

Evaluation of the John A. Hartford Foundation's Building Academic Geriatric Nursing Scholars Program: An Interim Report on a Program Administered by the American Academy of Nursing

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A Report by The Measurement Group¹
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Summary. This preliminary and interim evaluation report was prepared after the cohort of 2001 Geriatric Nursing Scholars (10 Pre-Doctoral and 7 Post-Doctoral) funded by The John A. Hartford Foundation had spent 18 months in the program and after the cohort of 2002 Geriatric Nursing Scholars (11 Pre-Doctoral and 9 Post-Doctoral) had spent 6 months in the program. The findings are very early ones and may under-estimate the longer term impact that this program will have on academic geriatric nursing as a profession, the preparation of geriatric nursing leaders, and improved geriatric patient care. Nonetheless, even after this short period of time, it is very clear that the program is a highly successful one whose Scholars are establishing themselves as productive professionals in their chosen field and, in many cases, exhibiting strong signs of professional leadership. Productivity among the Pre-Doctoral Scholars is demonstrated by significant progress toward completing doctoral research and dissertations, presentations at professional meetings, and publications. There are also signs that the Pre-Doctoral Scholars are starting to become strongly linked to a cadre of more senior faculty and professionals in the field. Productivity and leadership among the Post-Doctoral Scholars is exhibited in terms of presentations at professional meetings, scientific publications, steps toward securing independent research funding, linkages to a cadre of more senior faculty and professionals in the field, the development of strong networks among Hartford Post-Doctoral Scholars and senior professionals, and in the mentoring of Hartford Pre-Doctoral Scholars and other graduate students. The success of the overall Initiative is indicated by the linkages that have been formed between current leaders in the field and the cohorts of Hartford Scholars. The Scholars have a strong perception that linkages are being made that facilitate their career development. In addition, the Initiative is viewed successfully by leaders in the field, including senior representatives of major nursing professional associations. The management of the programs has been very effective.

¹ This report was prepared by George J. Huba, Ph.D.; Le Quach, MPH; and Lisa A. Melchior, Ph.D.; with contributions from Carrie McGraw; and Abigail T. Panter, Ph.D., as one part of the evaluation of the John A. Hartford Foundation's Gerontological Nursing Initiative. The overall design for this portion of the evaluation was developed by George J. Huba, Ph.D. and the staff of The Measurement Group, in consultation with the John A. Hartford Foundation, the Project Director (Claire M. Fagin, Ph.D.) for the AAN Project that supports the Scholars Program, the Directors of the five John A. Hartford Foundation Centers of Geriatric Nursing Excellence (Patricia Archbold, Ph.D.; Claudia Beverly, Ph.D.; Jeanie Kayser-Jones, Ph.D.; Meridean Maas, Ph.D.; Neville Strumpf, Ph.D.) and the Director of the Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing (Mathy Mezey, Ed.D.). The John A. Hartford Foundation Project Officer for this work is Sarajane Brittis, Ph.D. The conclusions expressed in this report are solely the responsibility of The Measurement Group as are the final methods of data collection and analysis. Special thanks are due to the 2001 and 2002 John A. Hartford Pre-Doctoral and Post-Doctoral Geriatric Nursing Scholars who told us of their experiences in the program and achievements to date.

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