



VILLANOVA NURSING

Faculty Research Interests

ANGELINA ARCAMONE, PhD, RN. (Clinical Assistant Professor). Dr. Arcamone received both her BSN and MSN (Nursing Administration) from Villanova University, and a PhD (Nursing Education) from Widener University. Her clinical area of expertise is Maternal-Child Nursing. She has completed research in outcomes associated with attendance at prepared childbirth classes and promoting health in pregnant women. Her areas of interest include promoting health in pregnant woman, clinical education, clinical and classroom teaching strategies, and strategies that promote student success on NCLEX.

ELIZABETH BLUNT, PhD, MSN, APRN, BC. (Assistant Professor). Dr. Blunt received a BSN from Widener University, an MSN from the University of Pennsylvania, and a PhD in Educational Leadership and Technology from Drexel University. She is a family nurse practitioner with a practice focus on emergency department and trauma care. She has completed research in pharmaceutical company influence on NP prescribing practices and NP procedural skills. Her interests are in nurse practitioner roles and practice, pharmaceutical marketing, the nursing shortage, and international nursing issues.

BETTI BRUDERLE, PhD RN (Clinical Assistant Professor) has been a full-time faculty member in the College of Nursing since 1990, where her primary teaching responsibilities have been classroom, laboratory, and clinical instruction of freshman, sophomore, and graduate students. She received a Master of Science in Nursing from Villanova University and a PhD in Nursing Science from Widener University. Dr. Bruderle has presented and published on the use of creative teaching strategies, simulation scenarios, deliberate practice, peer mentoring, integrating standardized patients with disabilities into nursing education, and integrating the QSEN competency Safety into the course, Essentials of Nursing Practice. Additional areas of interest include curriculum design and implementation.

SHERRY ANN BURRELL, PhD, RN, CNE (Assistant Professor). Dr. Burrell received her BSN from Thomas Jefferson University, MSN from Widener University (nurse educator and adult clinical nurse specialist), and a PhD in nursing from Villanova University. Her area of clinical expertise is Adult Health and Oncology Nursing. Her research is focused upon improving quality of life in persons with cancer, cancer survivors, and cancer caregivers through advancing nursing care. She is currently examining the presence of symptom clusters and the effect that symptom clusters have on quality of life in persons with pancreatic cancer undergoing surgery. Other areas of interest include symptom management, nursing education, and nursing care in cancer, chronic illness, and at the end-of-life.

MARY ANN CANTRELL, PhD, RN, FAAN. (Professor, Director of the PhD Program). Dr. Cantrell received a BSN from Duquesne University, a MSN (in Nursing Education) from Villanova University and a PhD from the University of Maryland. Her clinical area of expertise is Parent/Child Health Nursing and Oncology Nursing. She has two programs of research. Her clinical program of research focuses on advancing the care for pediatric oncology patients, across the illness trajectory, with a focus on health-related quality of life. These studies have included on-line interventions, secondary data analyses, and qualitative investigations. Included within this body of work are studies about the significance of a caring presence among pediatric oncology nurses as an essential component to foster positive treatment outcomes, especially health-related quality of life (HRQOL, for pediatric oncology patients. Her other program of research involves simulation-based research among pre-licensure students to examine practice outcomes that include clinical judgment, clinical reasoning and safety.***

THERESA CAPRIOTTI, DO, MSN, CRNP. (Clinical Associate Professor). Dr. Capriotti received a BSN from the State University of New York at Buffalo, a MSN from Villanova University in Nursing Education and DO from New York College of Osteopathic Medicine. Her clinical areas of expertise are pathophysiology and primary care of adults. She has completed research in cardiovascular disease in women with disability, osteoporosis in women with disability, and various clinical care disorders pertaining to the primary care provider. She has published more than 50 articles pertaining to primary care and preventive health care. She has published a textbook: Pathophysiology: Introductory Concepts and Clinical Perspectives, 2016, Phila: FA Davis.

LINDA C. COPEL, PhD, RN, PMHCNS, BC, CNE, ANEF, NCC, CGP, FAPA. (Professor). Dr. Copel received a BSN from the University of Delaware, an MSN (in Adult Health Advanced Clinical Practice/Education) from the University of Texas at Arlington, an MSMFT (in Marriage and Family Therapy) from Texas Women's University, and a PhD (in Nursing Research and Theory Development/ Psychology) from Texas Women's University. Her clinical areas are Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing, Adult Health Nursing, Community Mental Health and Individual, Group, Marriage and Family Therapy. She is certified as an Advanced Practice Nurse in adult psychiatric mental health nursing by the American Nurses Association Nursing Credentialing Center, as a National Certified Counselor by the National Board for Certified Counselors, as a Family Life Educator by the National Council for Family Relations, as a Certified Bereavement Counselor with Palliative Care Certification by the American Academy of Bereavement, as a Certified Group Psychotherapist by the International Group Psychotherapy Association, and as a Certified Trauma Psychotherapist by the American Psychological Association. In addition she has earned the designation of Fellow in Psychotherapy and Fellow in the Psychological Specialty of Trauma by the American Psychotherapy Association. She has completed research on intimate partner violence, women's physical and mental health issues, women with disabilities and stigma. Her other areas of interest include clinical practice, family dynamics, military families, and concept analysis.***

ELIZABETH B. DOWDELL, PhD, RN. (Professor). Dr. Dowdell received a BSN from Vanderbilt University, an MS (in Nursing) from Boston College and Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania. Her clinical area is Maternal/Child Health Nursing. She has completed research in the areas of grandmother care givers, preadolescent's exposure to violence, preadolescent's health and nutrition knowledge, and child maltreatment. She has worked with the FBI researching infant abductions from home and hospitals. She is currently continuing her research with preadolescents, and grandmother care givers, preadolescents, issues of violence, and health policy.

ANNE M. FINK, PhD, RN, CNE (Assistant Professor). Dr. Fink received her BSN from Thomas Jefferson University, MSN from DeSales University (Nursing Education and Community Health tracks), and earned her PhD from Villanova University, College of Nursing. Her clinical area is Maternal/ Child Health Nursing. She has completed research in the areas of postpartum information needs of new mothers and methods of knowledge acquisition as well as work related to Puerto Rican women and infants, and health disparities. Other areas of interest include cultural competence, teaching strategies, evaluation and measurement of learning, curricular evaluation and revision, clinical informatics, and academic administration and regulation.

JENNIFER GUNBERG ROSS, PhD, RN, CNE. (Assistant Professor). Dr. Ross received her BSN, MSN (Nursing Education), and PhD from Villanova University College of Nursing. Her clinical area of expertise is Adult Health. She is a Certified Nurse Educator. She has completed research in the effect of various innovative teaching strategies on undergraduate nursing students' knowledge, skills, and attitudes. Her areas of interest include simulation, evidence-based teaching, and nursing education research.

SUNNY G. HALLOWELL, PhD, APRN-BC, IBCLC (Assistant Professor). Dr. Hallowell received her BSN from the University of Toronto in Toronto, Canada, and earned her MSN (Acute Care Pediatrics) and PhD (Nursing) degrees from the University of Pennsylvania. She completed her postdoctoral work in Advanced Training in Nursing Outcomes Research at the Center for Health Outcomes where she was also a Fellow of the Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics at the University of Pennsylvania. She is trained as a health services researcher. Her recent publications focus on the associations between the hospital workforce and the outcomes of infants in neonatal intensive care (NICU) and her current research examines the effects of health system organization, work environments and nurse staffing on the health, safety and quality of pediatric outcomes including breastfeeding and the use of human milk in the NICU.

JANICE L. HINKLE, PhD, RN, CNRN. (Fellow). Dr. Hinkle received a BSN from the University of Utah (Salt Lake City), an MSN (in Neuroscience Nursing) from the University of Virginia (Charlottesville), and a PhD (in Nursing) from the University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia). Her clinical expertise is in neuroscience nursing and she is certified in that specialty. Her research interests are in neuroscience nursing and she has completed and published research studies on functional outcome after acute stroke, and stroke risk factors. Other areas of research interest include, head injury, family visitation, neuroscience nursing critical care orientation, mentoring, and measurement in nursing.***

TAMARA KEAR, PhD, RN, CNN. (Associate Professor). Dr. Kear received a BSN from Gwynedd-Mercy University, an MSN (Clinical Nurse Specialist track) from Thomas Jefferson University, and a PhD from Villanova University. She is a practicing and certified nephrology nurse (CNN) and the Research Consultant for Mainline Health. Dr. Kear's area of research focuses on safety and the culture of safety in nephrology nurse practice settings. She has used AHRQ Patient Safety tools to conduct these studies and has several publications on the AHRQ website. She also focuses her research on the care of the patient with kidney disease. She developed and published a hypertension management tool engaging patients using social media. Other areas of interest include transformative learning, patient empowerment, evidence-based nursing practice, patient hand-off across care settings, and nurse safety.

MICHELLE M. KELLY, PhD, CRNP. (Assistant Professor). Dr. Kelly received her BSN and PhD from Villanova University, a MSN as a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner from University of Pennsylvania, a post-masters Neonatal Nurse Practitioner Certificate from Thomas Jefferson University. She is dual certified as a pediatric and neonatal nurse practitioner. Her clinical expertise includes both acute and primary care of infants and children, with a focus on children born prematurely. Research interests include the health-related quality of life, special health-care needs, as well as educational and psychosocial outcomes of children born prematurely. Recently that work has extended to assessing the understanding of primary care providers, elementary and secondary education professionals regarding the educationally relevant outcomes children born prematurely. Other areas of interest include increasing an understanding of genetics / genomics in baccalaureate and advanced practiced nursing education.

MARGARET G. LYONS, DNP, RN, CRNI. (Clinical Assistant Professor). Dr. Lyons received her BSN from Villanova University, MSN (Adult Health / Oncology) from the University of Pennsylvania and a DNP from Thomas Jefferson University. Her clinical areas of expertise include Medical Surgical Nursing and Home Infusion Nursing. She maintains her certification in Infusion Nursing and continues to teach IV insertion classes for Continuing Education. She has completed research related to the standardization of flushing protocols for Peripherally Inserted Central Catheters (PICC) in Home care clients. She is currently the administrator for the RN-BSN Online Program. Her areas of interest include online education, adult learning and the promotion of positive outcomes for Home care / Home infusion clients.

MEREDITH A. MACKENZIE, PhD, RN, CRNP, CNE. (Assistant Professor). Dr. MacKenzie received her BSN from Messiah College ('07), dual MSNs in Adult Primary Care and Geriatric Primary Care ('10), a post-master's certificate in Nursing Education ('13) and her PhD from the University of Pennsylvania ('14). She is an adult/geriatric nurse practitioner and a certified nurse educator. She specializes in palliative care and end-of-life issues. Her research primarily focuses on patients with end-stage chronic disease (particularly heart failure) and their family/informal caregivers. Dr. MacKenzie is experienced with the use of large national datasets and statistical techniques such as propensity score matching. In addition, Dr. MacKenzie is NCLEX preparation expert, having worked extensively with Kaplan Test Prep as faculty and faculty mentor.

BETTE MARIANI, PhD, RN, ANEF (Associate Professor). Dr. Mariani received her BSN from Villanova University; her MSN in Adult Health from the University of Pennsylvania; and her PhD in Nursing with a focus on nursing education from Widener University. Dr. Mariani's area of clinical focus is on adults in acute care and community/health promotion settings. She has worked extensively with nursing students in International clinical sites in Nicaragua, Peru, Panama, and South Africa. Her research interests are mainly focused on educational strategies and advancing the science of nursing education through simulation to improve student learning outcomes such as clinical judgement and decision making and quality outcomes for people throughout various healthcare settings, as well as in the community. Dr. Mariani also has experience in instrument development and psychometric testing, and has development several instruments. Additionally, Dr. Mariani has studied the effects of mentoring on nursing and nursing faculty.**

RUTH MCDERMOTT-LEVY, PhD, MSN, MPH, RN. (Associate Professor & Director, Center for Global and Public Health). Dr. McDermott-Levy received her BSN from Wilkes University, a MSN (in Community Health and Nursing Education) from Villanova University, a Masters in Public Health (focus: global and environmental health) from University of Massachusetts-Amherst, and a PhD (in Nursing Education) from Villanova University. Her clinical area of focus is Public Health Nursing. She has completed research in the areas of international student experience studying in the U.S. and returning home, community health workers in Nicaragua, Arab immigrants in the U.S., and health concerns in fracking communities. She has relies primarily on qualitative (descriptive and phenomenology) and Delphi methods. Her areas of continuing interest include health concerns and environmental health education of extraction communities and indoor air quality in Philadelphia.**

AMY MCKEEVER, PhD, CRNP. (Assistant Professor). Dr. McKeever is a certified women's health nurse practitioner and has been practicing for over 20 years. She received her undergraduate degree in nursing (BSN) from Gwynedd-Mercy University, her graduate degree (MSN) and women's health nurse practitioner from University of Pennsylvania, and her PhD in nursing education from Villanova University. She has worked in every area of women's health, including: low and high risk obstetrics, ambulatory gynecology, and gynecologic oncology. For the past 11 years she has worked with marginalized underserved populations who are low-income, undocumented, and have complex maternal child health care and social issues. Her area of research and scholarship is: low-income perinatal healthcare and health education with a focus on re-envisioning how we as a country deliver prenatal care and prenatal education using a life-course perspective, and complex and chronic women's health issues that affect the reproductive life course.

JIM MENDEZ, PhD, CRNP. (Assistant Professor). Dr. Mendez is a certified adult health nurse practitioner and has been practicing for 25 years. He holds a BA in Biology from Swarthmore College and an ADN from Delaware County Community College. He received his baccalaureate degree in nursing (BSN) from Wilmington University, his graduate degree (MSN) and adult health nurse practitioner certification from the University of Pennsylvania, and his PhD in nursing education from Villanova University. Dr. Mendez has practiced at the Penn Transplant Institute of the University of Pennsylvania since 2001. He concentrates his efforts in the inpatient and outpatient care of patients who have undergone cardiothoracic transplantation. In addition, he has practiced at the St. Agnes Nurses' Center in West Chester, PA for ten years, providing free primary care services to adults without health insurance, including many immigrants from Central and South America. Dr. Mendez's research interests center on the impact of psychosocial predictors on post-transplant outcomes. He is a certified trainer for the EPIC electronic medical record system and has an interest in the application of technology to patient care. Dr. Mendez teaches courses in pharmacology, clinical ethics, and the care of the adult patient with complex health issues.

HELENE MORIARTY, PhD, RN, FAAN. (Professor, Diane & Robert Moritz, Jr. Endowed Chair in Nursing Research) since 2013 and Nurse Researcher (Philadelphia Veterans Affairs Medical Center) since 1993. Dr. Moriarty received a BSN from Villanova University, a MSN in Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing from University of Pennsylvania, and a PhD in Nursing with a related field in Family Systems from University of Pennsylvania. Her clinical areas of expertise are Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing and Family Nursing. In her VA role, Dr. Moriarty directed a robust nursing research program that addressed the complex needs of our nation's military veterans and their families. Dr. Moriarty's entire career has focused on improving our understanding and care of individuals and families experiencing severe stressors, with a special emphasis on veterans and their families. Her current NIH-funded study evaluates the impact of an in-home intervention for veterans with traumatic brain injury and their families. Her other areas of research include: chronic illness, trauma, mental health, infection control, patient safety, and patient/family engagement in health care. She has conducted research using quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods.***

MELISSA O'CONNOR, PhD, MBA, RN (Associate Professor). Dr. O'Connor received her BSN from Thomas Jefferson University, Master's in business administration from Eastern University and a PhD (Nursing) from the University of Pennsylvania. She also holds a post-master's certificate in applied health informatics from Johns Hopkins University. Her clinical area of expertise is in home health, transitional care, applied health informatics and geriatric nursing. Dr. O'Connor continues to practice in home health and maintains an active program of research exploring issues related to older adults living in the community and is currently developing a discharge decision support tool that will assist home health clinicians to determine an older adult's readiness for discharge from skilled home health.**

TRACY L. OLIVER PHD, RDN, LDN (Associate Professor). Dr. Oliver received her BS from the University of Pittsburgh (in Clinical Dietetics and Nutrition) and both her MEd and PhD from Temple University (in Kinesiology with a concentration in Exercise Physiology). She has completed research in the areas of obesity and weight management. Her areas of interest also include obesity prevention and management, childhood obesity, nutrition and wellness, nutrition education, behavior modification and physical activity.

LESLEY A. PERRY, PhD, RN. (Professor). Dr. Perry received a BS in Nursing from Roberts Wesleyan College, a MS in Maternal Child Nursing from Boston University and a PhD in Human Development from the University of Maryland. She has completed research in the area of stress and coping in parents of children with chronic illnesses and outcomes of educational articulation models. Her interests include stress and coping, chronic illness in children and higher education.

SARA REEDER, PhD, RN. (Associate Professor). Dr. Reeder received her BSN from Howard University, MSN as a cardiovascular clinical specialist from University of Maryland and PhD from University of Maryland. She completed postdoctoral studies in cardiovascular disease at the University of Pittsburgh. She has done research in the area of women with cardiovascular disease, heart failure, and childhood obesity and cardiovascular risk factors. She has guided numerous evidence based practice projects and has published several studies related to her research.

MARGUERITE K. SCHLAG, EdD, RN. (Associate Professor). Dr. Schlag received a BSN from Villanova University, an MSN from the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing at Case Western Reserve University (in Medical/Surgical Nursing/Education) and an Ed.D from Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey (in Anthropology of Education). She has completed research in hospice home care. Her areas of interest are nursing administration, work redesign, staff development, hospice, and cultural influence in health care.

NANCY C.SHARTS-HOPKO, PhD, RN, CNE, ANEF, FAAN. (Professor). Dr. Sharts-Hopko received a BSN from Indiana University and both an MA (Nursing Education/Higher Education minor) and PhD (Nursing Research) from New York University. Her clinical area is Maternal/Infant and Women's Health Nursing. She has completed research related to perceived health status in women and life transitions including disability and vision loss, and nursing education, particularly doctoral education. Her other research interest areas are menopause, breast cancer risk and coping, health appraisal, stress and coping, attitude toward gender roles, osteoporosis prevention, transcultural adjustment, international health concerns, and educational outcomes.***

SUZANNE C. SMELTZER, EdD, RN, ANEF, FAAN. (Professor and Director, Center for Nursing Research). Dr. Smeltzer received a BSN from St. Louis University, and MS (in nursing) from Texas Woman's University, and an EdD in Education from University of Pennsylvania. She completed a post-doctoral research fellowship as a Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Nurse Scholar at University of Rochester School of Nursing. Her clinical area is adult health, and her research and publications reflect her longstanding interest in health issues of people with disabilities, with a specific interest in pregnancy in women with disabilities. Her research interests include a focus on education of health care professionals, including nurses, to provide quality health care to individuals with disabilities. In addition, she has conducted research related to issues of PhD and DNP doctoral program faculty.***

CATHERINE M. TODD MAGEL, EdD, RN. (Assistant Professor). Dr. Todd received a BS and an MS (in Medical/Surgical Nursing with a minor in Teaching) from Adelphi University and an EdD (in Curriculum Theory and Development) from Temple University. Her clinical area is Adult Health Nursing. She has completed research in program development and cardiovascular health, and her areas of interest are nursing program development and evaluation, test construction, and Adult Health/acute and chronic nursing care.

THERESA M. "TERRY" VALIGA, EdD, RN, CNE, ANEF, FAAN. (PhD Program Fellow). Dr. Valiga received a BS (in Nursing) from Trenton State College and both a MEd (in Nursing Education; Adult Health and Illness) and EdD (Nursing Education; Curriculum and Instruction) from Teachers College, Columbia University. Her clinical area has been Adult Health Nursing. She has completed research related to students' cognitive/intellectual development, key curriculum concepts, innovative teaching methods, leadership development of students, student perceptions of effective teachers, and student evaluations of teachers and courses.

CAROL TOUSSIE WEINGARTEN, PhD, RN. (Associate Professor). Dr. Weingarten received a BA from Barnard College of Columbia University, an MS (in Nursing) from the Graduate School of Nursing at New York Medical College and an MA and PhD (in Nursing), both from New York University. Her clinical area is Parent/Child Nursing, particularly the health of working parents, preparation for parenthood, and the psychodynamics of high-risk parenting. She has completed research related to the perception of newborns held by mothers, the mother-infant relationship, post-partum self-assessment, maternal adaptation, and the needs of mothers of high-risk infants. Her other areas of interest are collaborative research and nursing photography.

*** Doctoral faculty

** Faculty who are eligible to chair a dissertation

The remaining faculty on the list are eligible to serve as the second dissertation committee member.