



NEW Faculty Funded Projects



DR. DEBRA HAIN

TITLE OF PROJECT: Cognitive Support Strategies to Improve Medication Adherence in Older Adults Undergoing Hemodialysis

SPONSOR: Akebia Biopharmaceuticals

Not adhering to prescribed medications due to executive dysfunction and impaired working memory can lead to poor health outcomes for patients on hemodialysis, such as hospitalization and an increased chance of death. Dr. Hain, with co-investigators Drs. Ruth Tappen and David Newman of FAU's College of Nursing, and Dr. Monica Rosselli of FAU's Charles E. Schmidt College of Science, were awarded \$179,000 to conduct a randomized, two-group clinical trial to determine if cognitive support strategies can assist older adults with end-stage kidney disease in being able to better self-manage the medications they are required to take while living with chronic health conditions and receiving hemodialysis. The research focuses on a mostly Black population in North Miami to help identify racial disparities due to the social determinants of health. Dr. Hain was inspired to pursue this research path, having worked for 25 years in nephrology at Cleveland Clinic Florida, where she saw many issues related to care of a racially and ethnically diverse older adult population. Dr. Hain hopes her research will help this diverse older adult population living with kidney disease to better take their prescribed medications and ultimately preserve quality of life and life, itself, through nurse-led cognitive support interventions. ■



DR. BETH KING

TITLE OF PROJECT: Caring-based Academic Partnerships in Excellence: Veteran RNs in Primary Care (CAPE-V)
SPONSOR: Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Military veterans and individuals living in rural and underserved communities have special health concerns, and need a strong primary care workforce of registered nurses who understand the unique needs of these groups. Dr. Beth King was awarded a 3-year, \$1.5 million federal grant, Caring-based Academic Partnerships in Excellence: Veteran RNs in Primary Care (CAPE-V), to educate, financially support, and provide primary care clinical training for 25 students who are veterans seeking a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree at FAU. The grant also supports the professional training of RNs in practice and College faculty and students on the unique population health needs of veterans, primary care practice in the areas of substance use disorders, telehealth, health information technology, and the value-added by RNs in primary care. Dr. King is joined on the project by College of Nursing colleagues Dr. Marilyn Ray, retired Air Force Colonel; Dr. Kathi Harvey, primary care clinician; Matthew Patterson, Iraq war veteran, and College faculty, Drs. Karethy Edwards, Charlotte Barry, Nancey France, and Ms. Anne Marie Rempala. Drs. Jo Ann Bamdas and Ravi Behara provide expertise in interprofessional collaboration and program evaluation. Dr. M.A. Potter, an Air Force Colonel, serves as a consultant on the grant. Partnership organizations include the West Palm Beach Veteran Affairs Medical Center primary care clinics, Health Care District's C. L. Brumback Primary Care Clinics, Community Health of South Florida, Inc., Holy Cross Hospital, and the FAU Community Health Center, who all provide primary care services to veterans, and individuals living in rural and underserved communities. ■



DR. MARÍA ORDÓÑEZ

TITLE OF PROJECT: Opening and Sustaining Loving, Caring Conversation for Advance Care Planning for Patients and Families Living with Alzheimer's Disease
SPONSOR: Ed and Ethel Moore Alzheimer's Disease Research Grant Program, managed by the Florida Department of Health

Completing advance care planning (ACP) early in a person's Alzheimer's Disease trajectory is the only way to ensure the wishes of the individual living with the disease can be considered and respected without putting additional pressure on their loved ones to guess what their preferences might have been. Dr. Ordóñez, with co-investigators Dr. Jo Ann Bamdas, Affiliate Faculty-Instructor, Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine, and Dr. George Luck, Associate Professor of Integrated Medical Science and Director of Professional Education for the Simulation Center in FAU's College of Medicine, were awarded \$100,000 for a pilot interprofessional study about how having timely, meaningful, and informational conversations on ACP with persons living with Alzheimer's Disease and their family caregivers will impact their regard for the importance and benefits of completing this planning. The goal of the pilot is to simplify off-putting, unclear, and negative language of ACP documents and processes to easily understandable words and phrases that express comfort, love, and caring. A simple ACP toolkit will be developed for caregivers and persons living with Alzheimer's Disease, as well as a brief Train-the-Trainer program for professional caregivers at the Louis and Anne Green Memory and Wellness Center. A major objective of the project is increasing the completion rate of ACP documents for individuals and families living with Alzheimer's Disease from the current rate of 30 percent completion in the U.S. population. ■