

Search Committee for Dean of the College of Nursing -- Biosketches

Paul W. Brandt-Rauf is Professor and Dean of the School of Public Health at UIC, and holds affiliate professorial appointments in the Colleges of Medicine, Engineering, Liberal Arts and Sciences and Urban Planning and Public Affairs. He received his ScD in Applied Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, his MD, and his DPH in Environmental Sciences from Columbia University. Brandt-Rauf has published more than 200 articles in peer-reviewed journals. His major research interest is environmental carcinogenesis, particularly the molecular biology and the molecular epidemiology of cancer-related proteins. He has served as editor-in-chief of the Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine since 1992 and as contributing editor of the International Journal of Occupational Medicine and Environmental Health since 1996.

Agatha Gallo is a Professor in the Department of Women, Children and Family Health Science in the College of Nursing at UIC. Her research focuses on family response to childhood chronic illness, and more recently, families where there is a child with a genetic condition. She has been especially interested in parents' approaches to managing information within the context of a childhood genetic condition. She has strong expertise in caring for children with chronic conditions, as a pediatric nurse practitioner and as a nurse educator. Gallo's work has been published in a variety of venues and she has presented at the regional, national and international levels. Currently, she serves as President of the International Society of Nurses in Genetics.

Pamela D. Hill is Professor in the Department of Women, Children and Family Health Science in the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Nursing, and Director of the Regional Nursing Program located in Moline, Illinois. She teaches in the undergraduate and graduate programs, as well as serving as advisor and research chair to doctoral students. Nationally known for her work in the area of lactation, her program of research has focused on the effects of stress, lactation hormones, and milk availability in lactating mothers of term, very preterm, and late preterm infants. Hill serves on several committees in the College, is a member of the UIC Honors College, and is a member of several nursing associations, including Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses and the International Society for Research in Human Milk and Lactation.

Gail Keenan is an Associate Professor and Director of the Nursing Informatics Initiative, Coordinator of the Nursing Administration Program, and Associate Director of the Health Systems Science Division in the UIC College of Nursing. Her teaching and research, over the last 12 years, have focused on creating and implementing useful electronic health records. Specifically, her research team has built and refined an electronic plan of care method – HANDS -- designed to improve the consistency of documentation and handoff communication. Keenan holds key policy-related leadership roles that include Chair of the Clinical Information Systems Work Group & Co-Chair of the Nursing Work Group Policy Task Force (both for the American Medical Informatics Association), and Member (and past Chair) of the American Nurses Association Committee on Nursing Practice Information Infrastructure.

Mi Ja Kim is Professor and Interim Dean in the UIC College of Nursing. She received a BSN from Yonsei University College of Nursing, Seoul, Korea, a PhD in Physiology from UIC, and holds an honorary Doctoral Degree in Law from North Park College in Chicago. Kim, a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing and of the Royal College of Nursing, UK, was an international advisor for the Research Assessment Exercise of the UK Higher Education Funding Council. She is the principal investigator of the NIH-funded Bridges to the Doctorate for Minority Nursing Students. She served on the Study Section and the National Advisory Council of the National Institute for Nursing Research and as Chair of the Scientific and Technical Review Board of the National Center for Research Resources.

Matthew Klara is the Visiting Director of the Office of Academic Programs in the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Nursing. The Office of Academic Programs helps recruit, retain and provide support for over 1,000 students across five regional sites within the state of Illinois. He came to UIC as a Graduate Admissions Counselor in 2004 and later joined the College of Nursing as the OAP Business Manager. He received his MBA from UIC in 2007. Klara currently oversees the admissions, finances, web content, clinical placement, database management, facilities management and day-to-day operations of this office.

Mariza Marcili, a Mental Health and Adult Nurse Practitioner, is a graduate student in the UIC College of Nursing. She specializes in the relationship between mind and body, and is especially interested in the effects of anxiety in people with hypertension. Marcili recently worked as a mental health provider in a primary care clinic serving people who were primarily homeless, members of marginalized populations and new immigrants. She has spent most of her career working with marginalized populations, serving as Director of Primary Care for the federally-funded Homeless Project in Chicago. She was treasurer of the Chicago Nurses Association, District 1, and is currently a Board Member of the Illinois Nurses Association.

Theodore Mazzone received his MD degree with distinction from Northwestern University Medical School. He was an Intern and Resident in Internal Medicine at UCLA Medical Center, and a Senior Fellow in Metabolism, Endocrinology and Nutrition at the University of Washington. An elected member in the American Society for Clinical Investigation, Mazzone is also a Fellow of the American College of Physicians and of the American Heart Association, where he has also served as Chairman of the Diabetes Committee. He is a member of the American Board of Internal Medicine for Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism. His longstanding research interests include the pathogenesis of atherosclerosis, the macrovascular complications of diabetes mellitus and the metabolic and vascular complications of obesity.

Judith McDevitt is a Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of Health Systems Science at UIC. As the director of the Nursing College's family nurse practitioner program, she leads curriculum development preparing advanced practice nurses for primary care practice across Illinois, and serves on the Nursing Practice Doctorate (DNP) implementation task force. McDevitt is a co-investigator researching clinical outcomes from the Center for Integrated Health Care, the award-winning academic nursing center providing primary and mental health care for individuals with serious mental illness. Her research interests are in physical activity behavioral change interventions for sedentary, at-risk populations, including mid-life low-income African American women and community-dwelling adults with serious mental illness.

Mariann Piano is a Professor in Nursing's Department of Biobehavioral Health Science and an adjunct in the Department of Physiology and Biophysics. Her research program, supported by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism and the National Center for Research Resources, is directed at understanding the adverse cardiovascular effects of long-term heavy and binge/bender alcohol consumption and the potential interaction effect of cigarette smoking. Her research also focuses on the development of interventions or strategies that help heart failure patients manage their disease. Piano currently serves on the Executive Council of the Heart Failure Society of America, as well as on several editorial boards, which include journals such as Circulation, Cardiovascular Toxicology and the Journal of Cardiovascular Nursing.

Eva D. Smith is a retired Associate Professor from UIC's College of Nursing. Smith's research, which she has continued post retirement, focuses on decreasing breast cancer mortality through early detection through mammography screening. She and her colleagues have developed a mammography adherence intervention for non-adherent African American women, and are currently pilot testing different models of the intervention to determine African American women's response to the best models. The uniqueness of their intervention delivery is use of a community-based participatory approach. Smith's nursing education career has included nurturing and support of students of different ethnicities and cultures.

Janet M. Spunt is the Chief Nursing Officer at the University of Illinois at Chicago Hospital. She received her Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Nursing from UIC. She was a clinical instructor at the University of Illinois and has held a variety of positions in both areas of clinical and management. She has had an active role in Hospital Administration and has served on various Hospital and Ancillary committees to advance policies and practices in the hospital and clinics. Spunt is committed to the implementation of evidenced-based practice in nursing services and is actively involved in supporting an environment that promotes patient safety. She is an active liaison working with many other area facilities in the Illinois Medical District Community.

Diana J. Wilkie is a Professor and Harriet H. Werley Endowed Chair for Nursing Research at UIC. She is an internationally known pain specialist with a special emphasis on palliative and end-of-life care in cancer and other life-threatening illnesses. She is currently the director of the first NIH-funded Center on End-of-Life Transition Research. In addition, she is conducting four randomized clinical trials testing the effects of massage or informatics tools on clinical outcomes in people with cancer or sickle cell disease, effects of multimedia Internet-based interventions on behavioral outcomes, and several pilot studies. The long-term goal of her research is to help clinicians effectively combine pharmacologic and nonpharmacologic therapies for management of acute, chronic, and cancer pain. Wilkie's research program on pain has been continuously funded since 1986.