

# **Iowa Center for Geriatric Nursing Excellence**

**Toni Tripp-Reimer, PhD, RN**

**University of Iowa; Iowa City, IA**

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## **BACKGROUND / RATIONALE:**

The broad objective of the University of Iowa Gerontological Nursing Intervention Research Center (GNIRC) is to provide an environment that will strengthen and expand intervention focused research in nursing and related disciplines regarding the health of elders in a variety of care settings. This center builds upon the research strengths of the faculty at the University of Iowa in gerontological nursing research, the structure of nursing knowledge (interventions and outcome classification), and translational research fostering evidence-based practice. It is also complimentary with the two doctoral program foci in the College of Nursing: Gerontological Nursing Research and Nursing Systems Research. It is embedded in a strong supportive interdisciplinary network of gerontological/geriatric investigators and Centers from other University of Iowa Departments and Colleges (including Medicine, Pharmacy, Dentistry, Liberal Arts, Social Work, Engineering and Business).

## **OBJECTIVE (S):**

Specific aims are to: 1 Strengthen an infrastructure dedicated to the facilitation of gerontological nursing interventions and outcomes research. 2 Mentor and support junior investigators in the conduct of pilot projects that will serve as the basis for large-scale externally funded projects in nursing research. 3 Provide a stimulating collaborative environment in which established senior investigators in gerontological nursing and their interdisciplinary counterparts can continue to thrive. 4 Facilitate the transfer of knowledge from the academic to: a) clinical (long-term care, community based, and acute care) settings; and b) the broader scientific community. 5 Provide gerontologically centered training opportunities in research design and methods to investigators throughout the continuum of their research careers. 6 Strengthen collaborative relations among faculty at four universities in the Midwest, thereby achieving a greater variety of content and methods expertise, gaining access to more extensive and heterogeneous elderly subjects, and facilitating multi-site studies.

**METHODS:**

Iowa CGNR initiatives in each of these areas are outlined: Research Initiatives are at two levels: University and Regional (Midwest). University level: will increase the number and quality of pre and post doctoral students and strengthen their training programs, entice undergraduate students to pursuing gerontological nurse scientist careers, and initiate a BSN-PhD program in our Gerontological Nursing Focal Area. Regional Level: we will serve as a nexus for enhancing the quality and quantity of gerontological nursing research in the Midwest, increasing by 5-fold the number of participating schools in our Regional Gerontological Research Consortium, coordinate an expanded inter-university senior-junior gerontological faculty mentoring program and a gerontological seed grants program to aid junior faculty in establishing successful programs of gerontological nursing research, deliver week-long summer methods camps and initiate a 4-week summer research intensive. Education initiatives will increase the degree options for the preparation of gerontological nurses and nurse scientists, enrich the gerontological content of undergraduate curricula, and the use of model and innovative settings for care of older persons as clinical practicum sites. Practice initiatives will increase access to and dissemination of gerontological nursing best practices education to nurses and leaders of staff who care for older persons, expand degree options for upgrading the skills and preparation of nurse leaders in community-based and long term care settings, and build cooperative relationships with care agencies to enhance education, practice, and research. Policy initiatives are designed to extend existing avenues for informing and working with local, state, and national policy makers to enact health care policies that are based on best practices to improve the care and lives of elders.

**STATUS:**

This project is ongoing.

**IMPACT:**

Through initiatives in four areas, the Iowa CGNE will optimize Hartford Foundation resources to produce and disseminate knowledge, train gerontologic nurse scientists and practitioners, directly improve care delivery in a variety of practice settings, and revise public policy for the benefit of elders and their families

**PUBLICATIONS:**       None at this time.