Meet the Director

Hello! Welcome to the first biannual newsletter for the Indiana University RN to BSN Degree Completion Option! The purpose of the newsletter is to showcase both faculty and staff outstanding professional work. The statewide Consortium originated in 2010 as a small pilot group of 54 students, now boasting over 500. There are approximately 100 faculty teaching 120 courses per year with 20 course leaders. I have been the Director since its inception, and have enjoyed seeing the Consortium grow and expand over this time.

I have been involved with the Consortium’s initial curriculum design, and have enjoyed working with course leaders in updating the curriculum to meet the challenges of educating baccalaureate-prepared nurses for today’s complex health care system. I also teach in the Consortium, and really enjoy getting to know students and helping them with their Capstone projects. These projects consist of proposals to create change in nursing practice based on evidence, while including other disciplines in the change teams. I also teach Nursing Research and Evidence-based Practice at IUPUI in the traditional BSN undergraduate program. I enjoy teaching students who are interested in making a difference in health care, based on evidence.

I am a member of the Board of Governors for the National League for Nursing (NLN), where board members provide feedback and guidance for the staff to carry out the important work of the NLN as the “voice of nursing education.” I am also a fellow in the NLN’s Academy of Nursing Education, a national leadership designation in nursing education. I have been appointed to the Indiana Hospital Association’s Patient Safety Council, where I meet with statewide health care institutions to review and improve the delivery of safe patient care. I also conduct presentations at conferences and publish journal articles and book chapters on nursing education and quality and safety in nursing.

I hope that you enjoy reading about the outstanding faculty and students in the Consortium. Please feel free to visit our website at iu-rnbsn.iu.edu for an overview of Indiana University’s RN to BSN Degree Completion Option.

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**Faculty Achievements**

**Donna Bowles**

**Publications:**

The second edition of this textbook was chosen for an *American Journal of Nursing* Book of the Year Award for the gerontology category.

**Deborah Cullen**

**Publications:**
Deborah has been working in the area of *Infant Safe Sleep and Preventing Suffocation*. She has recently been a collaborative author on the following articles regarding this topic.

Cullen D., Orberle M., Elomba C., Stiffler D., Luna G. (Accepted). Illustrations of unexpected infant sleep deaths. *Journal of Forensics Nursing*.


Cullen D., Orberle M., Elomba C., Stiffler D., Luna G. (Accepted). Illustrations of unexpected infant sleep deaths. *Journal of Forensics Nursing*.

**Awards:**
Deborah, along with her collaborators, Dr's Sue Mclennon and Carol Shieh, won the IUPUI/Core Dean's Award for Innovation for their project *Indiana University School of Nursing Clinical Faculty Mentoring Initiative*. The purpose for the IUSON clinical mentoring initiative is to enhance doctorally-prepared clinical assistant professors’ abilities to achieve promotion from assistant to associate rank.

**Julia Mattingly**

**Publications**

**Presentations**
Julia had a poster presentation at the 2016 QSEN Institute: *Completing the Circle: Assessing and Evaluating Patient Discharge Needs in a Complex Medical-Surgical Nursing Clinical - A Pilot*. The poster won the "Best Poster in Academia" at the conference.
Cynthia Stone

Cynthia is the Chair of the Quad Council Coalition of Public Health Nursing Organizations for 2014-2016. She recently was part of an invited meeting at the White House as part of Extreme Heat week to discuss the public health implications of Climate Change.

Carolyn Townsend

Presentations
Carolyn Townsend, DNP, RN, CNE (Pictured left) and Mary McNulty, MSN, RN (Pictured right; Director, Integrated Care Management at IU Health Methodist and University Hospitals) presented a poster and a podium session at the Case Management Society of America (CMSA) conference in Long Beach, CA in June, 2016. The poster was titled Implement Huddles to Reduce Readmissions and Length of Stay. The podium session presented was Implementing Project BOOST to reduce Readmissions and Length of Stay.

Course Developments
Dr. Townsend has developed a new elective course titled, Care Coordination in Transitions of Care to be offered in the RN to BSN Consortium beginning in the fall, 2016.

Monica Almy-Boylan

Monica is a 2016 graduate of the statewide Indiana University Degree Completion Option (Consortium) from the Northwest campus. She is a staff nurse in the Cardiothoracic Intensive Care Unit at the University of Chicago Medicine (UCM), a large urban medical center in Chicago. Monica has been happily married for 20 years and has two daughters. Her youngest daughter is in high school and plays on a travel softball team. Her older daughter is a student at Indiana University Purdue University Columbus campus, and plans to study nursing. She enjoys spending time with family when she is not working at UCM. Monica plans to attend graduate school to obtain a master’s degree as a Family Nurse Practitioner.

Capstone evidence-based practice (EBP) projects are required of students in the final course in the Consortium. Students write a proposal to change nursing practice based on evidence using an interprofessional practice (IPP) team. Monica’s Capstone project was titled, The Impact of Active Physical Therapy on the Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenated Patient in the Adult Intensive Care Unit.

The purpose of Monica’s project was to identify the ECMO patients who were eligible for passive range of motion (PROM), active physical therapy and or ambulation. A multidisciplinary team, created policies and protocols that dictate the appropriate standards of care in EBP to achieve the best possible patient outcomes and solidify a protocol that encompasses input from key disciplines.

The growing use of extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) nationally and internationally has been documented in the Extracorporeal Life Support Organization (ELSO) registry. ECMO is a form of partial cardiopulmonary bypass used for long-term support of respiratory and/or cardiac function. ECMO use in adults as a rescue therapy in the setting of cardiac, pulmonary, or cardiopulmonary failure in adults has experienced a resurgence following the relative success of ECMO in the pediatric population. The use of ECMO is increasing in patients who exhibit severe respiratory failure; and traditional ECMO management has been associated with high-dose sedation and immobilization resulting in critical illness myopathy. ECMO support for patients in the intensive care unit (ICU) requires a balance of care.
from many disciplines.

Since Monica has implemented this EBP project, the inter-professional practice (IPP) team at UCM has created guidelines on patient eligibility for safely ambulating while on ECMO, and securing the emergency support staff to manage any unforeseen events. A panel of inter-professional staff members include occupational therapists, physical therapists, perfusionists, surgeons, respiratory therapists, nurses, nursing management, and ECMO specialists. The nurses along with the IPP team, are in the process of creating staff development education for nursing and support staff on safely ambulating ECMO patients. The impact of Monica’s work in improving patient outcomes is yet to be seen, however the groundwork has been laid for IPP using EBP to improve survival rates for vulnerable patients in a complex health care system.

**Jennifer Daggett**

Jennifer is a May, 2016 graduate of the Indiana University RN-BSN degree completion program from the IUPUI campus. Jennifer is currently working as a circulating and charge nurse in the OR at IU Health-Methodist where she also serves as neuro specialty coordinator part time. Jennifer has also worked in the ER at Riley Hospital for Children and as a legal assistant prior to returning to school to pursue a career in nursing. Now that Jennifer has graduated with her BSN, she plans to pursue her CNOR certification, a certification for professional achievement for peri-operative nurses, and the Career Advancement Program (CAP) program at IU Health. Additionally, she hopes to serve on the Mercy Ship, a hospital ship providing urgently needed surgeries for the world’s poorest countries.

Jennifer and her husband of 27 years had the opportunity to backpack across Europe this summer with their four children, who have all of whom share her enthusiasm for hiking. In addition to their daughter who is a nurse in Alaska, Jennifer and her husband have a son in medical school and two other children in undergraduate programs with their sights set on healthcare.

In the final (Capstone) course of the RN-BSN Completion Option, students work with their managers and an inter-professional team on an evidence-based practice (EBP) project. Jennifer’s EBP project was titled, *The Effects of Cleaning Products on Surgical Site Infection Rates*. The purpose of this project was to reduce the risk of a surgical site infection (SSI) for surgical patients by changing the current practice of cleaning between cases with PDI Sani-cloth plus wipes to a new practice of a terminal clean with bleach. A review of the surgical site infection (SSI) rates for the neurosurgery core, which was the focus of Jennifer’s project, actually showed a decline in SSI rates from 2014 to 2015. However, Jennifer’s inter-professional team decided to conduct a thorough literature review for best practices that could continue to move their SSI rates toward 0%. Although, evidence from the literature review did not support a need for a change in how the operating room (OR) suites are currently cleaned, it showed overwhelming support for a multifocal approach to reducing SSIs, including strict adherence to Surgical Care Improvement Process (SCIP) measures and hospital policies regarding cleaning practices and hospital acquired infection (HAI) reduction.

The team’s multifocal proposal for a change in practice began with the assembly of a multi-disciplinary team that will meet quarterly to review SSI rates and adherence to current cleaning and HAI reduction policy. The project team also proposed transparency in quarterly SSI rates for each surgical core, a reminder to surgeons about keeping personal items out of the OR suites, a recommendation for a policy for cleaning of lead aprons, and a recommendation to purchase washable keyboard covers.

While the leadership team involved with Jennifer’s EBP project still plan to move forward with the recommendations in an effort to continue to move the SSI rates closer to 0%, implementation has been delayed from the original timeline established by the team. Although, the impact on SSI rates is yet to be determined, the evidence gathered by Jennifer for measures to promote SSI reduction rates will certainly be invaluable as the team moves forward with implementation.
Continuing Education: Graduate Nursing Programs at Indiana University

Indiana University Kokomo
- Nursing Education
- Nursing Administration
- Family Nurse Practitioner

Indiana University Northwest
- Family Nurse Practitioner

Indiana University South Bend
- Family Nurse Practitioner
- Adult-Geriatric

Indiana University East
- Nursing Education
- Nursing Administration
- Family Nurse Practitioner

Indiana University - Purdue University - Indianapolis
- Nursing Education- Online
- Adult-Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist- Distance accessible
- Pediatric Clinical Nursing Specialist- Distance accessible
- Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Lifespan- Distance accessible
- Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner
- Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner
- Family Nurse Practitioner
- Pediatric Nurse Practitioner – Primary Care
- Nursing Leadership in Health Systems
- DNP
- PhD

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