SPOTLIGHT

Andrea Yevchak Sillner, PhD, GCNS-BC, RN, is an assistant research professor in the College of Nursing. She is also affiliated with the Center for Health Organization and Transformation, housed in the College of Engineering. Dr. Sillner received her Ph.D. in nursing in 2013 from Penn State, where she focused on improving care and communication for older adults with dementia and delirium and their informal family caregivers. Before coming to Penn State, she was an assistant professor in the School of Nursing at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh.

Dr. Sillner’s research focuses on three areas: (1) person-centered, preference-based interventions for improving communication among health care providers, patients, and family members; (2) technology-based communication strategies; and (3) communication and care transitions for persons with delirium and delirium superimposed on dementia. Her professional clinical experiences and interactions with patients and family members led her to focus on improving care transitions and communication through the use of technology.

Recently, Dr. Sillner was awarded support from The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation for an Early-Career Investigator Award in Patient and Family Engagement. The purpose of the proposed project is twofold: (1) develop a new subscale for the Preferences for Everyday Living Inventory (PELI) that addresses preferred technology-assisted communication (TAC) approaches for older adults receiving community-based home health care and their informal caregivers, and (2) understand the person, provider, and environmental contextual factors that may influence the use of technology-assisted communication. This project will result in a tool, P-TAC, that can be used to describe TAC preferences among older adults with multiple chronic conditions. Dr. Sillner will be mentored by Drs. Kimberly Van Haitsma and Marie Boltz for this project. In addition, she is working with Dr. Jacquie Mogle from the College of Nursing and Dr. Conrad Tucker from the College of Engineering. For more information, visit: https://www.moore.org/investigator-detail?investigatorId=sillner-ph.d.-gcns-bc-rn

AWARDS AND HONORS

Dr. Kimberly Van Haitsma received the Outstanding Contribution to Psychology in Long-Term Care Award from the organization Psychologists in Long-Term Care, Inc. (PLTC).

Dr. Lisa Kitko was promoted to associate professor with tenure.

Dr. Lisa Kitko was inducted as a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing.

PUBLICATIONS


**PRESENTATIONS and INVITED TALKS**


M. Boltz. Qualitative and mixed methods. CEDARTREE/NIDUS 5th Annual Delirium Boot Camp, November 1, 2017.

M. Boltz. Dementia-related transitions in the United States: Context, implications, and strategies. Keynote address at the Penn State College of Nursing Center of Geriatric Nursing Excellence Conference, Juniper Village, October 12, 2017.

M. Evans, J. Hupcey, L. Kitko, and H. D. Johnson. Frequency and severity of reported symptoms for persons living with stage D heart failure. Poster presentation at Greater Pittsburgh Nursing Research Conference, Pittsburgh, Pa., October 2017.

J. E. Hupcey. The use of cardiac technology: Perspectives of patients and families. Conference on Cardiovascular Disease, National Heart Foundation of Bangladesh, Dhaka, Bangladesh, December 2017.

J. E. Hupcey. Disparity in utilizing health care services between men and women in the United States. Conference on Cardiovascular Disease, National Heart Foundation of Bangladesh, Dhaka, Bangladesh, December 2017.


A. Kolanowski. Methodological issues with video data capture. German Center for Neurodegenerative Diseases (DZNE), Witten, Germany, September 14, 2017.


**FUNDED AWARDS**


S. Loeb (PI) and V. Myers (Co-I). E-training of inmate peer caregivers for enhancing geriatric and end-of-life care in prisons. Klein Buendel, Inc., through National Institute on Aging. 1 R41 AG057239-01, 8/1/2017—7/31/2018. $225,000.

S. Loeb (PI). Three years to a Ph.D. Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Future of Nursing Scholars, 8/1/2018—7/31/2021. $150,000.


SUBMITTED PROPOSALS


D. Gray-Miceli (PI) and M. Boltz (Co-I). Engage nursing home residents, family caregivers, and nursing staff in falls prevention. Florida Atlantic through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. 3/1/2018—8/31/2019. $16,093.

