The research mission of the University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies (SONHS) is to create and disseminate health knowledge to impact our community, the nation, and the world. These pages highlight the research and scholarly activities of SONHS faculty members. Methodologies include qualitative, quantitative and mixed observational studies, intervention studies including randomized trials, and community implementation.

Study topics include patient safety, nursing workforce, health education, and health disparities among ethnic and sexual minorities in health conditions including HIV, substance abuse, intimate partner violence and mental illness. The SONHS prides itself in providing a research environment that promotes rigorous, community-engaged interdisciplinary research. We hope that this booklet sparks collaborations and interest in engaging in research that can contribute to the health of society through nursing and health science.
Debbie Anglade, PhD, MSN, RN, LHRM, CPJQ, CCM
“Patient Safety Culture, Compassion Fatigue, Compassion Satisfaction: Impact on Nurse-Sensitive Patient Outcomes”

Improved patient safety has been one of the most critical issues facing the healthcare industry. The 1999 IOM report To Err Is Human stated avoidable medical errors contributed to 44,000 to 98,000 deaths in the United States. Current estimates are between 210,000 and 440,000 patients annually. This study aimed to examine the relationships between: a) inpatient nursing units’ patient safety culture (PSC), b) nurse compassion fatigue (CF), c) nurse compassion satisfaction (CS), and d) the impact on nurse-sensitive patient outcomes. Bronfenbrenner’s bioecological model guided this quantitative descriptive correlational design, which used primary and secondary data. Primary data were collected through a convenience sampling of registered nurses (N = 127), employed at a teaching hospital in South Florida, who responded to a self-administered electronic survey. The hospital provided secondary administrative 2013 data on nurse-sensitive patient outcomes. Pearson’s correlations, three-way ANOVA, and multiple regression statistical analyses were used to analyze the data. Of the total participants, the two components of CF, burnout (BO) and secondary traumatic stress (STS), were present, with 29.1% of the nurses at risk for BO, and 19.7% were at risk for STS. Significant correlations were found between PSC, CF, and CS. This study was a unique exploration of PSC, CF, and CS. One manuscript is in preparation.

Patricia Briones, DNP, ARNP, FNP-BC
“Hemodialysis Access Surveillance Evaluation (HASE) Study” (Co-investigator)

Hemodialysis vascular access dysfunction contributes directly to morbidity and mortality and adds to the cost of medical care of dialysis patients. A surveillance approach of arteriovenous fistulas or arteriovenous grafts is recommended by the National Kidney Foundation Disease Outcomes Quality Initiative (KDOQI). However, small sample sizes and randomized studies with suboptimal design and power have questioned the validity to support its use. The purpose of this study is to evaluate the impact of using ultrasound dilution technique (UDT) (Transonic) as surveillance on vascular access thrombosis, cumulative access patency, need for tunneled hemodialysis catheters and hospitalization in patients on chronic hemodialysis. The study is a randomized prospective multicenter clinical trial to evaluate whether monthly surveillance flow measurement using Transonic system or physical examination of the arteriovenous access by a qualified person (nurse) will reduce the rate of thrombosis. The intervention will take place at least once a month for a period of 2 years. This study is currently in progress with 206 patients enrolled at 5 centers. This study is funded by Transonic.
Rosina Cianelli, PhD, MPH, RN, FAAN

“Assessing Needs Related to HIV among Hispanic Women 50 Years and Older”

A mixed method design was used for this pilot study to assess HIV prevention needs of older Hispanic Women (OHW). Fifty (50) sexually active OHW, 50 years and older, were recruited from a nonprofit organization located in Miami. Five focus groups and fifty individual interviews were conducted. The mean age of participants was 55.7 ± 6 years (50 - 76 years). Themes that emerged related to HIV were: IPV, menopausal related changes (e.g., vaginal dryness), cultural factors that interfere with HIV prevention (e.g., machismo, fatalism), mood and feelings about menopause, HIV knowledge, willingness to be tested for HIV, risk perception, HIV risk behaviors, men using drugs for erectile dysfunction, and lack of sources of HIV information. The study has been completed. Secondary analyses are ongoing. Two articles have been published, one in the Journal of the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care and the other in Horizonte de Enfermeria.

“Health Workforce Development to Improve Maternal-Child Health in the South of Haiti”

The purpose of this study was to conduct a maternal-child health needs assessment evaluation in the South of Haiti. The study was conducted in 5 towns: Les Cayes, Aquin, St. Louis due Sud, Cavaillon, Maniche, and Ile a Vache. Eighty (80) women and 39 health care workers participated in the study. Eight (8) focus groups and 40 interviews were conducted. Observational data were collected visiting 20 health centers in the area to assess their needs. Health issues faced by women during pregnancy, delivery and the postpartum phase, include anemia, infection, hemorrhage and preeclampsia/eclampsia. Health issues that affect newborns include prematurity, low birth weight, infections, and tetanus. The main problem that the health care system confronts is the lack of trained professionals in maternal-child care, especially nurse-midwives. This study has been completed. Secondary analyses are ongoing. One manuscript has been published in the International Journal of Applied Science and Technology. This study was funded by the Kellogg Foundation.

“SEPA-O: Salud/Health, Educacion/Education, Prevencion/Prevention, Autocuidado/Self-care for Older Women”

The purpose of this pilot study was to test the acceptability and feasibility of SEPA-O an HIV prevention intervention for older Hispanic women (50 years and older) which is based on SEPA. Ten older Hispanic women (OHW) participated in this pilot study. A group discussion was conducted with OHW to review and receive feedback about the adapted intervention. Overall, OHW were “satisfied” with SEPA-O. They reported that the topics were relevant to their culture and age group. They indicated that the content focused on cultural perceptions and attitudes was helpful, allowing them to self-identify as part of the Hispanic culture. The majority of OHW stated that discussions of sexuality, age-related biological changes, and HIV risk prevention were very important for them and made the risks of HIV more meaningful. OHW stated that they prefer to have participative group sessions instead of lectures and they prefer to have knowledgeable health professionals as session facilitators instead of peer leaders. This study has been completed. Secondary analyses are ongoing. Two articles have been published, one in the Journal of the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care and the other in Horizonte de Enfermeria. This study was funded by the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities through El Centro.
“Testing an HIV/AIDS Prevention Intervention for Chilean Women”

The purpose of this study was to test the impact of Mano a Mano-Mujer (MM-M) an HIV prevention intervention for Chilean women. MM-M was culturally adapted from the SEPA intervention (Salud/Health, Educacion/Education, Prevencion/Prevention, Autocuidado/Self-care). A total of 400 Chilean women 18-49 years old from two low income communities in Santiago, Chile were enrolled in the study. Participants were randomized to the intervention or the delayed-intervention control condition. The intervention consisted of six sessions delivered in small groups. Face-to-face interviews were conducted at baseline and at 3-month follow-up. At 3 months post intervention, low-income Chilean women who participated in the MM-M intervention had significantly higher HIV-related knowledge, more positive attitudes toward people living with HIV, fewer perceived barriers to condom use, greater self-efficacy, higher HIV reduction behavioral intentions, more communication with male partners about safer sex, and decreased depression symptoms. This study has been completed. Secondary analyses are ongoing. Five articles have been published in the following journals: 1) Health Care for Women International; 2) Journal of Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing; 3) Investigacion y Educacion en Enfermeria; 4) Violence Against Women; 5) Horizonte de Enfermería. This study was funded by the Fogarty International Center of the National Institutes of Health.


The purpose of this study was to develop and implement a hybrid breastfeeding training with undergraduate and graduate nursing students at the School of Nursing and Health Studies. The training is based on the WHO/UNICEF 20-hour breastfeeding curriculum. This training was designed to prepare nursing students with the knowledge and skills to support breastfeeding when they begin work. The online component of the training consisted of five modules with a length of approximately 14 hours in total with a technology-based instruction using Blackboard Learn. The face to face component included different group activities such as role playing and jeopardy. In addition, a Breastfeeding OSCE (Objective Structured Clinical Examination) with 10 stations was included in the face to face component. Currently, the study is being implemented and 536 nursing students have completed the training. The enrollment of the students, data collection, and analysis will continue. One manuscript has been published in the Clinical Nursing Studies Journal and another is in preparation.
Joseph De Santis, PhD, ARNP, ACRN, FAAN

“Health Risks of Transgender Women”
This mixed methods study, conducted in partnership with the South Beach AIDS Project, Inc., aims to explore the health risk behaviors of 50 transgender women living in South Florida. In Phase I, participants completed measures of health risks. In Phase II, a qualitative interview was administered to 30 of the participants to gain their perspectives on how to address health risk behaviors in the transgender community. Fifty participants completed Phase I and 25 participants completed a qualitative interview in Phase II. The study is completed and data analysis is ongoing. This study was funded by the Aqua Foundation for Women.

“Sex, Sleep and Stress: The Relationship of Mental Health, Sleep quality, and High Risk Sexual Behavior among Hispanic MSM”
This quantitative pilot study examines the relationships of sexual behaviors, sleep and stress among a sample of 150 community-dwelling men who have sex with men (MSM). This study will provide an investigation of the influence of mental health factors (stress, sleep, etc.) on sexual risk behaviors. The study is currently enrolling participants. This study is funded by the University of Texas at El Paso School of Nursing.

“Sexual Decision Making among Men who have Sex with Men (MSM)”
This qualitative study aims to explore the nature of sexual decision making among Hispanic men and to investigate the need for and delivery methods preferred for interventions targeting sexual decision making among Hispanic MSM. The study has been completed and data analysis is ongoing.

“The Influence of Cultural Factors on High Risk Sexual Behaviors of Hispanic Men who have Sex with Men (MSM)”
This mixed methods study examines the influence of cultural factors on risk behaviors and mental health among Hispanic men who have sex with men (MSM). Participants completed self-report measures of sexual behaviors, acculturation, mental health, substance abuse and violence in Phase I of the study. In Phase II of the study, participants were interviewed to gain perspective on how to incorporate Hispanic culture into risk reduction programs for Hispanic MSM. The study has been completed and data analysis is ongoing. This study was funded by the University of Miami’s NIH-funded Center for AIDS Research (CFAR).

“Young Adults’ Experiences of Living with Perinatally-Acquired HIV Infection”
This qualitative study aims to describe the experiences of 30 young, minority adults living with perinatally-acquired HIV infection related to their adolescence and transition to young adulthood. The study has been completed. One manuscript has been published in the Journal of Pediatric Nursing. This study was funded by a 2008 University of Miami General Research Support Award.
Karina Gattamorta, PhD
“Coming Out Among Hispanic LGB Young Adults”
There is limited research examining the coming out process among Hispanic youth. The coming out to one's family may be more challenging for Hispanic sexual minority youth than for white youth because Hispanic cultural factors, (i.e., the importance of marriage and having children, traditional gender roles, conservative religious values), and widespread homophobia may result in homosexuality being regarded more negatively. This study incorporates interviews with Hispanic emerging adults who identify as lesbian, gay or bisexual (LGB) in order to: (1) describe the coming out experiences of Hispanic LGB youth, (2) identify perceived barriers experienced by Hispanic LGB youth to coming out, and (3) gather recommendations from Hispanic LGB youth regarding family-based interventions that can facilitate the coming out process. Information gathered from this study will be used to develop or tailor an intervention to help families navigate the coming out process. This study is funded by a 2015 University of Miami Provost’s Research Award.

“CIFFTA Study Sub-Analyses”
Under the mentorship of Daniel Santisteban, Dr. Gattamorta conducted secondary analysis of data collected from the Culturally Informed, Flexible Family Therapy for Adolescents (CIFFTA) study to examine the relationship between mental health and substance abuse in Hispanic adolescents. One set of analyses examined the role of psychiatric symptoms and family characteristics on retention in treatment and predictors of heavy drug use. Most recently, an analysis examined whether psychiatric profiles were associated with varying rates of drug use and age of initiation of alcohol and illicit drug use. This study was funded by a diversity supplement from the National Institute on Drug Abuse.
Rosa Gonzalez-Guarda, PhD, MSN, MPH, RN, FAAN  
“CVAC Health Education Study”  
This is a student-led mixed method study to assess the health education needs of victims of domestic violence through key informant interviews, participant observations and a survey. Findings from the first qualitative phase have been used to inform a health education program targeting priority health needs including sexual health, obesity and mental health for victims of domestic violence at the Coordinated Victim Assistance Center, Domestic Violence Shelters and Inn Transition Housing. This program is being implemented by University of Miami students. Data collection for the second quantitative phase is ongoing.

Disparities in HIV/STIs Among Victims of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)  
The purpose of this study is to investigate predictors of HIV and STI infection and testing within a racially and ethnically diverse sample of victims of IPV and to identify culturally-informed strategies to potentially increase HIV/STI testing among this population. The study involves a quantitative phase exploring the predictors of HIV and STI acquisition and testing in which the infrastructure for HIV/STI testing is being established at a domestic violence agency and secondary data is being examined. This phase will be followed by a qualitative phase where focus groups will be conducted with both victims of domestic violence who seek testing and those who do not in order to identify culturally and trauma informed practices to improve HIV/STI testing services in domestic violence agencies. The study is currently in the second quantitative phase. The study is funded as an administrative supplement by the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities through El Centro.

“Domestic Violence Homicide Prevention Demonstration Initiative”  
The Miami Dade Community Action and Human Services Department is one of 12 jurisdictions in the U.S. that has been awarded a cooperative agreement grant by the Office of Violence against Women and the National Institute of Justice with the ultimate aim of preventing homicides among victims of domestic violence. Dr. Gonzalez-Guarda is leading the evaluation components of the community assessment of the cooperative agreement in Miami Dade County which helped describe Miami Dade County’s capacity for implementing domestic violence homicide prevention initiatives. This has helped support the implementation of evidenced based practices for detecting and addressing risk for homicide among victims of domestic violence. This study is funded by the Miami Dade County Community Action Agency and the United States Department of Justice.
“JOVEN (Juntos Opuestos a la Violencia Entre Novios/Together against Dating Violence)”
The JOVEN study has two phases. Phase I of the study aims to develop, refine and manualized a culturally-specific, school-based, and theoretically grounded teen dating violence prevention program, JOVEN, for Hispanic 9th graders, that includes components for parents and school personnel as well. Phase II conducts a pilot test of the program to assess its feasibility and acceptability and evaluates it to determine the preliminary efficacy when compared to a delayed-intervention control group in preventing and reducing the occurrence of teen dating violence and affecting mediators that have been found to be risk or protective factors for teen dating violence. Data collection and data analysis have been completed. JOVEN had stronger effects for males than females. Interviews with female survivors of dating violence are currently being analyzed to identify areas in which JOVEN can be improved. Three manuscripts have been published in 1) the Journal of Community Health Nursing, 2) the Journal of Pediatric Nursing, and 3) Research in Nursing and Health. A fourth manuscript is in press with the Journal of School Nursing. This study was funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

“PDVP: Partnership for Domestic Violence Prevention”
This community-based participatory research pilot study created a community partnership for the prevention of domestic violence, conducted focus groups with domestic violence service providers and community adults, secondary analysis and a community forum regarding the needs and preferences for domestic violence prevention programs targeting high-risk Hispanics in Miami-Dade County. The PDVP study has been completed and has served as the foundation for 5 funded research studies. Two manuscripts have been published, one in the Journal of Primary Prevention and one in Hispanic Health Care International. This study was funded by the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities through El Centro.

“The Miami Dade County Human Trafficking Collaborative” (Co-investigator)
This project aims to provide specialized services to survivors of human trafficking. Partners include the Coordinated Victim Assistance Center (lead), Legal Aid Society, Americans for Immigrant Justice, the Miami Dade County Police Department, the Trauma Resolution Center and El Centro. Survivors of human trafficking are able to access social services, legal assistance for trafficking, family and immigration related issues, and mental health counseling. Dr. Gonzalez-Guarda is leading the evaluation of these services in regards to their impact on a series of psychosocial health outcomes. This project is funded by the United States Department of Justice.
Shayne Hauglum, PhD

“Prediction of Severe Postoperative Pain: Modification and Validation of a Clinical Risk Prediction Tool”

This retrospective quantitative study examined the preoperative factors associated with the development of severe postoperative pain. The study analyzed the electronic health records (EHR) of all surgical patients at the University of Miami Hospital from October 2014 through April 2015. The first four months of data collection (N=1,794) was abstracted from the EHR to test the measurement and structural model using structural equation modeling (SEM) to develop a prediction tool utilizing the regression coefficients. Validation utilized an independent sample to confirm the prediction tool’s ability to predict severe postoperative pain. Results supported the independent predictors of baseline heart rate, preoperative pain intensity, expected surgical pain (low, moderate, high, highest), age, female gender, and Hispanic ethnicity were significant factors in predicting the presence of severe postoperative pain on postoperative day 1. The study demonstrates that severe postoperative pain can be predicted through the use of a simple modified validated prediction equation. Utilization of separate cutoff points allows for the development of intervention strategies.

Mary Hooshmand, PhD, MS, RN

“Children and Youth with Special Health Care (CYSHCN) Needs Acuity Project”

The purpose of this project was to develop, test and implement an acuity tool for CYSHCN incorporating three domains (medical, behavioral, and psychosocial) with the potential to introduce a new service delivery model for systems of care incorporating risk-stratified caseloads for care coordination across caseloads. This project was approved as a QI project through The Florida Department of Health IRB and Children’s Medical Services. The pilot began on July 1, 2013 in Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties across six caseloads and was completed in December 2013 with adjustments made to the acuity tool based on inter-rater reliability and feedback from teams across Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties. Acuity training was completed in May 2014 in the North and Central Florida Regions (Orlando, Viero/Rockledge, Daytona, Jacksonville, Ocala and Gainesville CMS offices). The Florida Department of Health requested a proposal for further training across the state to be completed by December 2014. The acuity tool is being implemented in coordination with an electronic health records (EHR) component. An evaluation component has been proposed to include assessment of the relationship between illness severity (CRGs, medical and behavioral diagnoses), family psychosocial factors, and healthcare utilization.

Comparison of Telemedicine to Traditional Care for Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN): Analysis of Cost, Caring and Family-Centered Care

The purpose of this research project was to examine cost, caring and family-centered care in relation to pediatric specialty services utilizing telemedicine technology compared to traditional face-to-face visits for Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN) in Southeast Florida. Cost, caring, and family-centered care were examined from the perspectives of the parents/guardians of CSHCN. Results indicated family costs were reported to be significantly higher if telemedicine was not available in their communities. While there were no differences in the families’ perceptions of care as caring, results indicated significant differences between the groups in regards to family-centered care with the telemedicine group reporting more positive perceptions of the system of care as family-centered. A manuscript is in preparation.
“Challenging the Boundaries on Hospice and Palliative Care: A Literature Review”

The purpose of this review was to examine the boundaries limiting access to hospice and palliative care services and to describe the benefits of these services for those who need them. Each person approaches death differently, bringing to this final experience his or her own individual perception of death. Hospice and palliative services are two available options for patients and families to obtain this experience. Hospice recognizes dying as part of the normal process of living and focuses on maintaining the quality of life each day. On the other hand, palliative care strives to relieve suffering and improve quality of life for patients and their caregivers facing serious illness. There are barriers to accessing hospice and palliative care services including costs, legal restrictions and lack of knowledge about these services to enable the patient and their families to make choices. The first step in this project is to infuse end-of-life/palliative content in the nursing curriculum from the undergraduate to the doctoral level and prepare students for higher levels of education for specialized nursing practice. The second step is to develop community partnerships to prepare nursing faculty to lead in providing evidence-based-care for cancer patients throughout the trajectory of their disease-from diagnosis to the end of life, provide opportunities for students to enhance their clinical skills in providing quality cancer care, provide opportunity to oncology nurses to serve as preceptors/mentors for students and faculty, and maintain a joint faculty practice with a hospice/palliative care team.

“Lifestyle Intervention Diabetes Prevention Program for African-American Women Delivered in Primary Care Settings by Nurse Practitioners: A Literature Review”

The purpose of this review was to present an overview of the impact of lifestyle interventions modeled after the evidenced based National Institutes of Health sponsored Diabetes Prevention Program intervention, delivered in primary care settings by nurse practitioners for African American women. A disproportionate number of African American women are at an increased risk for developing type 2 diabetes due to the significant escalation of overweight and obesity among this population group. The greatest opportunity in addressing the personal and societal burden of type 2 diabetes is to prevent or delay the progression of the disease. There is consistent evidence that type 2 diabetes can be prevented or delayed in high risk groups such as African American women through lifestyle intervention. Primary care is an ideal setting to screen at-risk patients and implement such an intervention program. Nurse practitioners are at the forefront of preventive care due to their expertise in counseling, health education, and case management. Thus nurse practitioners can play an effective role in facilitating lifestyle interventions. This review was published in the *UPNAAI Nursing Journal.* The next step in this project will be to seek funding for a pilot study to test a lifestyle intervention.

“Use of Handheld Technology (PDA) and Reduction in Medication Errors”

The purpose of this pilot study was to determine if nursing students could calculate medications in a case study with greater speed and accuracy using a personal digital assistant (PDA) compared to students using textbooks and a calculator thereby reducing medication errors. Medication errors are a major cause of harm to patients in health care settings and reducing medication errors is a main concern in today’s healthcare setting. Nurses are the main professionals involved in administering medications and administration is the part of the medication process with the least safeguards in place. Information technology, especially handheld technology (PDAs) used by nursing students can provide access to information to safely calculate medications. The use of handheld technology in the nursing curriculum would introduce students to the habit of using technology for safe practice. This technology will eventually help the practicing nurse to spend more time on patient care and have access to the most current information. Health care employers are also expecting graduate nurses to have the latest information technology skills. Mobile devices like the PDA can open a door of lifetime learning, as students are capable of moving from one learning environment to another. The next step in this project is to replicate the study using a larger sample and use an actual medication administration scenario to replicate the stress of medication preparation that may contribute to medication errors. One manuscript has been published in the *UPNAAI Nursing Journal.*
Alexis Koskan, PhD, MA
“Exploring Anal Cancer Prevention and Early Detection Behaviors among Diverse HIV-Infected Men who have Sex with Men”

HIV-infected men who have sex with men (MSM) are at greatest risk for developing anal cancer. Anal cancer is caused by the Human Papillomavirus (HPV), the virus which also causes non-cancerous genital warts. Persistent HPV infection can lead to the development of precancerous lesions which, left untreated, develop into anal cancer. HIV-infected MSM are not regularly screening for these precancerous lesions. This study explores HIV-infected MSM’s understanding, attitudes, and behaviors related to the prevention of anal cancer. Sixty in-depth interviews were conducted with HIV-infected English-speaking MSM to explore their ideas about the prevention and early detection of anal cancer. An additional 25 interviews with Spanish-speaking HIV-infected MSM are planned. This study is funded by the University of Miami’s NIH-funded Center for AIDS Research (CFAR).

“Exploring HIV Primary Care Providers’ Anal Cancer Screening and Treatment Behaviors and Facilitators and Barriers to Screening Promotion”

The purpose of this research is to explore the processes and policies related to implementing anal cancer screening as a yearly routine procedure for HIV-infected patients. Focus groups will be conducted with health care providers from various HIV primary care clinics. The formative data obtained from this study will be used to apply for external funding to conduct a community-based pilot intervention aimed at increasing anal cancer screening among HIV-infected gay and bisexual men. This research is funded by a 2015 School of Nursing and Health Studies Dean's Award.

Kristin Levoy, MSN, RN, OCN
“Evaluation of Disaster Preparedness Content in a Pre-licensure Population Health Nursing Course”

This quantitative study aims to evaluate the incorporation of didactic and simulation disaster preparedness content in a pre-licensure population health nursing course. Using pre- and post- course evaluation surveys, the study specifically examines changes in knowledge, attitudes, and perceptions about disaster content over the duration of the course. Such knowledge will inform the nursing profession of effective instructional methods for achieving disaster preparedness competencies within population-focused nursing courses.

“Evaluation of a Point of Distribution Simulation in a Pre-licensure Population Health Nursing Course” (Co-Investigator)

This quantitative study aims to evaluate a point of distribution (POD) disaster simulation training for students in a pre-licensure population health nursing course. After receiving disaster-specific didactic education, students engage in a simulation where they staff and operate a POD in response to a biological terrorist attack. This role-playing exercise allows students to employ nursing skills including health assessment, client education, cultural competency, therapeutic communication, and interdisciplinary collaboration within the context of a disaster. Using pre- and post- simulation evaluation surveys, the study examines changes in knowledge regarding various disaster preparedness concepts. In addition, changes in attitudes and perceptions regarding the use of disaster simulation to teach these concepts are explored. The results from this study will be used to improve instructional methods for future disaster preparedness nursing simulation education, helping nursing programs enhance disaster preparedness curricula.
LaToya Lewis-Pierre, EdD/CI, MSN, RN
“Workplace Readiness of New ICU Nurses: Perceptions of Managers, Educators, Preceptors, and New Graduates”
The purpose of this qualitative grounded-theory study was to generate a theory to explain workplace readiness and needs of new graduates entering the intensive care unit (ICU) from the viewpoint of managers, clinical educators, preceptors, and new registered nurses (RN) graduates. The study involved 24 nurses including five managers, four educators, eight preceptors, and seven new graduates working in Florida with 1,550 beds, which includes 115 specialized ICU beds. A qualitative grounded theory developed from analyzing the responses from face-to-face interviews and identifying competencies and skills required for new graduates to enter the ICU. The following four themes emerged: (a) embracing the new ICU role, (b) overwhelming experience of performance ambiguity or anxiety, (c) adapting to the ICU, and (d) embodying the new ICU RN role. The results of this study indicate that new ICU RN's have limited exposure to the ICU and the inclusion of the novice nurse embracing the ICU theory (NNEIT) could enhance the new nurses’ transition into the ICU. The novice nurse embracing the ICU theory (NNEIT) will provide guidance in resolving the discourse of the competencies and skills for new nurses entering the ICU. One manuscript has been published in the Global Journal of Human Social Sciences.

“Evaluating Accelerated Nursing Students’ Attitudes toward Caring for Patients at the End of Life”
The National Institute of Nursing Research Science of Compassion Conference (2011) identified gaps related to end of life including the integration of end of life process with compassion, ethics, and intellectual collaboration between multidisciplinary groups. This study will assess the accelerated nursing students attitudes related to caring for the dying patient as a first step to determine the students’ attitudes with follow-up interventions dependent on the study findings.

“Evaluating Horizontal Violence and Bullying in the Nursing Workforce of an Oncology and Outpatient Clinic Academic Center”
Horizontal violence (HV) and bullying in the workplace is a dysfunctional behavior that can affect nursing staff and patient care on multiple levels. Horizontal violence (HV) or bullying can lead to negative feelings and symptoms that include fear, loss of self-esteem, anxiety, and depression. These behaviors influence the work environment by decreasing work satisfaction, employee engagement, and quality patient care. This study will assess HV/bullying at several organizational levels within an oncology and outpatient clinic academic center (i.e., administration, staff, and education).
Yui Matsuda, PhD, RN, MPH

“Associations between Maternal Depressive Symptoms and Diathesis Factors in Families with Young Children Having Developmental Delay or Disability”

The purpose of this study was to examine associations between maternal depressive symptoms and number of children with DD/disability accounting for maternal diathesis factors (predisposing conditions that may lead to negative maternal/family outcome) and family stress factors. This study was a secondary analysis of the pooled baseline data from three intervention studies conducted by Beeber et al.; The “Wings” Depressive Symptom Intervention for Latina Mothers, Reducing Depressive Symptoms in Low-Income Mothers, EHS Latina Mothers: Reducing Depressive Symptoms and Improving Infant/Toddler Mental Health (n=376). In the model including family stress factors, there was a significant linear relationship in the mean for maternal depressive symptoms across the number of children with DD/disability. Mothers of more children with DD/disabilities tend to have higher scores on depressive symptoms. Lower family conflict and the presence of child’s medical condition were significant correlates of higher mean maternal depressive symptoms. Maternal depressive symptoms tend to be higher for households with two or more children with DD/disabilities compared to households with zero to one child with DD/disabilities. Mothers who have multiple children with DD/disabilities require extra support for their mental health so that they can best attend to their children's developmental needs. Other potential intervention targets would be conflict management at the family level, reduction in maternal depressive symptoms as well as mothers' empowerment and self-support, and managing the children's medical needs. A manuscript is in preparation.

“Examining Relationship/Family Planning Factors & Sexual Relationship Power among Immigrant Latino Couples in the United States”

The ability to influence partners’ actions within an intimate relationship (Sexual Relationship Power [SRP]) is a key concept in achieving optimum family planning (FP) among U.S. Latinos. The purpose of this study was to examine the associations between relationship/FP factors and SRP. The Actor-Partner Interdependence Model was used to analyze data for 40 couples. Both men's and women's sexual communication were positively associated with SRP; only women's relationship satisfaction was positively associated with SRP; women's general communication was negatively associated with men's SRP; and men's contraception attitudes were negatively associated with SRP. Couples' interventions are needed which account for SRP and gender differences. These findings provide direction for developing targeted interventions to achieve better FP for Latino couples. A manuscript has been published in *Hispanic Health Care International*. Manuscripts related to secondary analyses of this dataset are under review.

“Longitudinal Association of Maternal Depressive Symptoms and Early Intervention (EI) Disability Services Uptake, and Mothers’ Mental Health Service Use”

A mother’s good mental health is associated with her children's physical and mental well-being. In the United States (U.S.), children between 0-3 years who have either a high risk for disability due to predisposing medical indications or significant developmental delays, including autism spectrum disorder (ASD), can receive intensive services to assist in their development or functional status. The service is called Early Intervention [EI] disability services. Parental involvement is critical in order to maximize the benefit of the therapies. Maternal depressive symptoms can potentially have a negative effect on EI services uptake. However, the impact of chronic untreated maternal depressive symptoms on EI service uptake over time is unknown. The purpose of this study is to explore the relationship between maternal depressive symptoms over time and EI service uptake. This study will provide information to help target the highest risk population, and help discern the best timing to offer support and resources to alleviate maternal depressive symptoms. Early Childhood Longitudinal Study, Birth-Cohort (ECLS-B) dataset are used for this study. This is a collaboration project with Dr. Brian McCabe. The study is in the data analysis phase.
Brian McCabe, PhD
“College Alcohol Project”
Reliable, valid instruments of alcohol problems are required for continued research of alcohol use among college students. One such instrument is the College Alcohol Problems Scale (CAPS). This brief, 8-item scale assesses both personal and social problems related to drinking. The CAPS has been validated for college students in English, but no Spanish translation is available. This study developed a Spanish language version of the CAPS using a translation-back translation approach. In Fall 2013, an email with a link to web-based surveys (1 for English speakers and 1 for Spanish speakers) was distributed to Hispanic students in the U.S., and in the Fall of 2015 recruitment is scheduled to begin in collaboration with Florida International University.

“Comparing Alcohol Screens in College (CASC)”
Alcohol use and abuse are linked to serious consequences (e.g., assault, arrests, dependence) in college. The standard screening question about binge drinking may over-identify students unlikely to have these consequences, and to need intensive intervention. Over-identification may lead to students with the highest risks being missed. The Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test (AUDIT) is brief (10 items), and is expected to provide better information than the single binge drinking question. No studies have compared these tools’ ability to identify students with the highest risk of serious consequences related to drinking. The CASC study assessed undergraduates at the UM Wellness Center with two screening tools, a psychiatric interview, and other measures of alcohol consequences. Data was collected in Fall 2014. This study was funded by a 2014 University of Miami Provost’s Research Award and a School of Nursing and Health Studies Dean’s Award.

“Electronic Alcohol Screening Intervention (EASI)”
The study addresses the lack of implementation of evidence-based alcohol screening interventions in primary care practice and the prevalence of risky binge drinking in college students. This project is a pilot implementation of an intervention, EASI (Electronic Alcohol Screening Intervention), at the University of Miami Student Health Center. EASI has 3 components: universal alcohol screening, feedback, and 3 levels of intervention determined by reported alcohol use risk. Qualitative implementation data was collected in individual interviews with providers immediately following the pilot intervention. Quantitative outcomes data was collected with measures emailed to students through the EHR system at 1-, 6-, and 12-month follow-ups, starting in November 2013. This study is funded by Center for Prevention and Implementation Methodology (Ce-PIM) of the National Institute on Drug Abuse.
Mary McKay, DNP, MSN, ARNP, CNE

“Bridging the Gap: Making Medication Administration Safer through Simulation Enhanced Pharmacology Education”

This study seeks to evaluate the effectiveness of a pharmacology simulation based teaching method at the School of Nursing and Health Studies by looking at whether a pharmacology simulation based teaching method decreases medication associated adverse events in pre-licensure nursing students when compared to a standard non-simulation pharmacology teaching method. The study is completed and data analysis is ongoing. This study was funded by the Florida Blue Foundation.

“Exploring the Impact of Mindfulness Training on Mindfulness and Ethical Decision Making”

This project seeks to evaluate the impact of mindfulness training on mindfulness levels and on ethical decision making in pre-licensure nursing students and practicing nurses. The specific aims are to: 1) compare the level of mindfulness of pre-licensure and practicing nurses; 2) evaluate and compare the effects of participating in mindfulness training on mindfulness and ethical decision making in pre-licensure and practicing nurses; and 3) explore the experiences of participants who take part in mindfulness training. This project was funded by a grant from the Arsht Ethics Initiative at the University of Miami Ethics Program. This study is complete and was presented at the 2015 Sigma Theta Tau International Conference.

“Patient Safety Attitudes and Safety Culture at the School of Nursing and Health Studies”

The School of Nursing and Health Studies has implemented a curricular change addressing patient safety education. As part of the School of Nursing and Health Studies patient safety initiative, course data will be used to evaluate student and faculty patient safety attitudes, culture, knowledge and behaviors. Patient safety culture and attitudes were measured in students, staff and faculty. The results noted a gap in “Just Culture” attributes and error reporting. As a result, an online adverse events reporting database was initiated. Data collection and analysis is ongoing. Two manuscripts have been published in Clinical Simulation in Nursing.

“Pressure Ulcer Attitudes and Knowledge in Pre-licensure Nursing Students”

This study seeks to evaluate nursing students’ attitudes and knowledge regarding pressure ulcer prevention after the completion of online and clinical activities. Specific research aims include: 1) to measure nursing students’ attitudes and knowledge regarding pressure ulcers prior to the completion of educational activities to include an online module and clinical practice, 2) to measure nursing students’ attitudes and knowledge regarding pressure ulcers after the completion of educational activities to include an online module and clinical practice. The study has been completed and manuscript preparation is ongoing. The research findings have been presented at the 2015 Quality and Safety Education for Nurses National Forum and the Midwest Nursing Research Society (MNRS) 2015 Annual Research Conference.
Victoria Mitrani, PhD

“Family Therapy Mechanisms in HIV+ Women in Drug Recovery”

This study, which was a companion to a randomized clinical trial, tested the effects of a family intervention, Structural Ecosystems Therapy (SET), on family members of HIV+ women in drug recovery. Women in the trial were randomly assigned to either SET or a psychoeducational health group. Women and their family members were assessed at baseline, 4, 8 and 12 months. The study examined the impact of SET on family functioning and on family-member outcomes. We found that families in the SET condition did not experience the deterioration in family functioning that was found in the families of women in the control group and that family member drug abstinence predicted the mother’s drug abstinence (Mitrani, McCabe, Burns, & Feaster, 2012). A sub-analysis of families with children found that children whose mothers were in the SET condition showed decreased internalizing and externalizing problems and that their mothers had reduced psychological distress and drug relapse as compared to families in the control condition (Mitrani, McCabe, Feaster, Robinson, & Weiss-Laxer, 2010). Secondary analyses are ongoing. The study was funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

“SET-Recovery/ Healthy Home”

This translational randomized trial will enroll 172 mothers in outpatient substance abuse or mental health treatment and their children (ages 2-17). Mothers will be randomly assigned to substance abuse/mental health treatment as usual (TAU) or TAU+ Healthy Home, an intervention based on Structural Ecosystems Therapy (SET). Healthy Home is a home-based, family-strengthening health care intervention for mothers and their children. It is delivered by RN nurses through family visits in which the nurse attends to the family all at once, so that nursing care strengthens family support. Visits take place every two weeks for a period of four months. Healthy Home supplements the mother’s treatment for substance abuse or other mental problems, and is conducted in coordination with the substance abuse or mental health program. Mothers/children will be assessed at baseline, 4, 8, and 12 months post-baseline. The main study outcomes are relapse prevention and improved health and mental health in the mothers; and improved health and emotional well-being of the children. This study is in the clinical trial phase. The study is funded by the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities through El Centro.

“The Role of the Family in Recovery and Relapse for Women in Substance Abuse Treatment”

This qualitative study aims to gain the perspectives of mothers in substance abuse treatment (or recently in treatment) in the areas of treatment motivation, stressors and motivators including family, preferences and barriers for involving family in aftercare, and perceptions of family therapy. The goal is to inform the development of a family-based substance abuse intervention for mothers and their children. A manuscript led by Natalia Villegas is in preparation.
Ann Norris, PhD
“JUEGA ("Mighty Girls" Intervention)"
The aim of this randomized group trial is to test the efficacy of a promising and innovative intervention, Mighty Girls for reducing teen Latina sexual behavior and pregnancy. Mighty Girls uses cutting-edge technology to create a novel, highly interactive, video game that provides a live, realistic simulation of peer pressure. Players talk directly with avatars as they would with peers in their everyday life. This intervention focuses on building communication skills for resistance that are derived from evidence-based programs that do not jeopardize friendships and incorporate Latino cultural values (Marianismo, Personalismo, Simpatía) – skills valued by middle school Latinas. The study is being conducted with seventh grade Latinas enrolled in one of 20 middle schools in Miami-Dade County. Participant enrollment occurs in Fall of 2015 and Fall of 2016. Study participants are followed into ninth grade, a period in which risky behaviors typically increase. Half of these schools are randomly assigned to receive the Mighty Girls intervention and booster in addition to standard in-school sex education, while the other half receives only standard in-school sex education. In addition to efficacy testing, this interdisciplinary study is evaluating (1) the intervention’s cost-effectiveness and (2) influence of participant characteristics and quality of intervention delivery on study outcomes. This study is funded by the National Institute of Nursing Research of the National Institutes of Health.

Johis Ortega, PhD, MSN
“The Learning Experiences of Nursing and Health Studies Students Involved in International Exchange Programs”
The purpose of this study is to understand the nature and quality of the learning experiences of nursing and health studies students who engage in international exchange programs. Presently, the School of Nursing and Health Studies has an active student exchange program involving both University of Miami students traveling abroad and the hosting of students from various countries. At the conclusion of the exchange program students are given the option of completing a written evaluation of the program in English or Spanish. Students are also offered the opportunity to participate in a group exit interview with program staff. Knowledge gained about students’ experiences will be used to improve programs at the University of Miami and other institutions.

“The Use of Simulation as an Educational Tool for Stroke Protocol Implementation in a University Hospital”
This study utilizes simulation to improve compliance with the "Stroke National Hospital Inpatient Quality Measures," the stroke standards of care. Through simulation learning activities, nursing and nursing assistant staff on the neurology floors, ICU and Emergency Department of the University of Miami Hospital have the opportunity to refine their skills and enhance their critical thinking to improve patient outcomes related to stroke. The study looks at whether simulation is a more effective teaching method than the traditional bedside in-services for assuring compliance with the stroke standards of care. Data from the simulation teaching intervention is being compared to the available data for the time periods prior to the simulation intervention for compliance with the stroke standards of care.
Brenda Owusu, DNP, ARNP, ANP-BC

“LB-AAW: A Lifestyle Intervention Diabetes Prevention Program for African American Women, Delivered in Primary Care Settings by Nurse Practitioners”

This project will develop and implement an evidenced based lifestyle intervention diabetes prevention program for African American women (AAW). The intervention program, Lifestyle Balance: African American Women Diabetes Prevention Program (LB-AAW) has been developed. It is modeled after the successful National Institutes of Health (NIH) Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP), and is designed to be delivered in primary care settings by Nurse Practitioners. AAW identified as high risk for diabetes, based on fasting blood glucose (FBG) of 100mg/dL to 125mg/dL, and body mass index (BMI) of 25 or greater will participate in the 12-session intervention program. The projected program outcomes include changes in fasting blood glucose, weight and BMI measured at baseline, 6 and 12 month follow-ups. The successful implementation of such a program for AAW can have a significant health promotion impact, contribute to the reduction of the high prevalence of type 2 diabetes and the elimination of health disparities that affect this vulnerable demographic group. The next step in this project is to seek funding for a pilot study to test the program.

“The Relationship between Body Size, Risk Perception for Developing Type 2 Diabetes and the Likelihood of Lifestyle Behavior Change among African American Women”

The purpose of this study was to examine the relationship between body size, risk perception for developing type 2 diabetes and the likelihood of lifestyle behavior change among African American women (AAW). In a descriptive correlational design, a convenience sample of 150 non diabetic AAW 20 years or older participated in this study. The Modified Risk Perception Survey for Developing Diabetes (MRPS-DD) and a Demographic Questionnaire (DQ) were used to collect data. The results of this study indicated that body size correlated significantly with risk perception for developing type 2 diabetes and likelihood of lifestyle behavior change. Perception of risk for developing type 2 diabetes and likelihood of lifestyle behavior change was significantly different for each perceived body size category. All participants who perceived themselves as obese had higher perceived risk perception for developing diabetes and indicated they were more likely to engage in lifestyle behavior change to reduce the risk for diabetes. By affirming the connection between body size, risk perception for developing diabetes and lifestyle behavior change, this study implies that understanding perceptions about body size and diabetes risk may provide a point of intervention to help AAW modify their behavior to reduce their risk for being overweight, obese and for developing diabetes. One manuscript has been published in the UPNAAI Nursing Journal.
The purpose of this project was to implement a Mental Health Training Program (MHTP) in Haiti after the earthquake of January, 2010. The MHTP was designed to provide Haitian health care workers (HCWs) with the knowledge and skills to respond to growing mental health needs in Haiti. A total of 113 nurses, physicians, social workers and other HCWs were trained over a period of 6 months (April through September 2011). Thirteen of these HCWs were also trained as trainers. A qualitative descriptive approach was used to describe the personal and professional impact and acceptability of the MHTP among Haitian HCWs who participated in the training. Two focus groups were conducted with 8 MHTP trainers in one group and 8 MHTP trainees in the other group. Qualitative results demonstrated that the MHTP changed the HCWs perceptions about MH issues and provided them with the knowledge and skills to respond to growing community mental health needs. The HCWs trained in the MHTP reported feeling empowered and ready to address MH issues in their practice. They also reported feeling ready to expand their work to other communities to help change the perception of MH issues in Haiti. The study has been completed. One manuscript has been published in the *International Nursing Review*. Secondary analyses are ongoing. This study was funded as an administrative supplement by the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities through El Centro.

**“SEPA II: Salud/Health, Educacion/Education, Prevencion/Prevention, Autocuidado/Self-care)”**

This randomized clinical trial tested the efficacy of the SEPA intervention vs. a delayed control to prevent HIV/AIDS and other STIs, and to reduce/prevent family and intimate partner violence among Hispanic women. The trial enrolled 548 women (age 18 - 50 years) who completed structured interviews at baseline and 3, 6, and 12 months post-baseline. Intent-to-treat analyses indicated that SEPA decreased positive urine samples for Chlamydia; improved condom use, decreased substance abuse and IPV; improved communication with partner, improved HIV-related knowledge, improved intentions to use condoms, decreased barriers to condom use, and increased community prevention attitudes (Peragallo, Gonzalez-Guarda, McCabe, & Cianelli, 2012). The study has been completed and secondary analyses are ongoing. Ten manuscripts have been published in scientific journals. One of the SEPA II publications, “Predictors of self-efficacy for HIV prevention among Hispanic women in South Florida” (Villegas, Cianelli, Gonzalez-Guarda, Kaelber, Ferrer, & Peragallo, 2013) was cited in the document “Addressing the intersection of HIV/AIDS, violence against women and girls, and gender-related health disparities” released by the White House and endorsed by President Obama on September, 2013. This study was funded by the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities through El Centro.

**“SEPA III: Salud/Health, Educacion/Education, Prevencion/Prevention, Autocuidado/Self-care)”**

This ongoing translational randomized trial has recruited 320 Spanish-speaking women between the ages of 18 and 50 who are sexually active from Miami-Dade County Department of Heath sites and randomized to either the SEPA intervention or a Wait-List Control condition. The study’s overarching goal is to reduce the ethnic disparities in HIV between Hispanic and non-Hispanic women by 1) establishing a novel and effective partnership to improve minority health by integrating SEPA (an evidenced based, HIV prevention intervention) into a community setting while assessing agency and facilitator characteristics and readiness for practice improvement, implementation, fidelity, and sustainability; and 2) by evaluating the effectiveness of SEPA to increase HIV prevention behaviors and to reduce the incidence of STIs for Hispanic women when delivered in a real-world setting by community agency personnel. Study enrollment has been completed. Follow-up interviews are ongoing. Manuscripts from baseline data are in preparation. This study is funded by the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities through El Centro.
Anthony James Roberson, PhD, PMHNP-BC, RN

“Assessing the Psychiatric Mental Health Needs of Youth Involved in the Juvenile Addiction Receiving Facility”

The aim of this study is to better understand the predictors of outpatient or residential placement of youth who have psychiatric mental health disorder(s). Specifically, the project will examine the process by which youth that are involved in the Juvenile Addiction Receiving Facility (JARF), and diagnosed with a psychiatric mental health disorder, are referred to outpatient or residential treatment. Of particular interest, based on the youth’s psychiatric mental health diagnosis, is how decisions are made in terms of which residential treatment center the youth is referred to, and whether the treatment centers are positioned to, and can effectively provide the appropriate treatment for the youth. The results of this project will be utilized as data to support a larger scale study, specifically an intervention study, to improve the overall referral process of youth with mental health diagnoses from juvenile receiving facilities to outpatient treatment and/or residential treatment centers. This study is funded by a 2014 University of Miami Provost’s Research Award.

Deborah Saber, PhD, RN, CCRN


The purpose of this study was to comprehensively, quantitatively examine predictors of front-line RN job satisfaction from 1980-2009. Of interest was: the (1) estimation of large, moderate, and small predictor summary effect sizes; (2) assessment of predictor differences among decades (i.e., 1980s, 1990s, and 2000s); and (3) identification of causes for predictor differences among studies (i.e., moderators). The largest effect sizes were found for three predictors: Task Requirements ($r=.61$), Empowerment ($r=.55$), and Control ($r=.52$). Moderate effect sizes were found for 10 predictors (e.g., Autonomy: $r=.44$; Stress: $r=.43$), and small effect sizes were found for nine predictors (e.g., Wages: $r=.23$; Staffing Adequacy: $r=.19$). Significant heterogeneity between studies was present in all of the 27 predictor analyses. Effect size differences were not found between decades. Moderator analysis found that the sources of the difference between studies remain unexplained. Two manuscripts have been published, one in *The Health Care Manager* and one in *Nursing Outlook*.

“A Study Comparing Senior Nursing Students’ Expectations of Work and the Workforce to their Perceptions after Employed as Newly Licensed Registered Nurses (NLRNs)”

The purpose of this study is to examine the difference between senior nursing students’ expectations of work and the workforce and their perceptions as newly licensed registered nurses (NLRNs) after 3 and 12 months of employment. The study uses a mixed method design that includes focus group interviews and web-based surveys with data collection at three different points in time: Focus Groups 1 captured data of participants when they were senior nursing students; Focus Groups 2 interviewed them as newly licensed registered nurses (NLRNs) after 3 months of employment; Focus Groups 3 will interview them after 12 months of employment. Surveys are administered after focus group sessions via a web-based program. Data collection for Focus Group 1 and 2 is complete and the study is ongoing. Data from Phase 1 found that students expect to experience four workplace/workforce stressors (Role Transition, Fear of Contagion, Impact on Personal Life, and Fear of Violence) and have planned coping strategies for these stressors (Fitting in as a “Real Nurse”, Taking Precautions, Taking care of Myself, and Staying Physically and Psychologically Safe). One manuscript has been published in the *Journal of Nursing Management*. 
Jill Sanko-Steiner, PhD, MS, ARNP-BC, CHSE-A
“Exploring the Cohesion–Performance Relationship in Inter-professional Health Care Teams”
The primary aim of this study was to explore the relationship between team cohesion and team performance in a simulated medical encounter during a week-long patient safety course. The secondary aim was to develop a tool to measure team cohesion in a healthcare team. The psychometric analysis of the quadripartite tool that was developed to measure cohesion for this study was favorable. Findings with regard to the relationship between cohesion and performance showed a statistically significant relationship (p=.010). Additionally, mid-week measures of cohesion predicted post course measures of cohesion (p<.001). This study has been completed. A presentation has been submitted to the International Meeting of Simulation in Healthcare 2016.

“Development and Psychometric Analysis of the ACTS Tool; A Measure of Confederates’ Performance in Simulation Encounters”
The primary aim of this study was to develop and test a tool to measure the performance of confederates’ in simulation encounters. Findings and use of this novel tool to objectively assess confederates contribution to simulation encounters provide evidence to support its use. A Cronbach’s Alpha of .89 with good internal consistency (all total item correlations were above .41) was found. This study was presented as a poster at the International Meeting of Simulation in Healthcare 2015.

“Exploring the Impact of Mindfulness Training on Mindfulness and Ethical Decision Making”
This project seeks to evaluate the impact of mindfulness training on mindfulness levels and on ethical decision making in pre-licensure nursing students and practicing nurses. The specific aims are to: 1) compare the level of mindfulness of pre-licensure and practicing nurses; 2) evaluate and compare the effects of participating in mindfulness training on mindfulness and ethical decision making in pre-licensure and practicing nurses; and 3) explore the experiences of participants who take part in mindfulness training. This project was funded by a grant from the Arsht Ethics Initiative at the University of Miami Ethics Program. This study is complete and was presented at the 2015 Sigma Theta Tau International Conference.

Doris Ugarizza, PhD, ARNP, PMHCNS-BC
“Post-partum Depression in Adolescents”
This study developed a protocol to screen postpartum mothers 6 weeks, and before one year after giving birth, for postpartum depression and the degree to which they had help with child care and/or other responsibilities. Thirty-nine mothers were screened for depression using the Edinburgh Postpartum Depression Scale and for social support using the Logsdon Postpartum Social Support Scale. A correlation between depression and lack of social support was found. Anecdotal data was also collected from mothers who stated they were at a loss in receiving a great deal of information about childrearing including breastfeeding. A manuscript is in preparation.
“Changes in Cerebral Oxygen Saturation during Transcatheter Aortic Valve Implantation” (Co-investigator)

This pilot study was conducted to investigate the changes in cerebral oxygen saturation (rSO2) in patients undergoing transcatheter aortic valve implantation (TAVI). Ten consecutive ASA physical status IV patients undergoing TAVI with general endotracheal anesthesia at University of Miami Hospital were prospectively studied. The magnitude and duration of changes in rSO2 were analyzed around 4 case milestones: pre-procedure (baseline), after induction of anesthesia immediately after tracheal intubation, during aortic valve deployment requiring rapid ventricular pacing at up to 200 beats per minute, and at procedure end. During rapid ventricular pacing and valve deployment the mean rSO2 decreased significantly less than the post induction rSO2 (p=0.0002), however this was not significant compared to baseline rSO2 (p=0.3592). Cerebral oxygen saturation returned to post-induction values 13 ± 10 minutes after valve deployment. IRB approval was granted to continue the study with an additional 50 patients. The study is completed. One manuscript has been published in the *Journal of the Association for Vascular Access*. 

**Greta Mitzova-Vladinova, DNP, MSN, CRNA**
“Developing and Piloting an Internet Based STI and HIV Prevention Intervention among Chilean Young Women”

The purpose of this study was to develop and pilot-test an internet STI-HIV prevention intervention, I-STIPI, for young Chilean women between the ages of 18 and 24. Phase I of the study adapted and refined the SEPA prevention intervention for low-income Chilean women for use as an internet based intervention. Phase II pilot-tested I-STIPI. I-STIPI was found to be feasible and acceptable for young women. I-STIPI increased young women’s levels of STI and HIV related knowledge, motivation regarding the attitudes toward the use of condoms, behavioral skills in relation with perceived self-efficacy for STI and HIV and preventive behaviors related to the reduction of the number of sexual partners and risky sexual behaviors with uncommitted partners. The study is completed. Two manuscripts have been published, one in the International Nursing Review and the other in the Journal of Nursing Scholarship. A manuscript about the risk factors for acquiring HIV among Chilean women who participated in the I-STIPI is in preparation.


The purpose of this study was to develop and implement a hybrid breastfeeding training with undergraduate and graduate nursing students at the School of Nursing and Health Studies. The training is based on the WHO/UNICEF20-hour breastfeeding curriculum. This training was designed to prepare nursing students with the knowledge and skills to support breastfeeding when they begin work. The online component of the training consisted of five modules with a length of approximately 14 hours in total with a technology-based instruction using Blackboard Learn. The face to face component included different group activities such as role playing and jeopardy. In addition, a Breastfeeding OSCE (Objective Structured Clinical Examination) with 10 stations was included in the face to face component. Currently, the study is being implemented and 536 nursing students have completed the training. The enrollment of the students, data collection, and analysis will continue. One manuscript was published in the Clinical Nursing Studies Journal and another is in preparation.

“Use of a Telenovela to Reduce HIV Risk Behaviors among Hispanic Women in South Florida”

This study was conducted to assess the feasibility of a telenovela to reduce HIV risk behaviors among Hispanic women in South Florida. Three focus groups were conducted with 25 Hispanic women 18 years and older to: (a) investigate Hispanic women’s perceptions of telenovelas for HIV prevention, (b) collect recommendations about the content and features that should be included in the development of a telenovela for HIV prevention (e.g., topics for inclusion, setting, length), and (c) assess the types of technologies that women consider more appealing/feasible to deliver the intervention (e.g., tablet, internet using a laptop, iPod Touch). Also, complementary activities that could enhance the engagement of Hispanic women in the telenovela were discussed in the focus groups (e.g., text messages after each episode about the content of the episode, telephone line staffed by a Registered Nurse from the research team to clarify the content of the episode). A semi-structured interview guide was used to collect women’s feedback and field notes were taken during the focus groups. The results revealed that women are not receiving education about HIV prevention and that a telenovela was an acceptable form of learning about HIV prevention. Women are comfortable with the use of different technologies (e.g., iPod Touch, smartphones, television, tablet, internet), and they preferred to watch a telenovela at home and after work hours (5-10 PM). The majority of the women preferred to watch the telenovela using a device that provides privacy (e.g., iPod Touch, tablet, smartphone). Many women did not have internet access to a computer at home due to cost and some of them did not feel comfortable watching an HIV prevention telenovela on a device or media that did not provide privacy. The study is completed and there is one manuscript in preparation. This study was funded by a School of Nursing and Health Studies Dean’s Research Award.
Jessica Williams, PhD, MPH, RN

“Development of a Model to Guide Evidence-Based Pediatric Nursing Practice”

In collaboration with Nicklaus Children’s Hospital, the purpose of this project is to develop a model to facilitate the use of evidence-based practice (EBP) within pediatric hospital settings. Three specific aims will be examined through this work: Aim 1: Evaluate the extent to which current EBP models are utilized in pediatric hospital settings. Aim 2: Assess current factors among nurses within a pediatric acute care hospital which may impact use of EBPs (i.e., demographics; research/EBP needs and utilization; evidence-based culture, knowledge, and skills; and attitudes toward EBPs). Aim 3: Identify challenges of pediatric nursing staff in using current EBP models, particularly in pediatric hospital settings. A mixed method approach will be used to address the aims of this project and will include conducting a systematic review, descriptive telephone survey, self-report anonymous survey, and focus groups. The study is currently in the data collection phase, and is expected to be completed by December 2015. This study is funded by the Nursing Research Department at Nicklaus Children’s Hospital.

“Identifying Best Practices in Family Planning”

This project involved conducting a series of evidence syntheses to inform the revision of Title X program guidelines for project grants for family planning services. The aim of these syntheses was to summarize the research literature related to several specific areas of family planning including: 1) counseling; 2) community outreach/education; 3) adolescent-focused family planning services; and 4) quality of services. The project was commissioned by the Division of Reproductive Health at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) along with the Office of Population Affairs (OPA). The CDC and OPA published their revisions to the Title X guidelines based on the results of these evidence syntheses in the April 25, 2014 issue of the *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*. The results of this work were also published in August 2015 as a supplemental issue in the *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*. This study was funded by a contract with the Division of Reproductive Health at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Office of Population Affairs.

“Increasing Adoption of Motivational Interviewing in Community Behavioral Health”

This clustered randomized controlled trial was conducted from 2010 – 2012 and examined the influence of two dissemination strategies (informational packets alone and in conjunction with interactive coaching Webinars) aimed at increasing the adoption of motivational interviewing (MI) among community health organizations (CHO) responsible for delivering mental and behavioral health services. These dissemination strategies were chosen because they constitute the most prevalent strategies available for disseminating evidence-based practices to decision-makers. Data were obtained from 311 directors and providers at 92 CHO across the United States. Results showed that both dissemination strategies positively influenced the decision to adopt MI; however the positive impact was significantly greater among individuals receiving the active dissemination strategy. Baseline attitudes toward EBPs and pressures for change appeared to mediate this effect. Findings also differed by position of respondent (i.e., directors vs. providers) and type of CHO (i.e., primary care vs. behavioral health care) underscoring the importance of tailoring dissemination strategies to meet the specific needs of different audiences. This study was funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Eight articles based on the findings of this study were published as a Special Section in the July 2014 issue of the *Journal of Behavioral Health Services & Research*. 
“Screening for Intimate Partner Violence among Healthcare Facilities in Miami-Dade County”

This study systematically examines policies and procedures for identifying and responding to intimate partner violence (IPV) among different types of healthcare settings. This mixed-method study was conducted in two phases, between June 2014 and through May 2015. Phase I utilized an epidemiologic, cross-sectional observational study design. Data were collected through a telephone survey from a stratified random sample of 288 healthcare facilities in Miami-Dade County, reflecting an overall response rate of 76.2%. This included 72 primary care clinics, 93 obstetrics/gynecology clinics, 106 pediatric clinics, and 17 emergency departments. In Phase II, a subset of facilities (n=16) were selected to participate in in-depth qualitative interviews regarding barriers and facilitators to implementing IPV screening practices at their facility. There is a general awareness of the importance of IPV screening with 78.1% of facilities reporting some type of IPV screening procedures. Wide variation exists, however, in how practices are implemented with only 35.3% of facilities implementing multi-component, comprehensive IPV screening and response programs. Several barriers and facilitators to implementation of IPV screening were identified primarily related to procedural issues, communication factors, and operational/facility factors. Data collection and analysis is completed and the study is currently in the dissemination phase. This study was funded by a 2014 University of Miami Provost’s Research Award.

“Trauma-Informed Decision-Making between Providers and Victims of Intimate Partner Violence During HIV Testing: A Qualitative Study”

Victims of intimate partner violence (IPV) are at increased risk for acquiring HIV compared to the general population. Encouraging those with a history of IPV to participate in HIV counseling, testing and linkage to care is an important strategy for prevention and early treatment. Despite the importance of HIV testing, numerous barriers to testing exist, particularly for victims of IPV. The purpose of this study is to better understand the HIV testing process from the perspective of victims of IPV and those who work with victims. A qualitative descriptive approach will be used to guide this study. Interviews will be conducted with key informants, namely, women with a history of IPV, HIV service providers, and IPV service providers (e.g., advocates). The results of this study will be used to inform 1) strategies to improve the implementation of HIV testing in agencies that serve individuals with a history of IPV; and 2) the development of an intervention to help victims of IPV make decisions about HIV testing and help services providers to conduct HIV testing in a way that is sensitive to the needs of those with a history of IPV (i.e., trauma-informed). Ultimately, this will help reduce barriers to HIV testing and lead to higher rates of testing and better quality services for this high-risk population. This study is currently in the data collection phase with interviews expected to be completed by August 2015. This study was funded by the Center for Prevention Implementation Methodology (Ce-PIM) of the National Institute on Drug Abuse.
“Effects of Omega-3 Fatty Acids on Airway Inflammation” (Co-investigator)

The current study will examine the potential anti-inflammatory actions of omega-3 fatty acids from fish oil, as well as EPA (eicosapentaenic acid) and DHA (docosahexaenoic acid) in an in vitro using three dimensional EpiAirway respiratory epithelial model of airway inflammation. Using this highly sensitive model system, we hope to demonstrate that omega-3 fatty acids can exert direct anti-inflammatory actions in human airway tissues. Such anti-inflammatory effects could be useful in preventing or reducing bronchial hyper-reactivity in susceptible patients exposed to airborne irritants. The study is being conducted in conjunction with Dr. James Fetterman, Pharm. D. at the South University School of Pharmacy. Data collection is ongoing.

“Pharmacogenomics in Pharmacy Education and Practice”

This study examined the extent to which various pharmacogenomics content was included in Pharm. D. programs in the U.S. and Canada. An extension of this initial study examined the extent to which pharmacy preceptors and students on clinical pharmacy rotations utilized various aspects of pharmacogenomics in their daily practice. Abstracts were presented at the annual meeting of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy. Manuscripts were published in the American Journal of Hospital Pharmacy and the International Journal of Pharmacy Education. This study has been completed.

“Pharmacogenomics of Smoking Cessation Therapies” (Co-investigator)

This study examines the various genetic factors that can affect the pharmacodynamics and pharmacokinetics of nicotine replacement therapy and other pharmacotherapeutic agents used to treat nicotine addiction. An invited manuscript is in preparation for the Journal of Pharmacogenomics and Pharmacoproteomics. This study is ongoing.

“Impact of Simulation Exercises on Student Learning and Performance in Physiology Laboratory”

This study examines the impact of computer simulation and high fidelity simulation on student learning and engagement in an undergraduate physiology laboratory class. Specific Aims of the proposed study include: 1) Evaluate whether the inclusion of computer based physiology simulation and high fidelity mannequin simulation improves student comprehension and performance related to complex topics in cardiovascular and respiratory physiology; 2) To assess the impact various simulation exercises on student engagement and overall course satisfaction in physiology laboratory; 3) To ascertain the students perception of a multipronged approach to the teaching of physiology topics that includes computer based simulation, and high fidelity mannequin simulation compared to standard lecture. Data collection is in progress, with data collected from the first class in May 2014.