

Major Research Projects

2001 Pre-Doctoral Scholars

- An Exploratory Study of Delirium in Older Home Hospice Patients with Advanced Cancer [aims to describe the nature and course of delirium, and to evaluate adverse effects of delirium on patients and their family caregivers]
- Care Receiver Satisfaction with Family Care [looks at family caregiving to frail elders in the home from the perspectives of the caregiver and from the satisfaction of the elders]
- Culturally Sensitive Models of Stroke Recovery and Caregiving after Discharge Home
- Culture Bias in Testing Expressive Ability in Dementia
- Decision Making Capacity in Older Adults with Mild to Moderate Dementia [looks at qualitative and quantitative analysis on thought processes of people with dementia]
- Differences in Medical Care of Diabetes Mellitus and Hypertension for Older Adults with and without Dementia [project being developed]
- Elder Transfer from Nursing Home to Emergency Department: The Experience of Key Decision Makers [identifies and captures the experiences of the persons most likely involved in the decision to transfer an elderly nursing home resident to the emergency department for an unplanned event]
- Emotional Responses and Vigilance among Caregivers of Cognitive Enhancer Therapy Recipients
- Ethnography of Dying in Long Term Care Facilities [aims to describe, from the elderly Chinese residents' perspective, the satisfaction and concerns about their care as residents of a long-term care facility]
- Evaluation of Delirium in Older Hospitalized Cancer Patients [examines delirium in a subset of hospitalized older cancer patients to compare characteristics and patterns of delirium in cancer patients and patients with non-cancer diagnoses]
- From Hospital to Home [case analysis of critical transitions for older adults with cancer and their family caregivers]
- Managing Malignant Wounds To Help Patients Achieve Control Of Odor, Exudates, Pain, And Purities
- Prospective Testing the Predictive Validity of a Discharge Planning Screen [attempts to identify variables available early in an adult patient's hospital stay that predict the need for specialized discharge planning hospital resources]
- The Effect of Family Involvement in Care Intervention on Cognitive and Functional Outcomes of Institutionalized Elders with Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias [analyzes an existing data base for relationships between the amount of family involvement with NH elders and specific functional, cognitive, and global outcomes]
- The Importance of Educational Topics as Perceived by Patients with Coronary Artery Disease in the Immediate Post-discharge Time Period [aims to identify what educational topics were perceived as important during the two weeks following discharge by patients hospitalized with a cardiac primary diagnosis]
- The Sensitivity of the RMBPC for Detecting Dyadic Responses to Anti-dementia Pharmacotherapy

2001 Post-Doctoral Scholars

- 30-Day Hospital Readmission Rates Among Medicare Beneficiaries Following Surgical Treatment for Colorectal Cancer [evaluates early hospital readmission and prior service use among older persons surgically treated for colorectal cancer]
- Characterizing Pain in Cognitively-Impaired Nursing Home Residents [pilot study to identify major etiologies and behavioral indicators of pain in this population]
- Dehydration in Nursing Homes: Identification of Risk Factors and Effective Interventions [aims to validate and augment/revise the Hydration Risk Appraisal checklist (HRAC), determine the effect of hydration interventions in helping NH residents at high-risk and low-risk for dehydration meet and maintain a fluid goal.]
- Disability and Rehabilitation Services in Older Adults Following Cardiac Events [examines the predictors of disability in hospitalized elders at 3 and 6 weeks post discharge]
- Ethnicity and Race as Predictors of Nursing and Long-Term Care Service Use
- Experiences of Family of Cognitively Normal and Demented People after Brain Autopsy: Emotional and Behavioral Reaction Survey Development
- Family Caregiver Role Strain and Ease in Making LST Decisions for Elderly Relatives [instrument testing]
- Improving Outcomes of Nursing Home Interactions [research on Elder-Speak]
- Interorganizational Relationships and Postsurgical Cancer Care [in outcomes research grant phase III]
- Low Intensity Exercise Intervention for Frail Elders [studies the effects of an exercise intervention on functional status of frail elders]
- Medical infrastructure in U. S. Nursing Homes [project being developed]
- Overall Experiences of Family of Cognitively Normal and Demented People after Brain Autopsy

- Predictors of Disability in Hospitalized Elders [secondary data analysis including path analyses and structural equation modeling techniques]
- Promoting Equal Access to Long-Term Care Service Utilization among Diverse Ethnic Groups in Hawaii
- Rehospitalization Among Elders Surgically Treated for Colorectal Cancer [describes discharge destinations, rehospitalization and mortality rates by discharge destination for older persons surgically treated for colorectal cancer using Medicare data]
- Staff Training in Assisted Living Residences Project (STAR)
- Symptom Management and Rehospitalization for Older Persons following Surgical Treatment for Colorectal Cancer [aims to identify primary diagnoses for 60-day hospital readmission among older adults following surgical treatment for colorectal cancer and to sort out those diagnoses for which hospitalization may be preventable by nursing care]
- The Relationship between Acculturation and Use of Community-Based Services in Elderly Japanese Men
- The Relationship of Problematic Vocalization and Salivary Cortisol
- The Roles of Nursing Care Staff interacting with Family Members in the Context of a Family Conference about End-of-Life Care
- The Use of Contract Licensed Nursing Staff in U. S. Nursing Homes [aims to determine what kinds of nursing home market situations foster the use of contract RNs and LPNs; and to relate use of contract nursing staff to various indicators of quality of care in nursing homes]
- Transitions at the End of Life: Family Satisfaction and Information Continuity [examines family members ratings of the quality of end of life care in the last two care settings and whether respondents believed that health care providers had "enough information about patient's medical history to provide the best possible care"]
- Validation of Ambulatory Care Sensitive Diagnoses for Nursing Home Residents [project being developed]

2002 Pre-Doctoral Scholars

- A Fall Prevention Program for High Risk Elderly Women
- A Medico-Legal Analysis of Bed-Related Fall Injuries Among Hospitalized Older Adults
- Aging in Place
- An Ethnography of Dying in the Nursing Home
- Clinical Decision Support (CDS) to Reduce Adverse Drug Events in Home Care [integrates and tests a CDS system in computer technology to facilitate medication accuracy and aversion of adverse reactions in 250 elderly patients during the transition from hospital to home]
- Competency Based Curriculum in Nursing Genetics: A Qualitative Analysis of National Genetics Standards of Practice, Guidelines, and Recommendations [content analysis of evidence based published documents to look at themes and recommendations for core genetic knowledge competencies specific to nurses at the undergraduate and graduate level]
- Culturally Sensitive Models of Stroke Recovery and Caregivers after Discharge Home
- Culture Bias Testing Expressive Ability in Dementia
- Decision Making Under Uncertainty in Men with Prostate Cancer
- Developmental Center for Evaluation and Research in Patient Safety in Long-Term Care [pilot test of menu-driven incident reporting tool]
- Diabetes Uncertainty Management Intervention for Older African-American Women [aims to develop an intervention which address the uncertainties concerning diabetes management, give information about resources, and improve patient-provider communication]
- Ethics Education in Long Term Care [develop evaluation methods for a private foundation's programs concerning the use of ethical models and principles in long term care]
- Family Disclosure of Cancer Risk [ethnographic study about how women at risk for breast cancer feel about prophylactic mastectomy as an option to reduce breast cancer risk if they were to have a positive BRCA genetic test]
- Feasibility and Validity of Measuring Physical Activity with a Pedometer in Community-Dwelling Older Women
- Geriatric Nursing Education Project: Enhancing Gerontological/Geriatric Nursing Education at the University
- Heart Failure Community Based Clinic
- Improving Nighttime Care of Frail Nursing Home Residents
- MEPS (Medical Economic Panel Survey) project [examines nursing visits and patient outcomes in ambulatory care using an existing large dataset from Agency for Healthcare Quality and Research (AHCQR)]
- Pain Assessment in Older Adults
- Personal Functional Goals for Older Adults in a 16-Week Walking Program

- Pre/post comparison design using volunteers to assist nursing home residents to improve hydration status as measured by serum osmolality and oral fluid intake
- Secondary Outcomes of Stroke [public health study]

2002 Post-Doctoral Scholars

- A Pilot Study of Factors Contributing to Perceived Enactment of Autonomy in Older Adults [serves as the basis for the current large-scale study]
- A Survey of Nursing Faculty and Student Needs and Attitudes Related to Gerontological Nursing [project being developed]
- A Triangulated Study of Relationships among Perceived Autonomy, Self-Care Resources, and Health in Community-Dwelling Older Adults
- Appropriateness of Pharmacological Therapy in Nursing Homes at End of Life [investigates the type and amount of medication prescribed and given to nursing home residents at the end of life]
- Distraction Intervention Grant [tests a distraction intervention aimed at reducing pain and anxiety in children experiencing painful procedures (such as IV insertions)]
- Evaluating the Effect of Structured Written Emotional Expression (SWEE) on Caregiver Burden Outcomes [pilot study to prepare all instruments, instructions, ads, posters, brochures, consent for Human Subjects for a larger program]
- Family Health after Predictive Testing for Huntington Disease [aims to determine concerns and needs of families at various points across the HD trajectory. Results will be used for instrument and intervention development]
- Genotype Phenotype Correlations in Alzheimer Disease [pilot study of a longitudinal, multi-site effort to study the contribution of genetic variations in candidates with Alzheimer Disease genes on phenotypic variability in persons with Alzheimer Disease]
- Making the Decision to Place a Family Member in a Special Care Unit
- Morning and Evening Care in Nursing Homes
- Prevalence of Pressure Ulcers Among Terminally Ill Nursing Home Residents [seeks to understand the dynamics of pressure ulcer development in nursing home residents]
- Re-Evaluation of the Assessment and Management of the Falling Older Adult Nursing Home Resident [research proposal submitted]
- Relationship Between Nurse Staffing Levels and MDS Reported Pain Assessments [utilizes the new MDS pain quality indicator to examine the relationship between staffing levels and patient assessments of pain in nursing home residents]
- The Effect of Supplemental Fluid on Tissue Oxygen and Perfusion: A Pilot Study [aims to determine whether provision of supplemental fluid results in an increase in subcutaneous oxygen (hydration status) and oxygen at the pressure ulcer site]
- Written Emotional Expression & Caregiver Burden Outcomes

Note. From Scholar Evaluations, for the period of July 1, 2001-December 31, 2002 for 2001 cohort of Hartford Scholars; and for the period of July 1, 2002-December 31, 2002 for the 2002 cohort of Hartford Scholars. Some responses have been edited to ensure the confidentiality of the respondents.