



Q1 July - September 2023

The NNRC Quarterly

Niedfelt Nursing Research Center



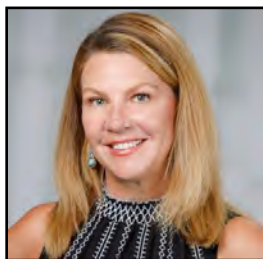
UNMCSM

COLLEGE
OF NURSING

Niedfelt Nursing Research Center



MEET OUR STAFF

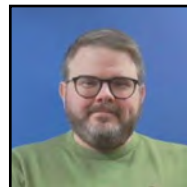


Michele Balas, PhD, RN, CCRN-K, FCCM, FAAN
Associate Dean for Research
Professor
Dorothy Hodges Olson Chair in Nursing
mibalas@unmc.edu
402-559-6617

grants staff



Marna Stack, MPH
Research Administrator II
mstack@unmc.edu
402-559-6634



Don Houy, MBA
*Grants Administration
Coordinator*
don.houy@unmc.edu
402-559-6543



Leah Niebaum, MA CCT
Office Associate II
leah.niebaum@unmc.edu
402-559-8081



Kevin Kupzyk, PhD
Statistician
Assistant Professor
kevin.kupzyk@unmc.edu

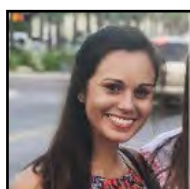


Debi Kibbee, BS
*Grants Administration
Coordinator*
dkibbee@unmc.edu
402-559-1984



Christopher Wichman, PhD
Statistician
Assistant Professor
College of Public Health
christopher.whichman@unmc.edu

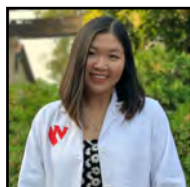
graduate assistants



**Christina Bach, PhD RN,
CCRN**



**Kirsten Hepburn, BA,
BSN, RN**
402-559-2939



Tam Nguyen, BSN, RN

CONTENTS

3 Grant Application Submissions - Summary

4 Grant Applications - Details

6 Funding News

7 Funded Awards

16 Student Research

17 Notable Accomplishments

18 Resources

The Niedfelt Nursing Research Center staff compiles the content in the NNRC Quarterly. Our goal is to highlight research and other sponsored efforts by College of Nursing faculty. Email nnrc@unmc.edu to let us know about your scholarly achievements so we may feature you in future newsletters!

Q1 Jul - Sep 2023



Q1 GRANT APPLICATIONS - SUMMARY

JULY TOTAL REQUESTS: \$307,000

- NIH: \$307,000

AUGUST TOTAL REQUESTS: \$1,037,929

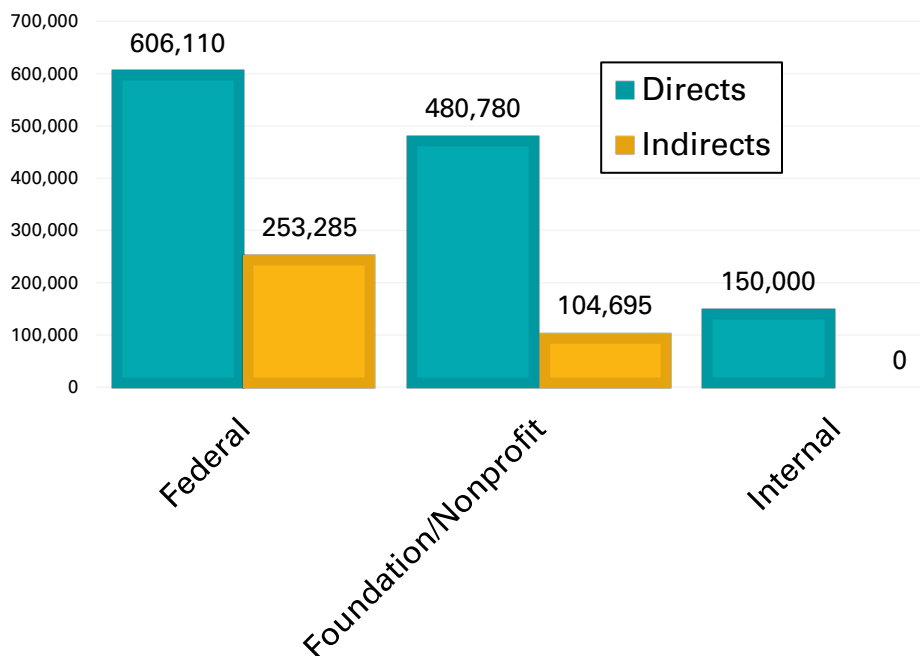
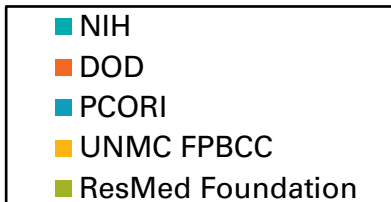
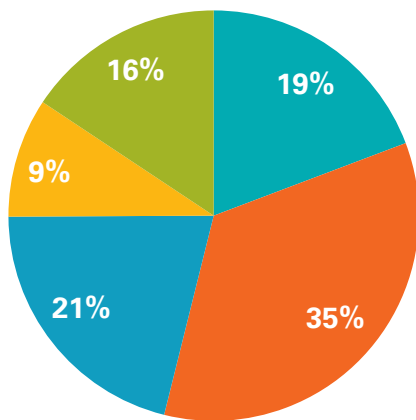
- Dept. of Defense (DOD): \$552,395
- PCORI: \$335,534
- Fred & Pamela Buffet Cancer Center (FPBCC): \$150,000

SEPTEMBER TOTAL REQUESTS: \$249,941

- ResMed Foundation: \$249,941

Q1: Overview

TOTAL REQUESTS \$1,594,870



Q1 GRANT APPLICATIONS - DETAILS

JULY APPLICATIONS



Kovaleva

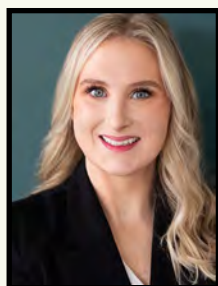
- **TITLE:** *Cognitive Health Across Settings*
- **PI:** Mariya Kovaleva, RN, PhD, MS, AGPCNP-BC
- **CO-I:** Michele Balas, PhD, RN, CCRN-K, FCCM, FAAN, Kevin Kupzyk, PhD
- **SOURCE:** NIH
- **AMOUNT:** \$307,000
- **DESCRIPTION:** The overall objective of this 2-group pilot randomized controlled trial and mixed methods evaluation is to determine the feasibility and acceptability of a novel transitional care intervention and investigate the extent to which this intervention changes persons living with dementia (PLWD) and caregiver outcomes. The purpose of the Cognitive Health Across Settings (CHASE) intervention is to equip caregivers with knowledge and skills to manage their PLWD's post-acute care needs, better understand dementia, reduce caregiver burden, and prevent complications and avoidable rehospitalizations.
- **PROJECT START/END DATES:** 04/01/24-03/31/26

AUGUST APPLICATIONS



Gonzales

- **TITLE:** *Tipping the Balance: Using Technology to Support Novel Self-Management Techniques for Parkinson's Disease*
- **PI:** Kelly Gonzales, PhD, APRN-NP, FNP-C
- **SOURCE:** Department of Defense
- **AMOUNT:** \$552,395
- **DESCRIPTION:** The purpose of this proposal is to develop (1) a robust dataset of balance and mobility data for use in Parkinson's Disease research and (2) an empirically validated smartphone application using this data set aimed at increasing self-management in patients with Parkinson's Disease (PD).
- **PROJECT START/END DATES:** 06/01/24-05/31/28



Miller

- **TITLE:** *Positive Airway Pressure versus Weight Loss for Cardiovascular Prevention in Obstructive Sleep Apnea*
- **PI:** Jen Miller, PhD, APRN-NP
- **SOURCE:** PCORI via KUMC Subcontract
- **AMOUNT:** \$335,534
- **DESCRIPTION:** Our overarching goal is to determine the relative and combined effectiveness of positive airway pressure (PAP) therapy and behavioral lifestyle interventions for weight loss (BLIWL) on CV outcomes among older adults with OSA. To accomplish this goal, we will leverage real-world clinical and administrative data from older adults that are Medicare beneficiaries as part of two PCORnet Clinical Data Research Networks, the Greater Plains Collaborative (GPC) and the Stakeholder, Technology and Research (STAR) Network, to support the evaluation of the overall hypothesis that combined PAP and BLIWL will result in improved CV benefits when compared to each intervention alone.
- **PROJECT START/END DATES:** 07/01/24-06/30/27

Q1 Jul - Sep 2023

GRANT APPLICATIONS - DETAILS
continued

AUGUST APPLICATIONS - CONTINUED



Aguirre

- **TITLE:** *Identifying Cancer Prevalence, Risk Factors, and Barriers to Care for Rural Nebraska Panhandle Men and Evaluating an Innovative Strategy to Improve their Engagement in Cancer Screening/Prevention*
- **PI:** Trina Aguirre, PhD, RN
- **CO-Is:** Mathew Burton, MSN, APRN, FNP-C, CDCES; Kevin Kupzyk, PhD
- **SOURCE:** Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center (Internal)
- **AMOUNT:** \$50,000
- **DESCRIPTION:** This study will use targeted health fairs and individual interviews to identify cancer prevalence, risk factors, and barriers to care for rural men in the Nebraska Panhandle while evaluating an intervention to improve rural men's access to and engagement in cancer screenings and prevention with an emphasis on expanding colorectal cancer screening and providing education about skin cancer prevention and detection. The intervention involves delivering culturally appropriate health care screenings, education, and services at locations/events frequented by rural men (e.g., worksites, industry and community/cultural events).
- **PROJECT START/END DATES:** 11/01/23-10/31/24



Darby

- **TITLE:** *Community-Based One-Stop Cancer Shop to Address Health Inequities*
- **PI:** Mark Darby, MSN, RN, APRN, FNP-C
- **CO-Is:** Linda Smith, PhD, MSPH, BSN, RN Kevin Kupzyk, PhD; Kate Fandt, PhD, APRN-NP, FAANP, FAAN
- **SOURCE:** Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center (Internal)
- **AMOUNT:** \$50,000
- **DESCRIPTION:** In Nebraska, African Americans have a higher incidence of lung, colorectal, and prostate cancer (ranging from 24 to 58% higher) when compared to non-Hispanic Whites. African Americans have higher mortality rates for lung, breast, prostate, and colorectal cancers (ranging from 11% to 177% higher) compared to non-Hispanic Whites. There are similar disparities in Metropolitan Omaha. Our goal is to develop a community-academic partnership that sponsors a community-based One-Stop Cancer Shop that offers screenings with a pathway to care that reduces these disparities.
- **PROJECT START/END DATES:** 11/01/23-10/31/24



Dickinson

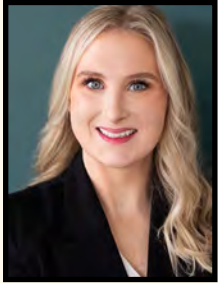
- **TITLE:** *Aerobic vs. Resistance Activity Breaks to Reduce Sedentary Time and Improve Physical Function in Older Adult Cancer Survivors: A feasibility study*
- **PI:** Kristin Dickinson, PhD, RN, OCN
- **CO-Is:** Sheri Rowland, PhD, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC; Anna Schwartz, PhD, FNP-BC, FAAN
- **SOURCE:** Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center (Internal)
- **AMOUNT:** \$50,000
- **DESCRIPTION:** The objective of the proposed study is to design and test the feasibility and acceptability of a remotely delivered behavioral intervention to reduce sedentary time and improve physical function in older (aged 65+ years) cancer survivors living in Nebraska. This project consists of 2 phases: 1) collaborating with a community advisory board (CAB) and conducting focus groups to inform the final design of the intervention and study procedures and 2) a feasibility study with 36 sedentary older adult cancer survivors. This phase will evaluate the feasibility and acceptability of a 3-month, remotely delivered and individualized, behavioral intervention to reduce sedentary time using short, frequent bouts of (a) light-intensity aerobic activity (STEPS) or (b) light-intensity resistance activity (STRENGTH) at regular intervals throughout the day.
- **PROJECT START/END DATES:** 11/01/23-10/31/24

Q1 Jul - Sep 2023



GRANT APPLICATIONS - DETAILS
continued

SEPTEMBER APPLICATIONS



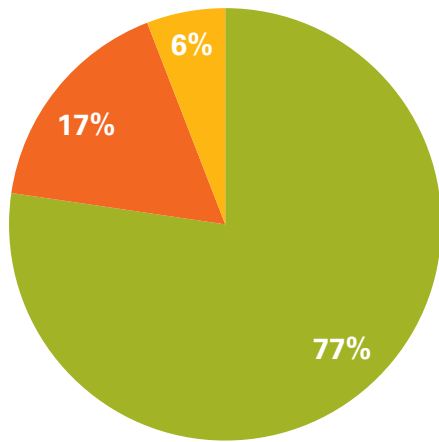
Miller

- **TITLE:** *Motivational Enhancement and Device Support Interventions to Increase Continuous Positive Airway Pressure: A Feasibility SMART Trial*
- **PI:** Jen Miller, PhD, APRN-NP
- **CO-I:** Michele Balas, PhD, RN, CCRN-K, FCCM, FAAN
- **SOURCE:** ResMed Foundation
- **AMOUNT:** \$249,941
- **DESCRIPTION:** The overall objective of the proposed pilot study is to determine the feasibility and acceptability of a nurse practitioner-led, telehealth-delivered, adaptive intervention aimed at improving CPAP adherence.
- **PROJECT START/END DATES:** 01/01/24-12/31/25

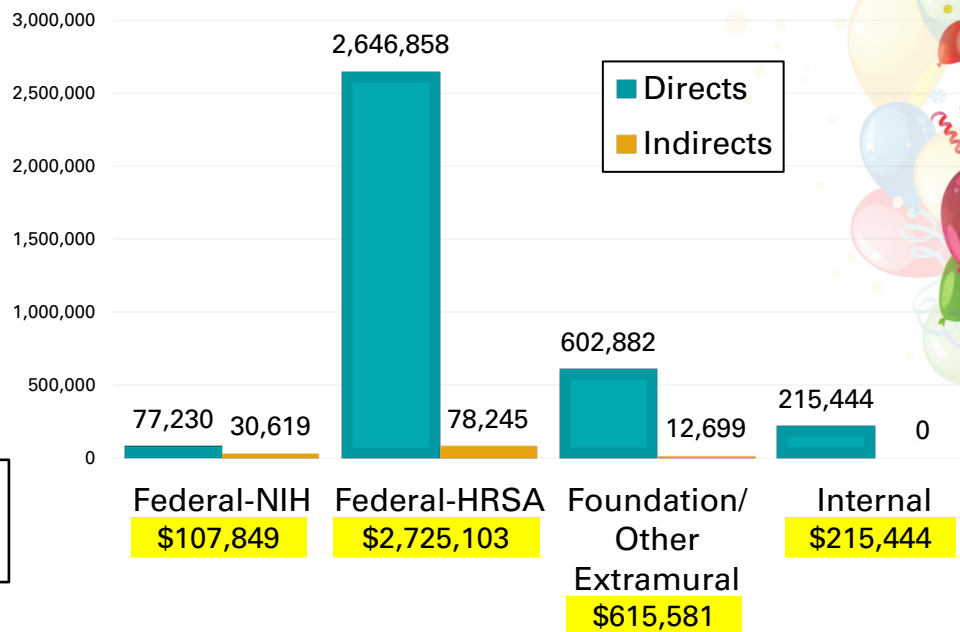
FUNDING NEWS

NEWLY FUNDED AWARDS

\$3,663,977 (\$3,542,414 direct + \$121,563 indirect)



- Federal
- Foundation/Other Extramural
- Internal



Keep reading for details about Q1 awards →

FUNDED AWARDS

NIH Funding

ICU-CARE: An interactive mobile app to enhance the efficiency of daily informal caregiving in the intensive care unit

Sponsor: NIH/NINR via Silicon Cures, LLC (R41NR020458)

Project Period: 09/2023-08/2024

Total funding: \$87,854 (\$57,232 direct + \$30,619 indirect)

Project description: This project will support a robust, user-centered build out and commercialization of the Family Room app. The Family Room is designed to involve family caregivers in direct patient care at the bedside during acute hospitalization. The long-term goal of the project is to have a user-friendly, point of care technology that promotes efficient day-to-day informal caregiving, facilitates symptom management decisions, and enhances clinical communication among patients, caregivers, and health care providers in the ICU.



Hetland

PROJECT TEAM

PI: Breanna Hetland PhD RN, CCRN-K, *Assistant Professor, College of Nursing-Omaha, Nurse Scientist-Nebraska Medicine*

Co-I/Statistician: Kevin Kupzyk, PhD, *Assistant Professor, CON-Omaha*

Co-I/Mentor: Bunny Pozehl, PhD, APRN-NP, FHFA, FAHA, FAAN, *Professor, CON-Omaha*

Consultant: Jessica Castner, PhD RN-BC, FAEN, FAAN, *CEO Castner Incorporated, Professor and Director of Nursing, University at Albany School of Public Health*

Consultant: Mary Beth Happ, PhD, RN, FAAN, FGSA, *Nursing Distinguished Professor of Clinical Care Research and Associate Dean for Research and Innovation at The Ohio State University College of Nursing*

Clinical Expert: Josie Jones, BSN, RN, *Staff Nurse, ICU-Nebraska Medicine*

Project Coordinator: Taeylr Weekly, MPH, BSN, RN-BC, *PhD Candidate, COPH*

Graduate Assistant: Lauren Sigmon, BSN, *MSN Student, CON*



Kupzyk



Pozehl

NIH Funding - continued

Beam Helmet: Human Factors and clinical usability testing of a head-mounted, flip-up powered air purifying respirator (PAPR) Prototype

Sponsor: NIH/NIGMS via Great Plains IDeA-CTR (U54GM115458)

Project Period: 07/2023-06/2024

Total funding: \$19,998 (\$19,998 direct + \$0 indirect)

Project description: The team will conduct a human-factors assessment of the Beam Helmet PAPR prototype to inform design modifications and future research. Assessment will include a heuristic analysis of the PAPR during donning, clinical tasks, and doffing. User feedback will be collected on the clinical usability of the prototype's features, device maintenance, feature preferences, device benefits and challenges.



Beam

PROJECT TEAM

PI: Elizabeth Beam, PhD, RN, *HEROES Program Director and Associate Professor at CON-Omaha, NSRI Fellow & Affiliate Faculty, UNMC Global Center for Health Security*

Co-I: Bethany Lowndes, PhD, MPH, *Assistant Professor, UNMC College of Medicine, Department of Neurological Sciences*

Research Assistant: Brianna Parr, BS, *Masters of Public Health Policy & Administration Student at UNMC COPH*



Lowndes



Image: Dr. Beam with the Beam Helmet prototype

HRSA Funding

uNParalleled Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Fellowship Training Program

Sponsor: HRSA (Advanced Education Nursing Grant Program #T5949625)

Project Period: 08/2023-07/2027

Total funding: \$2,725,103 (\$2,646,858 direct + \$78,245 indirect)

Project description: This project will expand and enhance the existing uNParalleled Fellowship Program. The primary goal of uNParalleled is to transition newly licensed NPs for practice in comprehensive primary health care organizations that serve medically and socially complex residents of rural, tribal, and urban medically underserved Nebraska. Participating fellows receive didactic and clinical training focused on comprehensive primary care and integrated mental health, financial support, and access to an on-call faculty preceptor and distance learning platform. In conjunction with the fellowship activities, a comprehensive evaluation plan will be conducted to assure the program meets the needs of the fellows, clinics, and patients served and to attain and maintain CCNE NP Fellowship/Residency Program accreditation.

Check out the project website - <https://unparalleledfellowship.org/> for more information!



Holmes

PROJECT TEAM

PD: LeAnn Holmes, DNP, APRN-NP, FAANP, *Director of Morehead Center for Faculty Practice, DNP Program Director, and Clinical Associate Professor at CON-Lincoln*

Education Coordinators:

Kate Fiandt, PhD, APRN-NP, FAANP, FAAN, *Associate Dean for Transformational Practice and Partnerships, Kenneth E. Morehead Endowed Chair in Nursing, Clinical Professor at CON-Omaha*
Miranda Kliment, DNP, APRN-NP, *Assistant Professor at CON-Lincoln*

Evaluation Coordinator: Teresa Barry Hultquist, PhD, RN, PHCNS-BC, NE-BC, *Professor & Director of Evaluation at CON-Omaha*

Preceptors:

Maggie Emerson, DNP, APRN, PMHNP-BC, *Clinical Associate Professor at CON-Omaha*
Kelly Gonzales, PhD, APRN-NP, FNP-C, *Associate Profess at CON-Omaha*
Amber Golden, DNP, APRN, AGPCNP-BC, *Clinical Assistant Professor at CON-Omaha*

Project Coordinator: Amelia Stoltman, MPH, MS, *Administrator II for Transformational Practice and Partnerships at CON-Omaha*

Career Counselor: Trina White, MBA, FACHE, *Assistant Professor and Deputy Director at CPH Department of Health Services Research & Administration*



Stoltman

Foundation/Other Extramural Funding

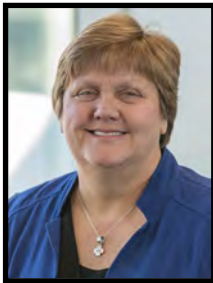
Magic School Bus: Dive into the Heart

Sponsor: Curio XR

Project Period: 08/2023-07/2024

Total funding: \$15,000 (\$15,000 direct + \$0 indirect)

Project description: Based on the concept of The Magic School Bus television series and experiential learning strategies, the project team will work UNL School of Computing, Computer Science and Engineering Senior Design students to develop an Immersive Virtual Reality game that takes nursing students inside the heart to encounter and learn its structures, functions, electrical activity, and pathophysiology.



Schuelke



Nieveen

PROJECT TEAM

PI: Sue Schuelke, PhD, RN-BC, CNE, CCRN-K, *Assistant Professor at CON-Lincoln*

CO-I: Janet Nieveen, PhD, RN, *Assistant Professor at CON-Lincoln*

The Nebraska Medical Center HSII Capacity Building Project

Sponsor: PCORI via Nebraska Medicine subcontract

Project Period: 07/2023-06/2024

Total funding: \$20,584 (\$1 direct + \$5,881 indirect)

Project description: The two strategic goals of this Health Systems Implementation Initiative (HSII) Capacity Building Project are to: (1) address identified gaps in the health system's ability to effectively conduct evidence-based practice implementation at the scale expected by participation in PCORI's Health HSII, and (2) further assess readiness in targeted areas to ensure other gaps are identified and a plan to address them is developed. Dr. Hetland will develop a collaborative structure for program evaluation design and contribute to the direction of improved data science infrastructure and approaches for implementation projects.



Winterboer



Beachy

PROJECT TEAM

Co-PIs: Tammy Winterboer, PharmD, *VP Quality, Experience, & Effectiveness-Nebraska Medicine;* Micah Beachy, MD, *VP, Chief Quality Officer-Nebraska Medicine*

Co-I/UNMC PI: Breanna Hetland PhD RN, CCRN-K, *Assistant Professor, CON-Omaha, Nurse Scientist-Nebraska Medicine*

Project Lead: Nicole Skinner, BSN, RN, *Director Patient Experience and Patient Advocacy-Nebraska Medicine*

Project Manager: Laureen Wear, RN, *Project Manager-Nebraska Medicine Office of Projects and Initiatives*



Hetland

Foundation/Other Extramural - continued

Assessing feasibility and acceptability of ANCHOR: A psychoeducational intervention for adolescent caregiving youth in oncology

Sponsor: American Association for Cancer Education - READS Grant Program

Project Period: 07/2023-06/2024

Total funding: \$4,997 (\$4,997 direct + \$0 indirect)

Project description: The objective of this 12-month, 2-phase intervention development pilot study is to determine acceptability and feasibility of providing ANCHOR (Addressing Needs of Caregiving Youth to Help improve Outcomes, & Resiliency), a psychoeducational intervention targeting protective factors (emotional regulation, effective communication, and tolerance of uncertainty) to improve outcomes of resiliency and psychological well-being among adolescent caregiving youth (age 12-18 years) of parents with cancer.



Hendricks

PROJECT TEAM

PI: Bailey Hendricks, PhD, RN, *Assistant Professor at UNMC CON*

Mentor: Nicholas Dionne-Odom, PhD, MA, RN, ACHPN, FPCN, FAAN, *Associate Professor, School of Nursing, University of Alabama at Birmingham; Co-Director of Caregiver and Bereavement Support Services; Co-Lead of the Caregiver Research Core of the NINR-funded Palliative Care Research Cooperative*

Community Driven Solutions to Reduce Health Disparities

Sponsor: United HealthCare Services, Inc.

Project Period: 07/2023-06/2024

Total funding: \$75,000 (\$68,182 direct + \$6,818 indirect)

Project description: The project will (1) engage with culturally representative North Omaha community members to understand root causes of barriers to care and inform innovative solutions to reducing health disparities in North Omaha, and (2) create practice and clinical opportunities for students and faculty of the UNMC College of Nursing through the establishment of partnerships with North Omaha businesses.



Darby

PROJECT TEAM

PI: Mark Darby, MSN, RN, APRN, FNP-C, *Clinical Assistant Professor, UNMC CON*

Mentor: Kate Fiandt, PhD, APRN-NP, FAANP, FAAN, *Clinical Professor, Associate Dean for Transformational Practice and Partnerships, Kenneth E. Morehead Endowed Chair in Nursing, UNMC CON*

Community Advisors: Errik Ejike, *CEO, North Omaha Area Health*; MaxCine Jackson, *Executive Director, My Sisters Keeper*; Bishop Kevin J. Chambers, *Mt Calvary Community Church*; Overseer Claude White, *Church of the Living God*; Pastor Karen Saunders, *Christ Love Unity Church*; Jennifer Keys, *North Omaha Chapter AARP Representative*

continued p. 12

Foundation/Other Extramural - continued

The Family Room: An Interactive Mobile Application to Support Family Caregiver Participation in Patient Care in the Intensive Care Unit

Sponsor: University of California Davis Betty Irene Moore Fellowship for Nurse Leaders and Innovators Program

Project Period: 07/2023-06/2026

Total funding: \$500,000 (\$500,000 direct + \$0 indirect)

Project description: This Fellowship supports promising nurse scholars in completing an innovative project through leadership development and mentorship in addition to funding support. Through this grant supplementing her NIH STTR funding, Dr. Hetland will optimize the alpha version of the mobile app she has developed, the Family Room, and ultimately make it commercially available to hospitals throughout the US. The Family Room prototype, developed in partnership with clinicians and family caregivers, supports family caregiver participation in patient care in the ICU.



Hetland

PROJECT TEAM

PI: Breanna Hetland PhD RN, CCRN-K, *Assistant Professor, College of Nursing-Omaha, Nurse Scientist-Nebraska Medicine*

Statistician: Kevin Kupzyk, PhD, *Assistant Professor, CON-Omaha*

Mentor: Jessica Castner, PhD RN-BC, FAEN, FAAN, *CEO Castner Incorporated, Professor and Director of Nursing, University at Albany School of Public Health*

Mentor: Mary Beth Happ, PhD, RN, FAAN, FGSA, *Nursing Distinguished Professor of Clinical Care Research and Associate Dean for Research and Innovation at The Ohio State University College of Nursing*

Clinical Expert: Josie Jones, BSN, RN, *Staff Nurse, ICU-Nebraska Medicine*

Project Coordinator: Taeylr Weekly, MPH, BSN, RN-BC, *PhD Candidate, CPH*

Graduate Assistant: Lauren Sigmon, BSN, *MSN Student, CON*



Kupzyk

Internal Funding

Reducing Disease Burden after Acute Exacerbation Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (REBOUND)

Sponsor: NU Nebraska Research Initiative Fund

Project Period: 07/2023-06/2025

Total funding: \$119,322 (\$119,332 direct + \$0 indirect)

Project description: This project will evaluate the impact of the REBOUND intervention on self-management to reduce disease burden of patients with low socioeconomic status following acute exacerbation of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). The REBOUND intervention includes: a) Self-management of COPD health coaching using motivational interviewing to promote patient activation emphasizing illness management to reduce disease burden and b) use of an exercise and relaxation intervention using eXtended Reality (XR), an umbrella of virtual reality technology. The results will support the project team in applying to NIH R01 funding opportunity PAR-22-230: National Institute of Nursing Research Areas of Emphasis for Research to Optimize Health and Advance Health Equity.



Barnason

PROJECT TEAM

Co-PIs:

Sue Barnason, PhD, RN, APRN-CNS, CEN, CCRN, FAEN, FAHA, FAAN, *Christine Heide Sorensen Professor in Nursing, CON-Lincoln*
Sue Schuelke, PhD, RN-BC, CNE, CCRN-K, *Assistant Professor, CON-Lincoln*

Jennifer N. Miller PhD, RN, APRN-NP, *Assistant Professor, CON-Lincoln*

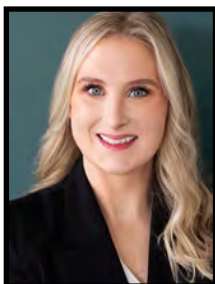
Kevin Kupzyk, *Assistant Professor, CON-Omaha*

Joseph Siu, PhD, *Associate Professor, UNMC College of Allied Health Professions, Department of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences*

Julie Lanz, PhD, *Associate Dean and Associate Professor, University of Nebraska-Kearney College of Arts and Sciences.*



Schuelke



Miller



Kupzyk



Siu



Lanz

Internal Funding - continued

Prototyping of a ruggedized powered air purifying respirator (PAPR) for healthcare use in austere conditions

Sponsor: NU Nebraska Research Initiative Fund

Project Period: 07/2023-06/2025

Total funding: \$71,122 (\$71,122 direct + \$0 indirect)

Project description: The project team aims to develop an improved PAPR design to be used in complex health care environments during ground and air transport by military teams, where the difficulty to provide adequate care is amplified. This proposal complements the project team's work to improve the existing PAPR design, by focusing on assessment during transport by military aeromedical teams and development of a ruggedized version that meets these additional needs.



Beam

PROJECT TEAM

Co-PIs:

Elizabeth Beam, PhD, RN, *HEROES Program Director, Associate Professor, CON-Omaha; NSRI Fellow & Affiliate Faculty, UNMC Global Center for Health Security*

Bethany Lowndes, PhD, MPH, *Assistant Professor, COM, Department of Neurological Sciences*

Project Manager - Sarah Dunsmore, PhD, *CON-Omaha Staff*



Lowndes



Internal Funding - continued

Research Pilot Award

Sponsor: UNMC Nebraska Center for Women's Health Research

Project Period: 07/2023-06/2025

Total funding: \$25,000 (\$25,000 direct + \$0 indirect)

Project description: The three goals of this project are to: 1) determine if the relationship between emphysema and Pelvic Organ Prolapse is strong enough to merit an in-depth research proposal; 2) demonstrate the feasibility of evaluating mechanistic connections between these conditions; and 3) establish a new collaborative team capable of pursuing these questions.

PROJECT TEAM

Co-PIs:

Jennifer Cera, DNP, APRN-NP, WHNP-BC, Assistant Professor, UNMC CON-Omaha

Stephen Rennard, MD, Professor, UNMC COM Department of Internal Medicine-Pulmonary, Critical Care, and Sleep Division

Lynda Harris, PhD, Associate Professor, UNMC COM Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology



Cera

Co-Is:

Derek Kruse, MD, Assistant Professor, UNMC COM-Pulmonary, Critical Care, and Sleep Division

Matt DeVries, MD, Associate Professor, UNMC COM-Department of Radiology

Edward S. Peters, DMD, SM, ScD, FACE, Professor and Chair, UNMC COPH Department of Epidemiology

Raúl San José Estépar, PhD, Associate Professor, Harvard Medical School-Department of Radiology, Co-Director, Applied Chest Imaging Laboratory at Brigham and Women's Hospital

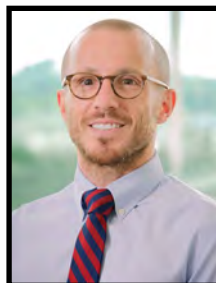


Rennard

Project Coordinator: Claire Landgren, BS, Clinical Study Specialist, UNMC COM-Pulmonary, Critical Care, and Sleep Division



Harris



Kruse



DeVries



Peters



San José
Estépar

STUDENT RESEARCH

Three College of Nursing BSN Students Chosen to Participate in the Summer Undergraduate Research Program (SURP)

UNMC hosts freshman, sophomore, or junior year undergraduate students from around the country in the research-intensive SURP. Students spend 10 weeks on campus as an integrated member of a research team, giving them the opportunity to gain valuable scientific skills and knowledge. Placement in the program is competitive and comes with a stipend. Students attend enrichment seminars throughout the summer. SURP culminates in a poster session where students design and present a poster based on the research in which they participated.

Three undergraduate students from the College of Nursing, **Jillian Bierbower**, **Kyle Hughes**, and **Troy Scheer**, were chosen to participate in SURP 2023. All three are also in the BSN Honors program. Each student received positive feedback from poster session attendees about their research.

Bierbower project title: *Touchscreen Crash Cart Dashboard Insights: Registered Nurses' Observations and Evaluations*

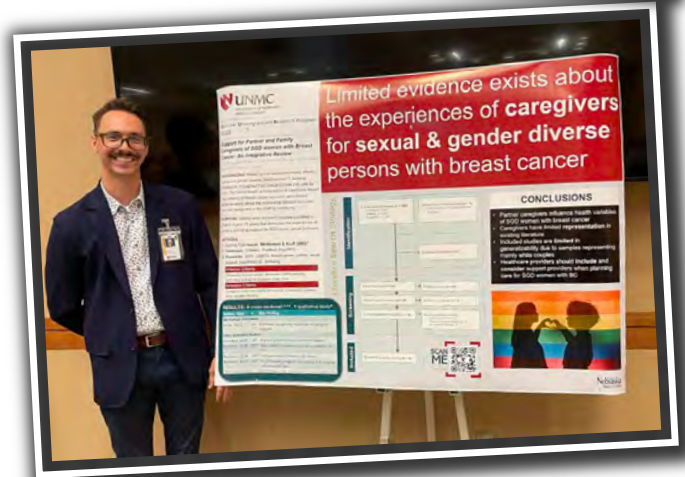
Advisors: Missy Ofe Fleck, PhD, MSN, RN; Janet L. Nieveen, PhD, RN; & Suhasini Kotcherlakota, PhD

Hughes project title: *Partner and Family Caregivers for Sexual and Gender Diverse (SGD) Persons with Breast Cancer: An Integrative Review*

Advisors: Robin M. Lally, PhD, MS, BA, RN, AOCN, FAAN & Andrew Lim, PhD(c), BSN, RN

Scheer project title: *The Influence of Outcome Expectations on Adherence to Exercise in Adults with Heart Failure Enrolled in an Exercise Study*

Advisors: Windy Alonso, PhD, RN, FHFSA, FAHA & Erin Salahshurian, BSN, RN, PhD candidate



Images: BSN Honors students stand with their posters at the SURP poster session on August 10, 2023 at UNMC. **Top:** Bierbower, **Middle:** Hughes, **Bottom:** Scheer



NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Michele Balas, PhD, RN,
CCRN-K, FCCM, FAAN

Michele Balas Named UNMC's 18th Scientist Laureate

"The Scientist Laureate is UNMC's highest award for research. Nominees must be a nationally and internationally recognized research leader in his or her field, previously recognized as a Distinguished Scientist, and contributed to the UNMC research community for at least five years."

Dr. Balas was recognized at the Distinguished Scientist Awards Ceremony on November 9, 2023 at the Durham Research Center Auditorium. This annual celebration of UNMC researchers began in 2007 and this is the first year that a researcher from the College of Nursing has been named as Scientist Laureate.

Dr. Balas recently secured funding (\$6.6 million) for her BEST-ICU study (Behavioral Economic and Staffing Strategies To Increase Adoption of the ABCDEF Bundle in the Intensive Care Unit), a clinical research trial aimed at improving critically ill patients' outcomes.

View the awards ceremony print program [here](#).



Alonso



Mollard

Two College of Nursing Faculty Recognized with UNMC's New Investigator Award

Windy Alonso, PhD, RN, FHFSA and **Libby Mollard, PhD, CNM, WHNP** were each recognized with a New Investigator Award from UNMC at the Distinguished Scientist Awards Ceremony on November 9, 2023.

"The New Investigator Award goes to UNMC scientists who have secured their first major, independent funding from a national source. New Investigators also have demonstrated their scholarship in published research."

Both researchers are Assistant Professors in the College of Nursing and both recently secured national funding for their projects. Dr. Alonso's research focuses on exercise, adherence, and heart failure. Dr. Mollard's research focuses on maternal health disparities.

Dr. Alonso's project is HEART Camp Connect - Promoting Adherence to Exercise in Adults with Heart Failure with Preserved Ejection Fraction and Dr. Mollard's project is PARITY: An Integrated Community Care and Strengths-based Technology Intervention to Improve Maternal Wellness and Reduce Health Disparities in Black Women.

RESOURCES

The College of Nursing is pleased to offer the following support at no cost to our faculty and students:

- Short-term Graduate Research Assistant support: submit request at <https://app1.unmc.edu/nursing/nncra/>
- Statistical consultation: submit request at <https://app1.unmc.edu/nursing/BioStatsRequest/>
- Proposal submission support: contact Debi Kibbee at dkibee@unmc.edu
- Grants management support: contact Don Houy don.houy@unmc.edu
- For guidance on research plan development: contact leah.niebaum@unmc.edu to schedule a meeting with our Associate Dean for Research, Dr. Michele Balas.

For a full description of our faculty support services visit

<https://www.unmc.edu/nursing/research/niedfelt-center/services/index.html>

Are you an Early Career Researcher? Here are incredible resources to support you on your research journey!

- The Great Plains IDeA-CTR offers mock reviews of grant proposals and guidance with aims page development: <https://gpctr.unmc.edu/cores/professional-development/research-studios/>
- Johns Hopkins University maintains a listing of grants available to early career researchers: <https://research.jhu.edu/rdt/funding-opportunities/early-career/>



Need research-related support not listed here?

Contact us!
nncra@unmc.edu