is not a big problem if your proposal arrives to GRO at the last minute, but to them, as they are juggling many other proposals, it can quickly become unmanageable, and unreasonable. This, of course, is in addition to the deadlines imposed by the Office of Research and Sponsored Projects centrally, which also must be considered.

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## Donor Funds and Pilot Awardees

As I hope you are all aware, UMSN is very fortunate to have a development team led by Colleen Zimmerman who work every day to enhance the incredible resources we enjoy as UMSN faculty. We have 11 different donor funds (one is brand new and not yet available for use) that are endowed gifts to support research related initiatives. As a reminder, an endowed fund means that the principal is invested and only the earned interest is available yearly for use. As we have recently funded 6 faculty pilot proposals from these funds (awardees listed at end of article) and to improve transparency around resources, over the next 2 newsletters, I thought I would highlight who our donors are and what their intentions are through their generous financial support.



The oldest active fund was established in 1986 and is called the **Janet Gatherer Boyles Endowed Clinical Research Fund**. Janet Boyles graduated from UMSN in 1958. Janet, deeply committed to nursing and its continuing evolution, is proud that nurses recognize the integration of head and body, and the importance of emotional as well as physical well-being to total health. She has long recognized the important relationship between nursing research and nursing practice, and for many years has played a leadership role in supporting the School in its efforts to build a strong program in research. Her wishes for the use of her fund is to support clinical research in the School.

The next fund, established in 1992, is called the **Carl Pursell Endowed Nursing Research Fund**. Carl Pursell was a Congressman from Michigan's 2nd congressional district from 1977 - 1992. Carl was a leading congressional advocate for nursing, healthcare, and education, fighting to protect federal funds for nursing education and research on numerous occasions throughout his career. The intent of this fund is to support research directed toward providing high quality nursing care for the American people. A priority includes health issues in areas where nurses can have a substantial health impact.

Also established in 1992 is the **Janeth M. and Amherst Turner Nursing Research Fund**. Earning her BSN in 1967, Janeth went on to lead worldwide regulatory affairs for the Parke-Davis Research Division of, at the time, Warner-Lambert - Ann Arbor. Janeth and her husband Amherst created the Turner Fund as they believe nursing research to be a high priority and a fundamental component of programs at the School of Nursing. The intent of their fund is to, very broadly, support research activities in the School.

The final fund to be shared in this edition of the newsletter was established in 1996 and is called the **Lucille and Clayton Clark Faculty Research Fund**. The Lucille and Clayton Clark Fund was created by faculty emerita Dr. Sally Lusk and her husband Jon to honor her parents. The Clark Fund provides seed money for early career faculty research as Dr. Lusk found that type of funding was helpful in supporting her own pilot work when applying for her RO1 grand application.

In our next newsletter, more donor funds will be highlighted.

Finally, I want to announce the awardees who were awarded pilot funding from all of our generous donors.

AWARD NAME	Investigator(s)
EARLY STAGE INVESTIGATOR CLINICAL RESEARCH AWARD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Jade Burns</b> and team: Drs. Daphne Watkins, Lynae Darbes, Robert Ploutz-Snyder and a team of undergraduate students.</li> </ul>
WOMEN'S HEALTH RESEARCH AWARD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Lenette Jones</b> and team: Drs. David Fresco (psychologist), Bruno Giordani (neuro-psychologist), Jaclynn Hawkins &amp; Jamie Mitchell (social work) and Robert Ploutz-Snyder.</li> </ul>
TRANSLATIONAL SEED AWARD (translation –implementation; two awards given)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Julia Seng</b> &amp; Dr. Yang Li Co-PI UT Austin School of Nursing and consultants: Drs. Marie Anne Rosemberg and Natalie Stevens (clinical psychology).</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Deanna Isaman</b> &amp; Dr. VG Vydiswaran Dept of Learning Health Sciences and student research assistants.</li> </ul>
COGNITIVE HEALTH RESEARCH AWARD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Hala Darwish</b> and team: Drs. Anna Kratz (psychology), Sheria Robinson-Lane, April Bigelow, and Deanna Isaman.</li> </ul>
CLINICAL RESEARCH IN HEALTH EQUITY AWARD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Drs. Janet Larson and Laura Struble</b> (MPI) and team: Drs. Carol Vos, Innah Park and Robert Ploutz-Snyder with Jung Yoen Son PhD student.</li> </ul>

## Familiar Faces in New Roles – Please join me in welcoming:

I want to welcome **Glen Marian** to the role of Administrative Assistant Intermediate in the Office of Research. Glen will provide support to the Associate Dean for Research, Dr. Debra Barton, the Assistant Dean for Research, Dr. Robert Ploutz-Snyder and the Director of the PhD Program, Dr. Sarah Stoddard. Glen started with the Office of Research on November 8 and has already made tremendous contributions to the operations and organization of our work. Glen has been at UM since 2010 and with the School of Nursing since 2015. One fun fact about Glen is that he was a Theater major!

I also want to welcome **Dr. Robert Ploutz-Snyder** to the role of Assistant Dean for Research and Scholarship. Dr. Ploutz-Snyder has been with the School of Nursing since 2016 and directs the Applied Biostatistics Lab, which he will continue to do. The Assistant Dean for Research and Scholarship position includes 25% effort and will assist the Associate Dean for Research in implementing strategic initiatives, developing priorities each fiscal year

and helping to first evaluate and then fill gaps in our infrastructure and resources in order that we can continue to move the research mission of our School forward.