Stepping into the new year, I extend warm wishes to you on behalf of the National Hartford Center of Gerontological Nursing Excellence (NHCGNE) leadership. May the coming year bring you joy, success, and a right blend of productivity and rest.

We are eager about continuing or initiating collaborations with you on both new and ongoing projects. Your dedication and expertise significantly contribute to the progress of our association, and we appreciate your commitment to advancing gerontological nursing. Moreover, NHCGNE thrives on the strength of its community, and we’re excited to invite members to actively shape the future of our organization. Thus, we are actively seeking volunteers to join and lead committees. A special invitation is extended to graduate students to bring in new perspectives and voices.

As Research in Gerontological Nursing is now the official journal of NHCGNE, we encourage all members to consider submitting their work to this well-established journal. Additionally, please remember to share this information with your leaders so that they can subscribe to the journal, ensuring that you and your colleagues have access to the knowledge presented within the journal’s pages or online.

Finally, your support is vital in sustaining the vibrant community that NHCGNE represents, so please remember to submit your renewal payments.

Here’s to a year brimming with achievements, growth, and meaningful collaborations.

Warm Regards,
NHCGNE is excited to share our 2023 Distinguished Educators in Gerontological Nursing. This year, we saw 22 Distinguished Educators achieve new heights in the Gerontological Nursing field. Follow the link below to view all of the recipients!

NIA Has New Funding Opportunities for 2024!

Attention New and Early Stage Investigators in the field of Gerontology! The National Institute on Aging (NIA) is prioritizing R01 applications from Early Stage Investigators (ESIs) and New Investigators (NIs) for substantial, independent research awards.

If you have completed your terminal research degree or post-graduate clinical training within the past 10 years, you may qualify. Explore funding opportunities, extension of ESI status, administrative supplements, and family-friendly initiatives. Don’t miss out on advancing your research and career training in aging – check out the NIA’s offerings and events for early career investigators now!

Claire Fagin, Renowned Nurse and Researcher, Dies at 97
NHCGNE acknowledges the passing of a great nursing leader who was instrumental in advancing nursing throughout her lifetime.

NHCGNE's Mentor Corner

Mentor Tip: Mentor or Advisor?

New year, new mentor? Just as we rang in 2024 with the hope and promise of a fresh start or a change that only a new year can bring, let us bring that sense of renewal to our mentoring relationships. Perhaps you are a mentee and in need of recommitting to the promise of meeting with our mentor regularly to make progress on a grant, publication, or revision of a course. Maybe you are a mentor and need to step back from mentoring that you cannot fully support at this time due to a new project or competing personal and professional demands.

May the start of 2024 allow us to reflect upon our roles as mentees and mentors. Now is a great time to take inventory of our relationships as a mentee and/or mentor and be sure to set new goals for the upcoming academic and calendar years. Remember to have these conversations at your next meeting.

If you are interested or know of someone who may be a good fit for this year's mentoring panel discussion, please send an email to Andrea Sillner.

Coronavirus and Older Adults

Effectiveness and Safety of Azvudine in Older Adults with Mild and Moderate COVID-19

This study investigated how well a drug called azvudine works and if it's safe for older adults (aged ≥80) with mild or moderate COVID-19. The findings suggest that azvudine is effective and safe for older adults, clearing the virus in about 14 days, making it a potential treatment option for this age group.

The researchers highlighted that COVID-19 is a significant challenge, especially for older adults with
C. health issues. They explored azvudine as a possible solution, with results pointing to the drug as a promising and safe choice for treating COVID-19 in older adults. To learn more, follow the link below!

Distinguished Educators in Spotlight

Clinical Video Simulations for Nurse Practitioner Education
Laura Kennedy-Malone, PhD, GNP-BC, FAANP, FGSA, FAAN

Available for nursing faculty to incorporate as part of the nurse practitioner curriculum is a set of innovative clinical video simulations that are provided with accompanying faculty handbooks with descriptions of cases, suggested discussion questions, references and the interactive questions and answers. There is a chart for each case that shows the alignment of the clinical video simulations with the AACN Essentials: Advanced Competencies, Sub-competencies, and Concepts that were verified in a consensus process by five nurse practitioner educators.

Of the 28 videos, there are 11 cases that focus on the care of older adults. Four cases feature an unfolding case of a woman over 15 years who has been a baker first experiencing fatigue and concerned about her healthcare and cost. Later she experiences signs of prefrailty and in this scenario a physician preceptor guides a NP student in the assessment, to the case that begins in the woman’s home as she is struggling to remember how to make bread but leaves the stove on and her daughter brings her in for an evaluation of progressive memory loss to the final scenario where she is dying and the NP talks with the daughter about hospice care.

We feature two interprofessional team videos. One scenario is of an aging veteran and the NP collaborates with the RN, social worker, and her supervising physician. Additionally there is a wound care case that the nurse practitioner consults an interprofessional team of a dietician, social worker, and RN. There are five cases pertaining to common conditions of older adults that often present first to primary care to include Type 2 diabetes, depression/anxiety, atrial fibrillation, heart failure and uterine prolapse.

As nurse practitioner educators we know that the National Task Force on Quality Nurse Practitioner Education (2022) emphasizes the importance of preparing students prior to entering the clinical setting for direct patient care. Faculty could incorporate these videos with the assignments as a means of delivering innovative content to prepare students as they enter new practice areas whether in the office settings and long term care. The videos can be freely downloaded from the UNCG Clinical Video Simulations Series. For further information you may contact: Laurie Kennedy-Malone PhD GNP-BC FAANP, FGSA, FAAN at lmkenne2@uncg.edu.

Co-Teaching with a Person Living with Dementia: An Expert by Experience
Michelle Kimzey, PhD, RN

I have been co-teaching with a person living with dementia (expert by experience). We are teaching a course about dementia. It has been a win-win situation for all involved. Students have felt connected and built a relationship with him, and it gives him meaning and purpose. Students’ discussed benefits of having a co-teacher with dementia including reduced stigma and increased dementia knowledge. They were able to explain dementia and the impact on those diagnosed. The co-teacher with dementia identified co-teaching was meaningful and provided him an opportunity to reduce dementia stigma, personal growth, staying engaged, and making a unique contribution. The care partner experienced respite and increased dementia knowledge. Co-teaching validated her loved one and he was seen as a person, not a diagnosis. All cases benefitted by having an expert by experience serving as co-teacher.
Students and care partner reported reduced dementia stigma and greater dementia knowledge. Including experts by experience created a positive learning environment for all.

---

**Regional Nursing Research Societies List**

**Midwest Nursing Research Society:** Gerontological Nursing Science RIIG  [https://mnrs.org/](https://mnrs.org/)

**Southwest Nursing Research Society:** Aging/Gerontology RIIG [https://snrs.org/](https://snrs.org/)

**Eastern Nursing Research Society:** Aging RIG [https://www.enrs-go.org/](https://www.enrs-go.org/)

**Western Institute of Nursing:** Gero SIG [https://www.winursing.org/](https://www.winursing.org/)

---

**Aging, caregiving, and the privilege of growing older impact us all.**

**Join us on the care journey.**

At the Tressa Nese and Helen Diskevich Center of Geriatric Nursing Excellence, we believe every older adult deserves the highest quality of evidence-based care that respects their individual goals and preferences.

Learn more about our work that includes:
- online learning opportunities for families, caregivers, and healthcare professionals;
- cutting-edge research and innovative projects with global impact;
- clinical and community partnerships;
- preparing nurses and nurse leaders for the future...and more.

[https://nursing.psu.edu/cgne](https://nursing.psu.edu/cgne)

---

**Check Out the Read of the Month!**

---

**The Loneliness of Low-Income Older Adults in a Federal Volunteering Program: A Network Perspective**

This article explores the impact of volunteering on loneliness among older adults, focusing on the Senior Companions Program (SCP). Using social network analysis, the study reveals a unique finding: less lonely volunteers intentionally connect with lonelier peers, challenging the typical clustering of similar emotional states in social networks. The research suggests an altruistic pathway within volunteering that could effectively address and alleviate loneliness among diverse older individuals participating in such programs.
Risks and Benefits of Clinical Diagnosis Around the Time of Dementia Onset

This article explores the prevalent diagnostic delay in dementia in the U.S., attributing it to factors like misconceptions and stigma. It underscores the insufficient quantitative evidence on the risks and benefits of early diagnosis. The paper also highlights demographic disparities in diagnostic delay and raises concerns about the U.S. healthcare system's readiness for an upsurge in dementia diagnoses.

Transitions of Care for Older Adults Discharged Home from the Emergency Department: An Inductive Thematic Content Analysis of Patient Comments

The study examines care transitions for older adults after ED visits, highlighting concerns about communication and professionalism. Satisfaction with home care, while initially positive, becomes more neutral during the pandemic. The findings stress the need to address communication gaps and professionalism for improved care transitions, especially during crises like COVID-19.
Behavioral Health in Primary Care
Free Course and Case Studies!

Topics in the BHPC Series Include:
Depressive Disorders, LGBT Diversity Inclusion, Risk Screening, Social Determinants of Health, Substance Use Disorders, and Trauma-Related Disorders.

Learn More About NHCGNE’s Partnership

Academic/Scholarship Opportunities

New NHCGNE - NACNS Gerontological Nursing Courses

NHCGNE has partnered with NACNS [National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists] to present the following two gerontological nursing courses:
- Leadership in Older Adult Caregiving
- Nursing for Older Adults

These courses are led by instructors who are NHCGNE members and accomplished nursing educators and leaders in their respective domains. Both on-demand classes offer the flexibility to be completed all at once or within a 90-day span.

Learn More & Register

Get Involved With NHCGNE!

Save up to 60% on theme parks, hotels, concerts, movie tickets, and more!

Through MemberDeals, you will find a wide variety of all sorts of deals. Anything from movie tickets to planning an entire family vacation! This cost-free benefit is perfect for finding tickets to your favorite concerts, sporting events, and Broadway shows, and enjoying endless fun with discounted theme park tickets to some of the best theme parks worldwide. Additionally, with new offers added every week, it is nearly impossible to run out of ideas for things to do! Get the most out of your membership with NHCGNE and save time and money with over 80,000 events!

So, start saving today! Check out MemberDeals where you can save on movie tickets, find exclusive discounts on world-famous theme park tickets, and even look for a ticket to the next big game! With this unique benefit, you will find there is an offer for everyone.
Consider Donating to NHCGNE

Your generous donation will be instrumental in the development of new programs such as our new grant program, and products and services that will enable us to continue to develop and strengthen gerontological nursing and leadership.

The importance of your contribution cannot be overstated. In addition to all the work that you already do on behalf of older adults, this gift further demonstrates your personal commitment to preparing our country with a competent gerontological nursing workforce. **NHCGNE is a 501(c)3 organization and you can claim a deduction on your federal taxes.**

**Donate Today!**

Volunteers Needed

Member participation in NHCGNE committees is vital to the growth and development of our organization. Joining a committee is one of the easiest ways to get involved. NHCGNE is seeking volunteers to share their skills and expertise by serving on one or more of our Membership, Finance/Entrepreneurial, Education, Leadership Conference Planning, Communication, Mentoring, and Awards Committees. Learn more about each committee [here](#). If you are interested in serving on one of the committees, please email [info@NHCGNE.org](mailto:info@NHCGNE.org).

Say it with "Got Content"!

Do you have a research opportunity or ad you would like to include in our next newsletter? If so, please send any submissions to NHCGNE Staff at [info@nhcgne.org](mailto:info@nhcgne.org) with NHCGNE New Directions Submission in the subject line.

Reminder that free ads are available as a member benefit!

**Next New Directions Content Submission Deadline:**

February 15, 2024

The next issue is scheduled for publication in March 2024.

**Email Us Your Content Today!**

Share the Newsletter
Do you know any faculty or PhD student in your school or university that is not receiving *New Directions*? If so, please send their name and email address to info@nhcgne.org.