

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF NURSING RESEARCH PORTFOLIO

FACULTY SUMMARIES

Prepared by: **Judith M. Fouladbakhsh & Julia C. Paul**

Date: **February 18, 2019**

ANDREA C. BITTINGER, CRNA, DNP

ADJUNCT FACULTY

Admissions/Coordinator, Oakland University-Beaumont Nurse Anesthesia Graduate Program

Education Innovations: Emotional Intelligence

Dr. Andrea Bittinger received her DNP in 2018 from the School of Nursing at Oakland University, working along with Karen Dunn, PhD, RN, FGSA (OU), Estelle Codier, PhD, RN (ret. Univ. of Hawaii) and Anne Hranchook, CRNA, DNP (OU). Her DNP research project was Relationship Between Emotional Intelligence and Occupation Stress Levels Among Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists. Dr. Bittinger presented her research at the Oakland University Graduate Research symposium and was awarded runner-up for oral presentations. She has presented her research at the Midwestern Graduate Research Symposium in Toledo Ohio (April 7, 2018) as well as being selected as the key note speaker at the Sigma Theta Tau Research day at Oakland University (April 11, 2018). Her research poster will be at the Michigan Association of Nurse Anesthetists spring meeting and has been submitted for presentation at the America Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA) annual meeting in September. Dr. Bittinger has an interest in Emotional Intelligence (EI) and is certified to assess for and coach EI through Multi-Health Systems.

Dr. Bittinger has been published in the AANA journal (June, 2012) with *The Use of High-Fidelity Simulation in the Admission Process; One Anesthesia Program's Experience*. She plans to submit her DNP research for publication to the AANA journal this year. Dr. Bittinger was a co-author on research for C. Farina, DNP, CRNA (U of M) as she investigated the Flipped Classroom.

Click [here](#) to view faculty profile information.

KELLY BERISHAJ DNP, RN, ACNS-BC, CFN, SANE-A

SPECIAL INSTRUCTOR

Director, Forensic Nursing Graduate Program

Vulnerable Populations: Human Trafficking, Forensic Nursing

Dr. Kelly Berishaj received her Doctorate of Nursing Practice from Oakland University. Her teaching, service, practice, and scholarship focus is in the specialty of forensic nursing. Dr. Berishaj was instrumental in the development and implementation of the graduate forensic nursing program at

OU writing the proposals for both the master's degree and certificate tracks. She has published an article on the topic of Human Trafficking and also authored a book chapter on Sexual Violence.

Dr. Berishaj recently participated in research to evaluate knowledge, beliefs, and attitudes of nurses on the subject of human trafficking and is in the manuscript development phase of this project. She has participated in numerous podium and poster presentations on the topics of forensic nursing education and practice as well as sexual violence and strangulation. Dr. Berishaj has served as faculty mentor to graduate students who have gone on to publish manuscripts and present poster and podium presentations on a variety of forensic nursing topics including the neurobiology of trauma and mindfulness and the effects of trauma in the pediatric population. Dr. Berishaj has interests in pursuing grant funding for forensic nursing education and engaging in future scholarship pertaining to forensic nursing science.

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CARRIE BUCH, PhD, RN
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, TENURED & Interim Associate Dean

Vulnerable Populations: Human Trafficking

Dr. Carrie Buch received her PhD in Nursing from Wayne State University. She has recently been involved in a study to measure nurses' knowledge, attitudes, and beliefs about human trafficking.

Dr. Buch's research interests include human trafficking, program evaluation, and quality online teaching. She is eager to be active in research activities.

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JUDY DIDION, PhD, RN
DEAN & PROFESSOR, TENURED

Education Innovations: PHN Competencies

Dr. Judy Didion received her PhD in Nursing from Duquesne University, Pittsburgh. She has over 30 years of experience as a nurse and researcher. Currently she is a primary investigator for a study regarding quality and safety education for nurses which was funded by an education grant through the National League for Nursing. Dr. Didion is also a co-investigator for a study regarding public health nursing competencies which is funded through an agreement between the American Association of Colleges of Nursing and Center for Disease Control.

Dean Didion has special interest in public health nursing competencies. Her previous research projects centered around adolescent pregnancy prevention and HIV risk reduction and were conducted in hospital and school settings among other areas.

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KAREN DUNN, PhD, RN
PROFESSOR, TENURED
Endowed Chair, Maggie Allesee Geriatric Nursing

Vulnerable Populations: Aging

Dr. Dunn received her PhD in Nursing from Wayne State University, College of Nursing. She is currently a co-investigator in a feasibility/pilot project to determine if a dog training program will create a healing environment and improve the holistic well-being of community-dwelling older adults while improving the adoptability of shelter dogs. Funding from the Midwest Nursing Research Society has been sought.

Dr. Dunn has special interest in the geriatric population and has been awarded the position as Maggie Allesee Geriatric Nursing Endowed Chair. She has extensive experience as a faculty chair for graduate students' research including topics such as: emotional intelligence and occupational stress in CRNAs, advanced practice registered nurses' (APRNs') level of knowledge in assessment and management of pre-diabetics, use of regional anesthesia in total knee arthroplasty, nurses' knowledge regarding current care and chronic wound management practices, spiritual care practices of hospitalized patients, applying complexity theory to design new simulation models, resilience and ostomy adjustment, satisfaction with primary care among adult patients with chronic non-cancer pain, relocation stress syndrome, self-transcendence and medication adherence to antihypertensive medications, coping strategies among middle-eastern adult immigrants, APRN's knowledge regarding heart disease in women, multi-sensory environmental interventions, the trajectory of terminal delirium at the end of life, APRN's attitudes regarding urinary incontinence in older women, culture of caring, the lived experience of unexpected death of a child, self-care among patients with heart failure, and effects of electro-acupuncture and complementary/alternative medicine on pain intensity level.

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ELIZABETH EISENHAUER, PhD, RN

VISITING INSTRUCTOR

Bioethics, Healthcare decision-making

Dr. Eisenhauer earned her PhD in Nursing at the University of Michigan. Having also earned a master's degree in Library Science at the State University of New York at Buffalo, she is both an information scientist and a nurse researcher. Her current research involves bioethics and the role of information and personal values in health care decision-making. Her dissertation research involved participants' understanding of informed consent for biobanking and the degree to which participants' make informed choices about biospecimen donation. A portion of this work, "Participants' understanding of informed consent for biobanking: A systematic review" was published in Clinical Nursing Research.

Dr. Eisenhauer will present the qualitative component of her mixed-methods dissertation research at the 2019 Midwest Nursing Research Society conference in March and plans to submit quantitative results from her study for publication this year. Next steps include the development of an evidence-based decision aid to help clarify and incorporate patients' personal values into decisions about biospecimen donation. She has also conducted research on several population health issues including modifiable risk factors for delivering low birth weight infants and refugee health.

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**JUDITH M. FOULADBAKHS, PhD, RN, PHCNS-BC, AHN-BC, CHTP
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, TENURED**

**Clinical Practice: Complementary & Integrative Healthcare: Yoga, Qigong, Taiji,
Nutrigenomics; Pain & Symptom Management; Quality of Life**

Dr. Judi Fouladbakhsh received her PhD in Nursing Research from Michigan State University, College of Nursing where she had the opportunity to work closely with NIH-funded Researchers, and Nurse Theorists, shaping her current research endeavors. Dr. J's research focuses on the use of complementary/integrative therapies across diverse populations, including cancer survivors for health promotion and symptom management. She recently completed her NIH-funded study on effects of yoga for breathing, mood, sleep and quality of life of lung cancer patients which incorporated biophysiological measures to determine stress and sleep quality using cortisol analysis and Acuwatch data, respectively.

Dr. J's previous research has focused on complementary therapies for the self-treatment of pain among diverse communities, reflexology for adolescents with recurrent headaches, and pain management effects of Healing Touch interventions. Her research has been published and presented nationally and internationally and has been funded by the NIH/National Cancer Institute, Oncology Nursing Society (ONS), Blue Cross & Blue Shield, Sigma Theta Tau, WSU Jacox Research Award and others. Dr. J received the ONS Award for Excellence in Cancer Nursing Research, and she remains actively involved in development/publication of Guidelines for Integrative Therapies (Breast cancer ASCO, 2018). Current research aims to determine effects of yoga therapy and evidence-based Qigong for pain management among breast cancer survivors. Dr. J is studying at the Center for Taiji (New York) to achieve teacher certification. Research interests also include MTHFR methylation pathways, epigenetics and nutrigenomics. Dr. J co-chairs the Research Focus and Support Group at the School of Nursing.

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MARGARET GLEBOCKI, DNP, RN
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Healthcare: Transformational Leadership

Dr. Margaret Glembocki received her Doctorate in Nursing Practice from Oakland University, School of Nursing. She is currently the Principal Investigator for an unfunded project titled “Transformational Leadership at the Bedside” which has been in progress from February to June 2018. In addition, Dr. Glembocki has been involved as a co-investigator on a research project examining perceptions of human trafficking. All of her research takes place in the hospital, inpatient setting, as her clinical expertise as a DNP is in adult acute care.

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TONI GLOVER, PhD, GNP-BC, ACHPN
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Advanced Care Planning; Palliative Care

Dr. Toni Glover received her PhD in nursing from University of Florida. Dr. Glover is a geriatric nurse practitioner with advanced practice certification in hospice and palliative nursing care. Dr. Glover’s research focuses on effective ways to encourage advanced care planning in older adults as part of wellness care. Dr. Glover is particularly interested how nurses are prepared to provide primary palliative care for their patients. Dr. Glover created and led an innovative experimental immersion program in palliative care. This program resulted in increased student confidence in primary palliative care competencies and reduced fear of death. Additionally, Dr. Glover has worked with a research team to examine racial and ethical disparities in pain. Dr. Glover has over 40 peer-reviewed publications.

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MARY GOLINSKI, RN, DNP
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
Assistant Director, Oakland University-Beaumont Nurse Anesthesia Graduate Program

Quality Healthcare: Nurse Anesthesia, Patient Safety

Dr. Mary A. Golinski, a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) received her PhD in 2002 from Wayne State University College of Education, Department of Theoretical and Behavioral Foundations, in Educational Evaluation and Research (EER). The program encompasses educational statistics, research, measurement, and evaluation, which allowed her to make a significant and original contribution to the science of evaluation and research via her dissertation: Anesthesia Delivery in Office-Based Surgery: Quality of Care and Patient Satisfaction Outcomes.

Since completing her doctoral research, she has earned several accolades including but not limited to: the Oakland University Board of Visitors Florence Nightingale award in Education and Research and numerous state and national scholarships by the American and Michigan Association of Nurse Anesthetists. Most recently, the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists- Foundation recognized Dr. Golinski by awarding her Researcher of the Year (as an original member of the nationally known AANA Closed Claim Team).

For greater than two decades, Dr. Golinski has focused her research endeavors on anesthesia related scientific inquiry and outcomes based on anesthesia techniques, pharmacologic agents, technology, safety and quality processes, acute pain modalities and preventing chronic postsurgical pain. She has been published numerous times herself, and also collaborated extensively with graduate nurse anesthesia students, adding evidence based knowledge that has served to improve anesthesia related outcomes.

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CLAUDIA GROBBEL, DNP, RN
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, TENURED

Education Innovations: Caring Phenomena

Dr. Grobbel began her nursing career in 1978 and has practiced for over thirty years with a clinical expertise in cardiac nursing, management and leadership. She received her RN diploma from Henry Ford Hospital School of Nursing, BSN from Wayne State University, and MSN and DNP from Oakland University. Dr. Grobbel's research focus is on the relationship of caring practice and quality outcomes. She has developed various innovative teaching strategies with a focus on identifying, developing, implementing and researching educational competencies and strategies to strengthen nursing practice. She was an early developer outcome measurement tools with the development of the Nursing Quality Safety Self Inventory tool (NQSSI) which measures perceptions of quality. As well as her Caring Studio Experience research has been presented at national and international conferences. She is currently working on studying the impact of caring language from the nursing and patient perspective.

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MARGARET HARRIS, PhD, RN
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, TENURED
Director, School of Nursing Graduate Program

Quality Healthcare

Dr. Meghan Harris received her PhD in Nursing from Wayne State University. Dr. Harris is currently a primary investigator for a study of nurses' use of bar code medication administration, workarounds, satisfaction, and patient safety culture. Dr. Harris received funding for her current work from the School of Nursing and plans to continue with an intervention project. She plans to apply for funding from the NIH for the intervention study. Dr. Harris has also conducted other studies in the hospital setting concerning bar code medication administration and workarounds.

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SHARON HESKITT, MSN, DNPc, RN

Lecturer

Prenatal Care; Instrument development

Sharon Heskitt is in the final stages of completing the requirements of her Doctor of Nursing Practice degree. The focus of her primary research is in educating those experiencing unplanned pregnancy about the importance of prenatal care. Dr. Heskitt revised an instrument known as the Brief Illness Perception Questionnaire (B-IPQ) and created the Brief Pregnancy Perception Questionnaire (B-PPQ) to assess women's emotional response and understanding of pregnancy. Ms. Heskitt worked a local cable television station and filmed three brief videos that explain various aspects of prenatal care, childbirth and newborn care. The B-PPQ was presented before and after the video to assess whether viewing the videos changed the participant's understanding of prenatal care.

ANNE HRANCHOCK, RN, DNP
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Director, Oakland University-Beaumont Nurse Anesthesia Graduate Program

Quality Healthcare; Nurse Anesthesia & Safety

Dr. Anne Hranchook earned her DNP from Oakland University's School of Nursing where she worked with Dr. Barbara Penprase, PhD, RN and Dr. Ronald Piscotty, PhD, RN, an expert in big data and informatics, to conduct research examining the use of personal electronic devices in the practice of Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists. Her research interests include quality and safety in the delivery of patient care and the implementation and use of technology in practice. In her area of advanced practice specialty, she utilizes systematic evidence-based processes to analyze issues of import to the profession and practice of nurse anesthesia.

Dr. Hranchook is a member of the AANA Foundation Closed Claim Research Team and has conducted numerous qualitative research studies examining anesthesia adverse events. She recently received the Oakland University Research Committee Faculty Research Grant to conduct a study examining how patients use, store, and dispose of opioids following surgery. Dr. Hranchook's research has been published and presented in peer-reviewed journals and forums.

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ZORICA KAURIC-KLEIN, PhD, RN
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

Quality Healthcare, Dialysis & Hypertension

Dr. Kauric-Klein is a graduate of the Wayne State University College of Nursing where she received her PhD in nursing. Her research focuses on improving blood pressure control in hypertensive patients on chronic hemodialysis. Specifically her research focuses on decreasing cardiovascular risk and interventions to improve adherence to self-care behaviors in the hypertensive hemodialysis population. She has served as the Principal Investigator for this research which was the focus of her dissertation and included patients from six hemodialysis units across metropolitan Detroit. Dr. Kauric-Klein plans to apply for funding from the National Kidney Foundation and Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Michigan in 2019 to support continued research studies in this specialty area.

Dr. Kauric-Klein also plans to study an education self-regulation intervention to decrease sodium consumption in a chronic hemodialysis population and investigate the effect on blood pressure control. She is also collaborating with Dr. Judi Fouladbakhsh to examine the effect of yoga therapy on hypertension in a chronic kidney disease population with uncontrolled hypertension.

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SUHA KRIDLİ, PhD, RN
PROFESSOR. TENURED

Vulnerable Populations, Arab Americans

Dr. Suha Kridli is a nurse researcher at Oakland University School of Nursing who has focused on health beliefs and practices of Arab-Americans in the metropolitan Detroit area. Her research has been funded by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Michigan, and has involved the Arab population at the Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services (ACCESS) which is located in Dearborn, MI.

Dr. Kridli has also served as a co-investigator on other community-based studies examining factors influencing the health of this population. Her current research project runs until 2019.

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JULIE A. KRUSE, PhD, RN
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

Education Innovations: Diversity & Cultural Competence

Dr. Julie A. Kruse received her PhD in nursing from the University of Michigan, School of Nursing, where she studied and developed an instrument to assess cultural affiliation. Her current research focuses on nursing workforce diversity, for which she has been the recipient of a HRSA grant, titled *Discover the Nurse Within*. The purpose of this study is to evaluate the effectiveness of initiatives related to self-understanding, academic preparation, engagement and social engagement. This grant-funded project aims to explore the outcomes of social support, sense of belonging, graduation and NCLEX passing rates among students at Lourdes College. At present, Dr. Kruse serves as the Principal Investigator for the HRSA Diversity Project and is also a consultant for a QSEN safety study.

Previous work has included the determination of cultural competence among faculty, students and staff at Lourdes College to provide interventions to enhance cultural development. These interventions included workshops, curriculum and policy change, so that strengths could be built upon and limitations addressed. Dr. Kruse's research has been published and presented in peer-reviewed journals and forums. Future plans include a research project to increase empathy in undergraduate community health nursing students.

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LINDA McDONALD, DNAP, CRNA
Clinical Coordinator, Oakland University-Beaumont Nurse Anesthesia Graduate Program

Education Innovations: CRNA Programs

Dr. Linda McDonald earned her DNAP from the University of Michigan, where she worked with Dr. Shawn Fryzel, DNAP, CRNA and Dr. Ronald Piscotty, PhD, RN, an expert in big data and informatics, to examine the correlation between team-based learning and Kolb's learning style in student registered nurse anesthetists. Her research interests include the effectiveness of active learning strategies and the management of stress in student nurse anesthetists.

GARY MOORE, PhD, RN
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, TENURED

Education Innovations: Culture

Dr. Gary Moore received his PhD in Nursing from Wayne State University and has extensive experience in nursing research with expertise in Nursing theory, having worked closely with distinguished theorists-in-residence at the WSU College of Nursing. While not actively involved in the research process at present due to complete focus on administrative duties as the Associate Dean,

Dr. Moore continues to serve as an exemplary mentor to guide faculty researchers and budding theorists. Dr. Moore has studied perceptual complexity and the perception of time, depression in Lithuanian Medical Students, and a variety of studies directly related to nursing education.

Dr. Moore is also an expert in research design and methodology, statistical methods, and theoretical underpinnings to guide research and clinical practice. He has designed and continues to teach an undergraduate course in Nursing Research in Padova, Italy, providing an invaluable learning experience for a cohort of students every summer. His extensive teaching experience and research expertise, and his familiarity with the culture and the language has provided a rich international experience for students at the OU School of Nursing.

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**KRISTEN MUNYAN, DNP, RN
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR**

Education Innovations: Emotional Intelligence & Quality Care

Dr. Kristen Munyan received her Doctorate in Nursing Practice from Wayne State University. Dr. Munyan is the principle investigator in a study of parental perceptions of provider knowledge and attitude as a barrier to care in non-circumcising American families and is planning a subsequent study involving focus groups. Additionally, Dr. Munyan is a co-investigator in a study exploring development of emotional intelligence in nursing students. Dr. Munyan's previous research focused on utilization of simulation-based learning in preparing home care pediatric nurses to respond to tracheostomy emergencies.

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**SARAH NEWTON, PhD, RN
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, TENURED**

Education Innovations: Nursing Discipline

Dr. Sarah Newton received her PhD in Nursing from the University of Michigan (U-M) in 1997. While a doctoral student at the U-M, Dr. Newton had the privilege of working under Dr. Carol Loveland-Cherry, as well as two great nursing theorists – Dr. Ann Whall and Dr. Donna Algase. Dr. Newton's clinical nursing specialty is adult liver transplantation and her research and scholarship focus on adult liver transplant recipients' lived experiences post-transplant. Writing about the discipline of nursing, specifically issues of relevance to baccalaureate-level nursing education (e.g. student/program outcomes and pedagogy), are a current research focus of Dr. Newton, and she is also a reviewer for several nursing education journals. Dr. Newton was the primary writer for the SON Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) (2012) accreditation self-study report, the SON Continuous

Improvement Program Report (CIPR) for the Doctor of Nursing Practice Program (2015), as well as the CIPR for the Undergraduate and Master's Programs (2017).

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**JULIA PAUL, PhD, RN, ACNS-BC, CCRN, CWS, NP
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR**

Itch Metabolomics & Wound Care; Omic Science

Dr. Julia Paul received her PhD in Nursing from Wayne State University. Her dissertation work focused on itch that occurs with chronic wounds. Her current work focuses on metabolomic analysis of wound fluid, wound debris, and serum to determine physiological differences in specimens of persons with and without itch related to their venous ulcers. The study is funded with School of Nursing pilot funds and an Oakland University faculty research award. Dr. Paul was an invited participant at the National Institutes of Health Summer Initiative focused on genetics and genomics. She plans to submit a proposal for funding to the NIH focused on her research. Her areas of interest include chronic wounds, wound management, itch, and various omics.

Dr. Paul is a co-founder and continuing co-chair of the Research Focus and Support Group at the OU School of Nursing, which aims to strengthen and support research initiatives among faculty. She recently developed a Qualtrics survey in collaboration with Dr. Judith Fouladbakhsh to explore research activities and interests among OU School of Nursing Faculty. Dr. Paul was also selected by the SON Dean (2017-2018 academic year) to participate in the new Oakland University program, titled the *PI Academy*, where she has developed research ideas and presented on her anticipated studies across the university campus. This program seeks qualified tenure-track faculty with high potential for continuing innovative research and attainment of national-level funding. Dr. Paul also collaborates with and supports faculty interested in genomic research, expanding knowledge and insights for future work.

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**LAURA PITTIGLIO, PhD, RN
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, TENURED**

Vulnerable Populations: HIV & Learned Helplessness

Dr. Laura Pittiglio received her PhD in Nursing from Wayne State University. Dr. Pittiglio is presently the primary investigator of a pilot study regarding learned helplessness and the impact it has on sexual risk-taking behaviors among adolescents and young African American women. The study is funded with School of Nursing pilot funds. Dr. Pittiglio also applied for funding from Blue Cross Blue Shield

of Michigan and the Whitehill Foundation. Dr. Pittiglio is interested in research concerning learned helplessness and sexual risk-taking.

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LYNDA POLY-DROULARD, RN, MSN, M.Ed, CNE

Education Innovations: Simulation

Ms. Poly-Droulard received an MSN from Oakland University (OU), an M.Ed from Wayne State University, a BSN from OU, and was recently accepted in the Doctor of Education in Organizational Leadership program at OU. She is a Certified Nurse Educator through the National League for Nursing. Ms. Poly-Droulard's areas of expertise and research interests are in the areas of Cardiac and Emergency Department Nursing and in Nursing Education with the use of simulation as a teaching/learning methodology. Her plans for future research include a focus on the relationship between perceived caring and student efficacy, and also on the value of holistic admissions at the university level. Ms. Poly-Droulard has been published on these topics in various nursing journals, advancing the science of simulation and caring in relationship to nursing education.

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LAURA RODGERS, DNAP, CRNA

ADJUNCT FACULTY

Simulation Coordinator, Oakland University / Beaumont Health Systems

Education Innovations: CRNA Simulation

Dr. Laura Rodgers earned her DNAP from the University of Michigan where she worked with Dr. Shawn Fryzel, DNAP, CRNA and Dr. Jane Motz, DNAP, CRNA to conduct research examining the role of trigger films and simulation in the education of student registered nurse anesthetists (SRNAs). Her research interests include the use of trigger films, simulation and the effect that these forms of pedagogy have on enhancing the clinical decision-making behaviors of SRNAs in the simulation lab. Systematic evidence-based processes are utilized in the analytical review in her areas of interest.

Dr. Rodgers is a member of the AANA, MANA and the Society for Simulation in Healthcare (SSHC). She recently received a Graduate Certificate in Simulation from Bryan Health College. Dr. Rodgers research was presented, most recently, at the 2017 Michigan Associations of Nurse Anesthetist's Fall Conference.

STEPHANIE VALLIE, MSN, RN
SPECIAL INSTRUCTOR

Quality of care; perinatal loss

Professor Stephanie Vallie brings years of clinical and teaching experience to her role. She is interested in simulated clinical experience and forensic nursing. Professor Vallie is especially interested in research regarding perinatal loss.

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LAN YAO, PhD, RN
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Vulnerable populations: Aging, fall prevention

Dr. Yao's research expertise includes Tailored Exercise/Physical Activity Intervention, Dementia and Caregiving in Alzheimer's disease, and Trans-cultural Comparisons of Nursing Care in Older Adults. This research focuses on improving factors that affect functional ability, fall risk, frailty, and quality of life in older persons and their caregivers, especially in vulnerable populations. Her research has been published and presented nationally and internationally. She was the recipient of 2005 Sage-MNRS/WJNR Best Faculty Paper Award.

Dr. Lan Yao received her PhD in nursing from the University of Michigan School of Nursing. She has been Principal/Co-Investigator on training and research grants, funded by the National Institute of Health/NINR, Hartford Foundation, Veterans Administration Michigan Center for Health Intervention, Claude D. Pepper Older Americans Independence Center at the University of Michigan, Office of the Vice President for Research University of Michigan, Pearl Aldrich Endowment in Aging Related Research and Pearl Aldrich Faculty Research Award at the Michigan State University.

Since joining OU, Dr. Yao has been awarded three grants in which she serves as Principal Investigator. She is conducting a Tai Chi fall prevention exercise program with older Arab Americans in Dearborn, MI, funded by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Michigan. Dr. Yao is Principal Investigator on a project examining student engagement in learning and critical thinking, funded by the OU Excellence in Teaching and Learning Grant. Dr. Yao developed a China Study Abroad Program and received funding from the OU Office of International Education Study Abroad Program Development as well as the Provost's Office.

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