

# 2018 IMPACT REPORT

## Program for Person-Centered Living Systems of Care

A program of the



**PennState**  
College of Nursing

**Center of Geriatric  
Nursing Excellence**





**Kimberly S. VanHaitsma, Ph.D.**  
Associate Professor  
Director, Program for Person-Centered Living  
Systems of Care  
College of Nursing, Penn State University

Dear Friends,

Improving quality of life for older persons inspires our work as scholars, educators and practitioners at the Penn State College of Nursing's new Program for Person-Centered Living Systems of Care (PPCLSC). This program is a part of the Center for Geriatric Nursing Excellence.

We are delighted to share this report on the collective impact of the PPCLSC, founded in 2015, and the many ways we have advanced the practice of person-centered care. Over the past three years, we have mentored students, led research on measurement and effectiveness of person-centered care, and collaborated with providers to infuse evidence-based person-centered care practices across the healthcare spectrum of acute, post-acute, and long-term services and supports.

Our accomplishments include:

- Developing courses and educational materials to help the current and future workforce deliver person-centered care.
- Testing behavioral approaches to reduce behavioral and psychological symptoms of dementia, and improve quality of life for nursing home residents with dementia through funding from NINR.
- Assisting nursing home staff members to elicit residents' preferences and use this information to guide resident care through the use of our Preferences for Everyday Living Inventory (PELI). The PELI is recognized as a quality indicator as part of a pay-for-performance metric in the state of Ohio. Together with the Scripps Gerontology Center at Miami University, we are helping nursing homes achieve better person-centered care with funding from the Ohio Department of Medicaid.
- Partnering internationally with researchers to customize and apply the PELI to support person-centered care for older adults in Australia, Canada and Germany.

To learn more, read on and visit our new website, [preferencebasedliving.com](http://preferencebasedliving.com). Thank you to all who join us in this important and deeply rewarding work!

Sincerely,

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## About the PROGRAM FOR PERSON-CENTERED LIVING SYSTEMS OF CARE

The Program for Person-Centered Living Systems of Care (PPCLSC) is an academic initiative and collaborative partnership between the Penn State College of Nursing Center of Geriatric Nursing Excellence and the Polisher Research Institute of Abramson Senior Care.

### Our mission:

- Lead research on topics related to person-centered care (PCC).
- Advance the new field of person-centered living systems of care by developing a theory and model that is shared and valued by diverse practitioners and scholars.
- Infuse evidence-based PCC concepts across the spectrum of services from community-based care to acute and post-acute care.

### Our goals:

- Create a new integrative model of person-centered living systems of care
- Develop infrastructure and methodologies for conducting PCC research
- Conduct applied research on PCC topics
- Apply best practices to innovative health delivery systems
- Develop curriculum to educate a professionally diverse and collaborative workforce of future and current care providers
- Influence policy related to the delivery of health care services in rural and urban, acute and post-acute, and community-based care settings

### Our funders:



**Donald H. Ford, Ph.D.**  
Professor Emeritus and Dean Emeritus  
Penn State College of Health and Human Development



# Sharing Best Practices

## New Course: Person-Centered Care: An Interdisciplinary Approach Applied to Older Adults

To expand the practice and theory of person-centered care, Dr. Kimberly VanHaitsma has developed a new graduate-level course on person-centered care for the Penn State College of Nursing. The course, first offered in Fall 2018, explores person-centered care and living systems theory as a framework for improving the health of older adults in society – particularly for those receiving long-term services and supports – and focuses on concepts and measurement in practice, research and policy. This interdisciplinary course will be offered to graduate students within Penn State.



## Past Conferences (2015-2017)

Researchers and practitioners have partnered to discuss scientific findings and innovations in person-centered care practice at an increasingly influential series of annual fall conferences launched in 2015 by PPCLSC.

### 2015: First Summit on Person-Centered Care

Keynote speaker, Murna Downs, Ph.D., Chair in Dementia Studies at the Centre for Applied Dementia Studies, University of Bradford, UK, presented “Person-Centered Dementia Care: Faith, Fact, and Future” at the first annual PPCLSC symposium on Person-Centered Care in 2015.

Dr. Downs’s remarks emphasized the need to shift away from the medical model focused on the treatment of “disease, deficit, and dysfunction,” and toward person-centered care that “reinstates the person” and builds interpersonal relationships. The summit attracted 105 participants of whom 61 attended via webinar across the U.S.

### 2016: Improving Outcomes via Interprofessional Partnerships

PPCLSC's second annual symposium focused on “Knowledge Into Action: How Interprofessional Partnerships Improve Person-Centered Outcomes for Older Adults.” The symposium attracted more than 120 case managers, social workers and nurses. Held at Abramson Senior Care, the keynote presentation was provided by former Dean Paula Milone-Nuzzo. The symposium featured expert presentations from Abramson Senior Care and Penn State College of Nursing on topics such as delirium and dementia, using technology to enhance person-centered outcomes, and the value and applications of new research findings in senior care for practitioners at diverse practice settings.



Dr. Kimberly VanHaitsma and  
Dr. Paula Milone-Nuzzo



Participants practice chair yoga during a  
break at the 2016 symposium.

*Photo courtesy of Abramson Senior Care*

## 2017: Improving Care Transitions for Persons with Dementia

Attendees at PPCLSC’s third annual summit gained a global perspective on best practices to help people living with dementia through the complex challenges associated with transitions among levels of care. Keynote speakers, Drs. Murna Downs, University of Bradford, UK and Marie Boltz, Professor of Nursing, Penn State College of Nursing, focused, respectively, on UK program models that lead to better outcomes in the care transition process, and best practices in the US for care transitions and related demographic, financial and political factors.

A diverse panel of providers shared research and applied insights with symposium participants at Juniper Village Senior Living at Brookline in State College, PA.



Dr. Marie Boltz



Interim Dean Dr. Janice Penrod and Dr. Murna Downs

The conference attracted more than 170 participants, of whom nearly 100 attended via webinar.



### VanHaitsma Named Journal of Gerontological Nursing Section Editor

The Journal of Gerontological Nursing appointed Dr. Kimberly VanHaitsma in 2015 as editor of its then new section on person-centered care. She continues to guide the journal’s coverage of advances in person-centered care research and PCC-related topics of value for geriatric nursing.

The Journal of Gerontological Nursing is a monthly, peer-reviewed journal that publishes clinically relevant original articles on the practice of gerontological nursing across the continuum of care in a variety of health care settings.



### Attendees say:

*“The conference was such a positive collaboration. A priceless opportunity for education, research, and community partners to collaborate to improve care delivery and outcomes for the people we serve.”*

*“When interacting with families and service providers, I can stress to them that they need to be patient-centered, and attend to the major impact of the transitions on the dementia patient.”*

# Next Generation Person-Centered Care Experts

**Liza Behrens**, MSN, RN, CCRC is interested in improving the quality of care provided to older adults living with dementia in long-term care settings. Her research focuses on nurse perceptions of risks associated with delivering preference based, person-centered care. Currently, she works with Drs. Ann Kolanowski and Kimberly VanHaitisma as a graduate assistant on the project, “Implementation of EIT-4-BPSD in Nursing Homes.” She received the Penn State Rock Ethics Institute Fellowship Award in 2014 and the Penn State Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI) Translational Science Fellowship (TSF) award in 2018. As part of the TSF, Ms. Behrens continues to develop her dissertation research project, “Direct care nurse perceptions of risks associated with honoring nursing home resident preferences: An exploratory focus group study.”

Ms. Behrens previously served as a project coordinator for the PPCLSC and as a consultant to the Rockefeller University’s Heilbrunn Family Center for Research Nursing in New York City. She earned her Master’s in Nursing and Clinical Research Administration at The George Washington University.



Liza Behrens, MSN, RN, CCRC  
Pennsylvania State University, Ph.D. Student  
Project Director, Implementation of EIT-4-  
BPSD in Nursing Homes

Sillner, A., Buck, H., VanHaitisma, K., **Behrens, L.**, Abbott, K. (in press). Identifying preferences for everyday living in home health care: Recommendations from an expert panel. *Home Health Care Management & Practice*.

**Behrens, L.**, McGhan, G., Abbott, K., M., Fick, D., Kolanowski, A.M., Liu, Y., Buck H.G., Roes, M., VanHaitisma, K. (under development). A Study of Person-Centered Care for Older Adults Receiving Long-Term Services and Supports.

**Behrens, L.**, VanHaitisma, K., Brush, J., Boltz, M., Volpe, D., Kolanowski, A.M. (2018). Negotiating risky preferences in nursing homes: A case study of the Rothschild person-centered care planning approach. *Journal of Gerontological Nursing*. 16:1-9. doi 10:3928/00989134-20171206-02. [E-pub ahead of print].

Resnick, B., Galik, E., Kolanowski, A.M., VanHaitisma, K., Boltz, M., Ellis, J., **Behrens, L.**, Flanagan, N. (2018). Reliability and validity testing of the quality of life in late-stage dementia scale. *American Journal of Alzheimer’s Disease & Other Dementias*. 1:1533317518765133. [E-pub ahead of print].

Resnick, B., Galik, E., Kolanowski, A., VanHaitisma, K., Ellis, J., **Behrens, L.**, Flanagan, N., **McDermott, C.** (2018). Reliability and validity of the Care Plan Checklist for evidence of person-centered approaches for behavioral and psychological symptoms associated with dementia. *Journal of the American Medical Directors Association*. 19(7), 613-618.

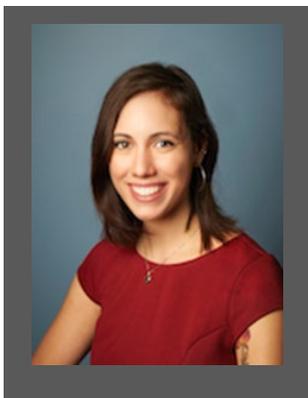
Resnick, B., Kolanowski, A., VanHaitisma, K., Galik, E., Boltz, M., Ellis, J., **Behrens, L.**, Flanagan, N.M., Eshraghi, K., Zhu, S. (2018). Testing the evidence integration triangle for implementation of interviews to manage behavioral and psychological symptoms associated with dementia: Protocol for a pragmatic trial. *Research in Nursing & Health*. doi:10.1002/nur.21866. [E-pub ahead of print].



Angela Richardson, a PhD student working with Professor Murna Downs at the University of Bradford, has received funding from the Alzheimer’s Society in England, which provides support for a period of study at Penn State Center of Geriatric Nursing Excellence. Ms. Richardson’s dissertation research focuses on the role of nurses in hospital to nursing home transitions for people living with dementia. Dr. Ann Kolanowski will mentor Richardson while she is in the U.S. in November 2018.

Ms. Richards will present at a College of Nursing Collaborative seminar, and with Dr. Marie Boltz at the Gerontological Society of America conference in Boston.

# Next Generation Person-Centered Care Experts: *Current Doctoral Students Affiliated with PPCLSC*



Caroline Madrigal, MS, RN  
Pennsylvania State University, Ph.D. Student  
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Future of Nursing Scholar  
Research Coordinator, PPCLSC

**Caroline Madrigal MS, RN** is interested in individualizing care for older adults living in the nursing home setting. In particular, she is interested in assessing and fulfilling resident preferences to make their care more person-centered. Ultimately, Madrigal would like to better understand the relationship between preference fulfillment and resident care outcomes, such as quality of life and satisfaction. Her dissertation work focuses on enhancing the clinical relevance of existing preference assessments and exploring the relationship between preference assessment and resident care experiences. She is the recipient of The Robert Wood Johnson Foundations Future of Nurse Scholar award.

Madrigal currently works as an RN in the nursing home setting as she engages in her doctoral program. She graduated in 2014 with her BSN from Duquesne University and worked in the Medical Respiratory Intensive Care Unit at Virginia Commonwealth University Health System before pursuing her BSN-Ph.D.

Resnick, B., Galik, E., Kolanowski, A., VanHaitsma, K., Ellis, J., Behrens, L., Flanagan, N., **McDermott, C.** (2017). Reliability and validity of the Care Plan Checklist for evidence of person-centered approaches for behavioral and psychological symptoms associated with dementia. *Journal of the American Medical Directors Association, 19(7)*, 613-618.

**Beth Ann White, DNP, CRNP, ANP-C** is interested in improving the quality of care for older adults in long-term care settings. As a doctoral student, she conducted a quality improvement project to strengthen oral care education for nursing home staff with a patient-centered care approach. White found that staff members' oral care knowledge, beliefs and adherence to protocols increased during the study, although their attitudes remained unchanged. Having an oral care champion and staff huddling techniques facilitated implementation. In April 2018, Dr. White received the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Student Champion Award from the Penn State Center of Geriatric Nursing Excellence. Currently, she is on faculty as an Assistant Teaching Professor.

Previously, Dr. White served as a RN for 27 years and a NP for 9 years in internal medicine, acute and long-term care. She earned her DNP from The Pennsylvania State University in 2018.



Beth Ann White, DNP, CRNP, ANP-C  
Pennsylvania State University  
Assistant Teaching Professor

**White, B.A.,** VanHaitsma, K., Lauver, L., Sillner, A. (under development). Improving uptake of evidence based oral care approaches in long-term care: A pilot quality improvement project.

**White, B.A.,** Collins, A. (2018). Oral care in long-term care: A pilot quality improvement project: (2018, August 13). Pioneer Network Pioneering a New Culture of Aging, Denver, CO.

# Current Research Grants

## **Implementing EIT-4-BPSD for Nursing Home Residents with Dementia.**

Tests behavioral approaches to reduce behavioral and psychological symptoms of distress in dementia (BPSD), and improve quality of life for nursing home residents living with dementia.

*Investigators:* Kolanowski, A., VanHaitsma, K., Resnick, B., Boltz, M., Galik, E.

*National Institute of Nursing Research*



## **Incorporating Preferences for Everyday Living Inventory (PELI) into Ohio's Nursing Homes to Improve Resident Care.**

Guides providers and offers training on the use of preference assessment and integration of preferences into daily practices in order to improve quality of resident care in Ohio nursing homes.

*Investigators:* Abbott, K., VanHaitsma, K., Gannod, J.

*State of Ohio Department of Medicaid, Civil Money Penalty Funds*



## **Assessing Preferences for Communicating with Technology: A Person-Centered Approach to Managing Chronic Conditions.**

Develops a new PELI subscale to strengthen technology-assisted communication among older adults receiving home health services, their informal caregivers and formal service providers.

*Investigators:* Sillner, A., Boltz, M., VanHaitsma, K.

*Gordan and Betty Moore Foundation Patient and Family Engagement Early Career Investigator Award*



## **NHCGNE Geriatric Nursing Leadership Training Program for Optimizing Quality in Long-Term Care.**

Pilot tests a training program to provide nurse managers with the skills and knowledge needed to lead inter-professional teams delivering person-centered dementia care for older veterans and their families.

*Investigators:* Kolanowski, A., Shaughnessy, M., Rudolph, J.

*RECALL Foundation*



## **Reducing Disability Via a Family-Centered Intervention for Acutely-Ill Persons with Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias.**

Tests a nurse-family caregiver partnership and person-centered approach to support functional recovery and well-being in persons with dementia, as well as increase family preparedness during and after hospitalization.

*Investigator:* Boltz, M.

*National Institute on Aging*



# Pilot Studies

## **Understanding Roles of Research Facilitators and Facility Champions in Implementing EIT-4-BPSD in Nursing Homes.**

Explores perspectives and experiences of Research Facilitators and Facility Champions who support and lead the implementation of the EIT-4-BPSD study in order to build the knowledge of effective nursing home implementation strategies.

*Investigators:* Van Haitsma, K., Madrigal, C.

*Penn State Program for Person-Centered Living Systems of Care*



## **Appropriateness and Feasibility of ERIC Implementation Strategies for BPSD Using the EIT-4-BPSD Approach in the Nursing Home Setting.**

Examines the application of national Expert Recommendations for Implementing Change (ERIC) strategies in the nursing home setting through the lens of the EIT-4-BPSD study.

*Investigators:* Van Haitsma, K., Madrigal, C.

*Penn State Program for Person-Centered Living Systems of Care*



# Recently Completed Grants

## **Listening to Preferred Music to Reduce Risky Aspects of Wandering: A Pilot Study.**

Explored the impact of listening to preferred music on nursing home residents living with dementia who wander. Participants were calmer and less resistant to care.

*Investigators:* MacAndrew, M., Beattie, E., Fielding, E., Kolanowski, A., VanHaitsma, K.

*Dementia Collaborative Research Grant, Australia*



## **Matching Preferences Through Technology: An Evaluation of “It’s Never Too Late” and the Preferences for Everyday Living Satisfaction Tool.**

Piloted quality measures to track person-centered, preference-based care delivery, and produced a manual to help assisted living facility staff measure improved care planning and service delivery.

*Investigators:* VanHaitsma, K., Abbott, K., Heid, A., Humes, S.

*Friends Foundation for the Aging*



## **Compiling Person-Centered Care (PCC) Management Tools: A Concept Mapping Task to Better Understand the Process of Person-Centered Care Delivery.**

Identified core components of PCC in current measures and laid the groundwork for a unified tool to assess and improve PCC quality in long-term services and supports.

*Investigators:* VanHaitsma, K., Behrens, L., Kolanowski, A., Roes, M., Fick, D., Buck, L., McGhan, G.

*Penn State Program for Person-Centered Living Systems of Care*



## **Nursing Home Toolkit.**

Provides resources to help staff in senior living communities promote non-pharmacologic strategies to address behavioral and psychological symptoms of distress among residents living with dementia. Visit:

[www.nursinghometoolkit.com](http://www.nursinghometoolkit.com)

*Investigators:* Kolanowski, A., VanHaitsma, K.

*The Commonwealth Fund in collaboration with The John A. Hartford Foundation*



## **Assessing Resident Preferences to Advance Person-Centered Care.**

Studied nursing home resident preferences, proxy accuracy, choice-preference ratings impact on satisfaction, and staff role in preference-based care. Created a series of recommendations in the form of tip sheets in partnership with Pennsylvania Culture Change Coalition.

*Investigators:* VanHaitsma, K., Abbott, Heid, A.

*The Patrick and Catherine Weldon Donaghue Medical Research Foundation*



# Current International Research Collaborations

## **Translation and Pilot of the Preferences for Everyday Living Inventory (PELI) in Long-Term Care.**

Translates the PELI into German, and develops and tests new items needed to make the PELI culturally relevant to older adults receiving long-term services and supports in Germany.

*Investigators:* Roes, M., VanHaitsma, K.

*Foundation Wohlfahrtspflege North Rhine Westfalia, Germany*



## **Preferences for Everyday Living Inventory for Family Caregivers.**

Grant proposal designed to create a version of the PELI for family caregiver preferences with the aim of supporting and maintaining caregiver well-being. The tool will take into account both family caregiver and older adult preferences in designing care that is more satisfying, responsive and family-centered.

*Investigators:* McGhan, G., VanHaitsma, K., Kolanowski, A., McCaughey, D.

*Pending proposal submitted to Drummond Foundation*



## **Sexual Expression of People with Dementia.**

Addresses sexual health and well-being, a neglected aspect of care for people living with dementia, by designing a preference assessment tool for many facets of sexual expression.

*Investigators:* Jones, C., VanHaitsma, K., Steelman, E.

*A collaboration between Dr. Cindy Jones, Research Fellow, Menzies Health Institute Queensland's Health Care Practice & Survivorship Program, and Dr. Kimberly VanHaitsma, Penn State College of Nursing*

*Pending proposal submitted to Dementia Australia Research Foundation*



## **Nurse Survey of Preparedness to Care for People with Dementia and their Family Carers.**

Seeks to compare U.S. and U.K. approaches to preparing student nurses to care for people living with dementia and their families using a cross-national survey.

*Investigators:* Downs, M., VanHaitsma, K., Richardson, A., Kolanowski, Boltz., M, Eaton, D., Whitaker, J.

*A collaboration among faculty at the Centre for Applied Dementia Studies, University of Bradford, UK, and PPCLSC, Penn State College of Nursing*



# Research Spotlight: Implementation of EIT-4-BPSD in Nursing Homes

|   |  |
|---|--|
|  <b>EIT-4-BPSD</b>  | <b>Evidence Implementation Triangle for Behavioral &amp; Psychological Symptoms of Distress in Dementia</b>  |
|  <b>Tidbits:</b> Sites.psu.edu/eit4bpsd   | ❖ Ideas and motivation for staff to address behavioral and psychological symptoms of distress in dementia (BPSD) with residents in senior living communities |
|  <b>Toolkit:</b> Nursinghometoolkit.com   | ❖ Resources to help staff in senior living communities to promote nonpharmacologic behavioral health strategies to address BPSD                              |
|  <b>Facebook:</b> EIT for Behavioral & Psychological Symptoms of Distress in Dementia | ❖ A supportive community and evidence-based resource base to help staff in senior living communities address BPSD  |

Up to 90 percent of nursing home residents with dementia exhibit behavioral and psychological symptoms that include aggression, agitation, depression, anxiety, apathy, and hallucinations. These symptoms put patients at risk for inappropriate medication use, reduced function and increased social isolation, among other negative health outcomes.

Drs. Ann Kolanowski and Kimberly VanHaitisma from Penn State University, with Dr. Barbara Resnick from the University of Maryland, hope to reduce those risks by testing a new implementation strategy designed to increase uptake of evidence-based approaches to managing these symptoms, called “EIT-4-BPSD.”

*Funded by the National Institute of Nursing Research.*

***“Our goal is to demonstrate that EIT-4-BPSD enables nursing staff to reduce BPSD using behavioral approaches while optimizing function, preventing adverse effects, and improving quality of life for residents.” - Dr. Kimberly VanHaitisma***

The study utilizes a Nursing Home Toolkit previously developed by the EIT-4-BPSD investigators for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The toolkit framework is founded on a person-centered approach and provides an overview of evidence-based resources addressing seven key areas:

- **Person-centered philosophy.** Provides a rationale for approaching BPSD behaviors through the lens of person-centered care, including a summary of the types of behaviors included in the definition of BPSD.
- **Systems integrations issues.** A review of systems-level considerations to consider prior to starting any new initiative.
- **Evidence-based leadership and direct caregiver education programs.** Programs demonstrated to effectively train leaders and direct caregivers on topics relevant to approaching BPSD.
- **Behavior assessment tools.** Available measures to ensure that staff members appropriately identify BPSD.
- **Clinical decision-making algorithms.** Strategies ensuring that staff comprehensively examine the causes of BPSD.
- **Evidence-based approaches to ameliorate or prevent BPSD.** Approaches shown to be effective in rigorously designed research studies.
- **Crisis response approaches and procedures.**

Upon study completion, a total of 50 skilled nursing homes in Pennsylvania and Maryland will participate in the cluster randomized trial. Each nursing home selects a staff member to serve as “change champion,” working with a research facilitator to help staff deliver PCC. The study will add critical knowledge about implementing effective interventions in nursing homes and serve as a model with potential for wide dissemination.



# Translating research into practice

## Incorporating the Preferences for Everyday Living into Ohio's Nursing Homes to Improve Resident Care

The Preferences for Everyday Living Inventory (PELI) is a tool used to assess nursing home residents' preferences. It is one of the five quality indicators the Ohio Department of Medicaid uses to determine Medicaid nursing home quality payment rates. This project partners with nursing homes to provide education and training on how to honor those preferences and use information about residents' preferences to guide care.

Funded by Ohio Department of Medicaid



*Student volunteers*  
Penn State College of Nursing graduate students support the PELI-Can project's social media and communications teams and pursue related research studies.



## Making a difference

**PELI-Can** — Together we can make nursing homes a better place to live by honoring residents' preferences using the PELI

PELI-Can team has presented 4 live webinars in 2017, with a total of **237 participants**, 60 CEUs earned. Recorded webinars are on the website.

PELI-Can monthly eNews is read by an average of **298 professionals** per month.



Subscribe to PELI-Can eNews  
[bit.ly/PELI-news-signup](http://bit.ly/PELI-news-signup)

[www.preferencebasedliving.com](http://www.preferencebasedliving.com)

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## Research Spotlight:

# Patient and Family Engagement – Early Career Investigator Award

## Developing a person-centered assessment tool to determine preferences for technology-assisted communication among older adults with multiple chronic conditions

Andrea Yevchak Sillner, Ph.D., GCNS-BC, RN, assistant research professor, Penn State College of Nursing, received a recent award that supports her innovative work to improve technology-assisted communication among older adults, their informal family caregivers and service providers.

Sillner's 2017 Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation Early Career Investigator Award in Patient and Family Engagement supports her work to develop a new subscale of the Preferences for Everyday Living Inventory, to be known as the P-TAC. This new subscale is being designed to strengthen technology-assisted communication among older adults receiving community-based home health services and their formal and informal caregivers, and will also address current gaps in support needed to improve transitions in care for older adults with multiple chronic conditions.

Dr. Sillner will develop the P-TAC subscale by:

- Exploring contextual (person, provider and environmental) facilitators and barriers to the use of technology-assisted communication among clients, informal caregivers and organizations.
- Using cognitive interviewing techniques to assure that the wording is person-centered and reflects language used by older adults with multiple chronic conditions, informal caregivers and formal service providers.

As Dr. Sillner develops the P-TAC, she will be mentored by Drs. Kimberly VanHaitsma and Marie Boltz, and will work in partnership with Drs. Jacquie Mogle and Conrad Tucker, of Penn State's College of Nursing and College of Engineering respectively.

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Dr. Sillner is collaborating with community partners, Abramson Senior Care and the Visiting Nurse Association of Central Pennsylvania.

For more information, visit: <https://www.moore.org/investigator-detail?investigatorId=sillner-ph.d.-gcns-bc-rn>



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## Research Spotlight:

# Family-Centered Intervention for Acutely-Ill Persons with Alzheimer's & Other Dementias

Older adults living with dementia are at greater risk for hospitalization than their cognitively healthy peers, and once hospitalized they are at a higher risk of complications such as functional decline and delirium. **Marie Boltz, Ph.D., RN, GNP-BC, FGSA, FAAN, Penn State College of Nursing**, who is leading a study to assess ways to prevent these complications, says, “The societal implications of helping older individuals with dementia avoid functional decline during and after hospitalization are profound in terms of aging in place, quality of life, cost, and caregiver burden.”

Boltz describes the Family-Centered Function Focused Care (Fam-FFC) study as, “A critical next step in delineating how to partner with family caregivers to change acute care approaches provided to patients living with dementia so as to optimize function after discharge, and promote delirium abatement and well-being.” To identify ways to achieve better outcomes for older adults with dementia, the Fam-FFC study is conducting a cluster-randomized trial of 438 patient/caregiver pairs in 6 hospitals.

This study addresses the effectiveness of Fam-FFC, a theoretically based approach in which family caregivers partner with nurses to prevent functional decline and other complications related to hospitalization in older adults living with dementia. A systematic care pathway promotes information sharing and decision-making that in turn encourages physical activity, function, and cognitive stimulation during the hospitalization and immediate post-acute period.

Fam-FFC incorporates an educational empowerment model, which is provided within a social-ecological inpatient framework promoting specialized care to patients living with dementia. The intervention creates an *enabling milieu* for the older person achieved through environmental and policy assessment/modification, staff education, unit-based champions, and individualized goal setting that focuses on functional recovery. The project aims to help family caregivers support function-focused care, and assume responsibility in varying degrees for post-acute care delivery and coordination for the older adult with dementia.

Nurses will purposefully engage family caregivers in the assessment, decision-making, care delivery and evaluation of function-focused care during hospitalization and the 60-day post-acute period. The study is slated for completion by 2022 and will:

- Validate the efficacy of Fam-FFC on the older adult's physical function, delirium occurrence and severity, neuropsychiatric symptoms, and mood.
- Evaluate the impact of Fam-FFC on caregiver preparedness for caregiving, strain, burden, and desire to institutionalize.
- Evaluate the relative costs for the Fam-FFC intervention group as compared to a control group, and calculate health care cost (post-acute health care utilization) and total cost savings for Fam-FFC.

Outcomes will be evaluated at hospital admission, within 72 hours of discharge, and at two and six months post-discharge. And the project will assess the cultural appropriateness of Fam-FCC for diverse families.

For more information, see: <https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT03046121>

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## Research Spotlight:

# Geriatric Nursing Training to Optimize Long-Term-Care Quality

A pilot training study currently underway aims to reduce turnover of new professional nurse managers in Veterans Administration Community Living Centers and improve health outcomes for residents with cognitive impairments.

This initiative will assess the feasibility of implementing the *NHCGNE Geriatric Nursing Leadership Training Program for Optimizing Quality in Long-Term Care* in several geographically dispersed community living centers (formerly, nursing home care units) using distance technology. The leadership program is designed to provide new nurse managers with the knowledge and skills they need to lead inter-professional teams in the delivery of high-quality person-centered dementia care for older veterans and their families. Training augments nurses' basic and advanced education programs which may not have included gerontological nursing and leadership content.

Ultimately, findings from the pilot study will be used to refine and disseminate the leadership program across the 134 community living centers in the Veterans Health Administration system, as well as other long-term care settings outside of the system.

The project is a partnership between the National Hartford Center of Gerontological Nursing Excellence (NHCGNE) and the Offices of Nursing and Geriatrics and Extended Care Veterans Health Administration (VHA). It is funded by the RECALL Foundation.

Principal investigators for the *NHCGNE Geriatric Nursing Leadership Training Program for Optimizing Quality in Long-Term Care* are: Ann Kolanowski, PhD, RN, FGSA, FAAN, Professor, Penn State School of Nursing, Marianne Shaughnessey, PhD, RN, Director of VHA Offices of Nursing and Geriatrics and Extended Care Services, and James Rudolph, MD, VA Director of the Center of Innovation in Long-Term Services and Supports.

Materials prepared during the study will become part NHCGNE's products and services for nursing leadership education.



# Dissemination

## In the News...

“Step it up with the [Full PELI Preferences for Everyday Living Instrument](#). Both the Campaign PCC Tracking Tool and the Full PELI will give you a baseline and actionable information to support a data-driven performance improvement project” -- [October 2017 National Nursing Home Quality Improvement Campaign Newsletter](#)



Pinky Yakatan enjoys pet therapy with Rosebud the chicken. *Photo courtesy of Abramson Senior Care*

“People flourish when they are doing things that they prefer to do and that are meaningful to them. Person-centered care promotes choice, purpose, and a greater sense of connection.”  
[Huff Post Thrive Blog, December 2017](#)

The PPCLSC team's symposium “I’m Annoyed, But Satisfied: Complexities in Measuring Preferences for Everyday Care” received an **Ollie Randall Symposium Award** at the Gerontological Society of America’s 2015 annual meeting. The award is conferred by the organization’s Social Research, Policy and Practice Section to one high-quality symposium per annual meeting that examines cutting-edge issues with broad implications for policy or practice.



## Since 2015:

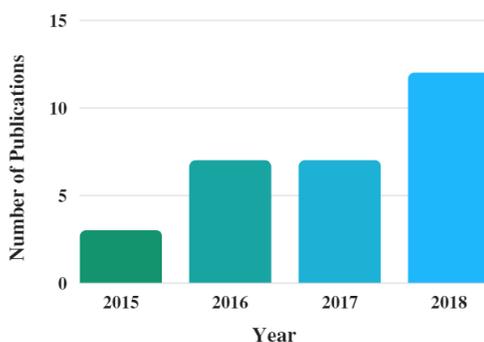
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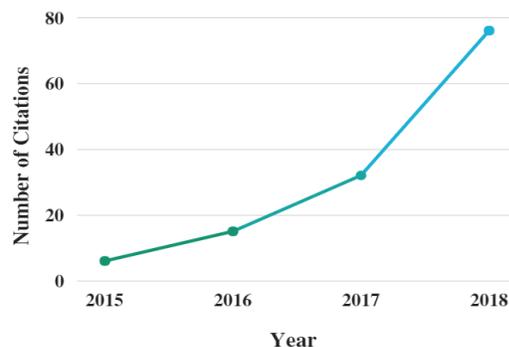
65+

presentations to professional & community organizations

### 29+ Publications in Peer-Reviewed Journals



### 120+ Citations by Researchers



“Before it was a trend or in regulatory language, the staff at the Abramson Center for Jewish Life, in Philadelphia, PA, embraced a person-centered focus on the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of each older adult. Like any transformational change, the process starts with a conversation. ...”

[Person Centered Care Starts with a Conversation](#), *LeadingAge Magazine* · March-April 2018 · Volume 08 · Number 02

“Everything that we said we'd do, we have done,” Abramson Senior Care’s Karen Eshraghi said of goals set to pilot levels of engagement, examine clinical outcomes, and develop a provider manual for the Match-Quality Indicator system one year after this tool received the McKnight’s Excellence in Technology Gold award in the High Tech/High Touch category. [McKnight’s Long-Term Care News Where Are They Now: Abramson Center for Jewish Life, August 5, 2016](#)

## Dissemination: Dr. Kolanowski Provides Leadership on Research Agenda for Person Centered Dementia Care



Insights on needed research and factors contributing to behavioral and psychological symptoms of dementia have been published in *Nursing Outlook*, thanks to a report prepared for the **The National Institutes of Health’s first National Research Summit on Care, Services, and Supports for Persons with Dementia and Their Caregivers** held in October 2017.

Prior to the summit, Dr. Ann Kolanowski was invited to lead a team of dementia experts who conducted a systematic review of the scientific literature on determinants of behavioral and psychological symptoms. Their review, one of the first of its kind, analyzed previously published studies on the causes and precipitants of behavioral and psychological symptoms of dementia (BPSD).

The team gathered research on what causes and influences five of the most common symptoms in people with dementia: aggression, agitation, apathy, depression, and psychosis. They further narrowed their focus to 56 high-quality, low-bias research papers pointing to evidence that factors that affect multiple BPSD include neurodegeneration, the type of dementia, and the severity of the cognitive impairments. Their research for the conference, sponsored by the Advisory Council to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as part of the National Alzheimer’s Project Act, was published in *Nursing Outlook* in 2017.

Gaps in the research identified by the team include how BPSD affects the progression of dementia and how environment and caregiver behavior can influence BPSD. The report additionally provides evidence to guide future development of interventions to reduce expression of BPSD and to inform policymakers’ ability to support needed research to improve the well-being of people living with dementia.

Dr. Kolanowski also co-chaired a session on Research on Care Needs and Supportive Approaches for Persons with Dementia at the Summit. Her post-Summit publication in the *Journal of the American Medical Directors Association* summarizes current research on dementia care; identifies gaps in knowledge; and offers recommendations to improve the science and practice in long-term care for persons with dementia. The article pinpoints 10 of the most pressing research issues in dementia care — recommendations that will be used to advise federal agencies and other organizations that fund research.

Kolanowski, A., Boltz, M., Galik, E., Gitlin, L., Kales, H., Resnick, B., VanHaitsma, K., Sutterlin, J., Sefcik, J., Liu, W., Petrovsky, D., Massimo, L., Nalls, V., Jao, Y.L., Duffort, N., Scerpella, D. Determinants of behavioral and psychological symptoms of dementia: A scoping review of the evidence. *Nursing Outlook*, 2017 Sep-Oct;65(5):515-529. doi:10.1016/j.outlook.2017.06.006. Epub 2017 Jun 16.

Kolanowski, A., Fortinsky, R., Calkins, M., Davangere, P., Gould, E., Heller, T., Hodgson, N., Kales, H., Kaye, J., Lyketsos, C., Resnick, B., Schicker, M., Zimmerman, S. Advancing Research on Care Needs and Supportive Approaches for Persons With Dementia: Recommendations and Rationale (in press). *Journal of the American Medical Directors Association*, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jamda.2018.07.005>

[National Research Summit on Care, Services, and Supports for Persons with Dementia and their Caregivers final report](#)



# Dissemination

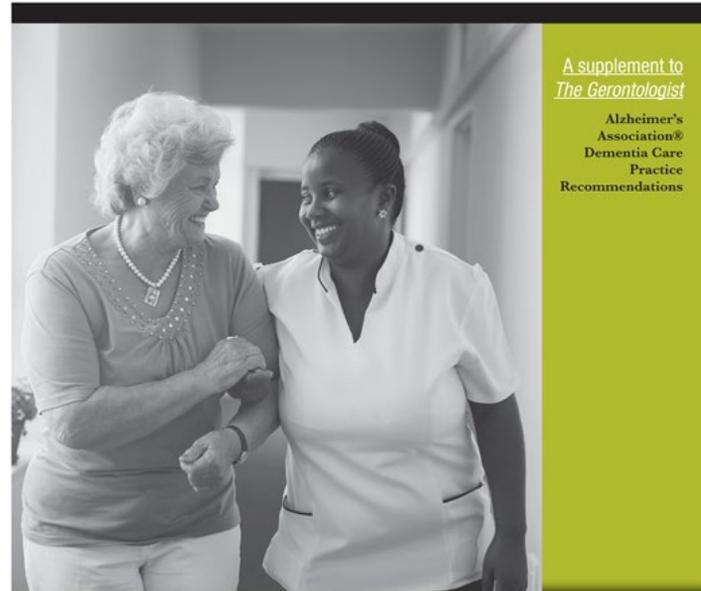
A January 2018 special issue of *The Gerontologist*, sponsored and funded by the Alzheimer's Association, features an invited article by Drs. Ann Kolanowski and Kimberly VanHaitsma and colleagues from Quinnipiac University with recommendations for assessment and care planning for older adults living with dementia.

Based on a comprehensive review of the most recent research literature, the article provides practice-oriented guidelines for all settings of care and all types and stages of dementia. Addressing the needs of older adults, their family members and care partners, they recommend:

- Performing regular, comprehensive person-centered assessments and timely interim assessments.
- Using assessment as an opportunity for information gathering, relationship-building, education, and support.
- Approaching assessment and care planning with a collaborative, team approach.
- Using documentation and communication systems to facilitate the delivery of person-centered information between all care providers.
- Encouraging advance planning to optimize physical, psychosocial and fiscal wellbeing and to increase awareness of all care options, including palliative care and hospice.

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*Read the full article:*

Molony, S., **Kolanowski, A.**, **VanHaitsma, K.**, Rooney, K. Person-Centered Assessment and Care Planning.

*The Gerontologist*, Volume 58, Issue suppl\_1, 18 January 2018, Pages S32–S47, <https://doi.org/10.1093/geront/gnx173>

# Awards

## VanHaitsma Receives Award for Impact on Psychology in Long-Term Care

Recognizing her career impact on quality of life and well-being among nursing home residents, Kimberly VanHaitsma, Ph.D., received an award for her outstanding contributions to psychology in long-term care from Psychologists in Long-Term Care, Inc. (PLTC) at the American Psychological Association annual meeting in 2017.

Craig Schweon, PLTC president, said Dr. VanHaitsma was selected for this award for her career impact advancing the research, measurement tools, evidence-based interventions and education programs needed to support widespread adoption of more person-centered care for older adults. Another factor in the award, he said, was VanHaitsma's active mentoring of other psychologists and her impact on training and building interprofessional collaborative work.

PLTC is a network of psychologists and other professionals dedicated to the enhancement of mental health and quality of life for those involved in long-term care through practice, research, and advocacy.



Liza Behrens with 2018 Transitional Science Fellowship participants

## Liza Behrens Awarded Translational Science Fellowship

**Liza Behrens**, a Ph.D. student working with Drs. Ann Kolanowski and Kimberly VanHaitsma, received the Penn State Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI) Translational Science Fellowship (TSF) award in April 2018.

Ms. Behrens is the first Ph.D. nursing student to be awarded this fellowship. During the fellowship, Ms. Behrens will further her dissertation work focused on direct care nurse perceptions of risk associated with honoring nursing home resident preferences.

## "Abramson Center Creates Match-QI to Capture Gold Award"

The Polisher Institute of Abramson Senior Care received a McKnight's 2014 Excellence in Technology Gold Award in the High Tech/High Touch category for its development of the Match-Quality Indicator, which helps residents fulfill their important recreational preferences by attending preferred activities.



# Sponsor & Innovation Hub for Person-Centered Care:

## Abramson Senior Care

**The sum is far greater than the parts when scholars and practitioners work together to lead innovation in personalized care for seniors.**

Established in 2015, the PPCLSC spurs collaboration among students, faculty, researchers and care providers at the Penn State College of Nursing Center of Geriatric Nursing Excellence, [Abramson Senior Care](#), a long-term care organization in North Wales, PA, and Abramson Senior Care's Polisher Research Institute (PRI), an internationally respected leader in gerontological research. As PPCLSC's director and Senior Research Scientist at PRI, Kimberly VanHaitma collaborates closely with Abramson Senior Care staff and executive leadership, and serves on the board's strategic planning committee, charting innovative directions in research and practice.



*“We are bridging the translational divide between research and practice in exciting, effective new ways,” says Kimberly VanHaitma, Ph.D., associate professor of nursing and director of Penn State’s Program for Person-Centered Living Systems of Care (PPCLSC), a productive hub for nursing education and translational research to advance the practice of person-centered care.”*

*A sample of PPCLSC achievements from the Abramson partnership include:*

### **About the PELI:**

#### ***Supporting Preference-Based Living for Older Adults***

The Preferences for Everyday Living Inventory (PELI) is a questionnaire in conversational language that helps caregivers for older adults offer daily care responsive to individual preferences.

*Designed for:* Residential, community-based and home settings.

*Helps to:* Support individualized care that meets psychosocial and physical needs, guide staff training, measure quality improvement and align services with expectations for older adults, families and regulatory agencies.

*Provides data on:* Preferences for social contact, personal development, leisure, living environment and daily routine.

*Used in:* Varied care settings nationally and internationally. The state of Ohio provides a quality incentive for Medicaid payments to skilled nursing facilities using the PELI.

Versions of the PELI for varied populations and applications are available at [www.preferencebasedliving.com](http://www.preferencebasedliving.com).

**New Versions of the Preferences for Everyday Living Inventory (PELI)** – a series of tools developed to help senior care providers elicit older adults' preferences and track how well those preferences are being met. This tool continues to be developed in many ways via the PPCLSC partnership with Abramson Senior Care. Featured in a recent [LeadingAge](#) article, “Person-Centered Care Starts with a Conversation,” the PELI is currently used nationally by nursing homes and other long-term care facilities. Newer versions – for LGBT older adults in nursing homes, and seniors in adult day care, home health, transitional care unit, and end-of-life care programs – are being developed by Abramson Senior Care.

A new subscale of the PELI that addresses technology-assisted communication preferences for older adults and their family caregivers will also be tested via a recently funded research project led by Penn State College of Nursing Assistant Research Professor, Andrea Sillner, Ph.D., GCNS-BC, RN for Abramson Senior Care's home health program.

**Match-Quality Indicator** – a new tool called the Match-Quality Indicator, developed by the Polisher Research Institute, can be used to help residents maximize their activities based on preferences. This dynamic tool measures resident recreational preferences and activity involvement. It generates color-coded graphics indicating whether individual preferences are met, and is used by staff to create better care plans. The Match-Quality Indicator won the 2014 McKnight's Excellence in Technology Gold Award in the High Tech/High Touch category.

**All About Me Interview** – The All About Me interview serves as a one-page snapshot of newly admitted nursing home residents' preferences for daily living. Developed by Abramson Senior Care, this interview helps care team members welcome newcomers to the community and begin tailoring their care from day one in providing service to an older adult.



*Carol Irvine, President and  
CEO, Abramson Senior  
Care*



*Victoria Crumbie, Director  
of Recreation, Abramson  
Senior Care*



*Karen Eshraghi, Quality  
Improvement Coordinator,  
Abramson Senior Care, PPCSLC*

**ComPASS pilot test site** – a new mobile responsive website designed to help nursing home teams capture residents' preferences and gauge their satisfaction with the way preferences are addressed has been designed for desktop, laptop, tablet and smart phone, and is currently being tested with the help of the Abramson Senior Care staff. This tool is known as ComPASS (an acronym for Care Preference Assessment of Satisfaction).

**Pioneer Network Boot Camp** – At the invitation of the Pioneer Network, a national leader in culture change and person-directed care, Abramson Senior Care has led boot camp preference-based living workshops on the PELI at conferences in 2016, 2017 and 2018. More than 70 practitioners and administrators have attended each of these annual sessions, and have developed introductory-to-advanced skills using the PELI to assess preferences, integrate preferences into care planning and delivery, and achieve PCC quality improvement initiatives.

**Internship site** - Prior to the partnership between Penn State and the Polisher Research Institute, Abramson Senior Care trustee and past chairman, Arnold Hoffman and his wife, Bette, funded a scholarship program through HHD that supports a student summer internship focused on projects related to person-centered care at Abramson Senior Care.

# Sponsor and an Inspiration for Person-Centered Care:

## Donald Ford, PhD

Few people were as equipped to care for a spouse with Alzheimer's as Donald Ford, Ph.D., whose insights and philanthropy have deeply influenced the emergent field of person-centered care.

Dr. Ford came to Penn State in 1952 and was appointed as an assistant professor of psychology and director of the Psychology Clinic in 1956. He was founding director of the Division of Counseling (now the Division of Undergraduate Studies) and founding dean of the College of Health and Human Development. Ford developed baccalaureate and doctoral programs as acting head of the Department of Biobehavioral Health and created the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders from the former speech and hearing department.

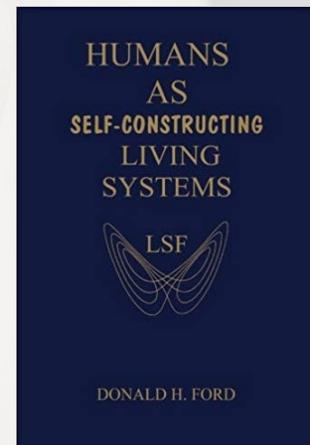
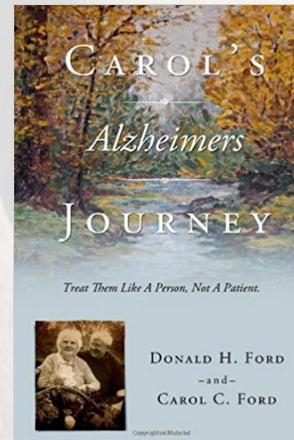
Dr. Ford earned his doctorate in clinical psychology at Penn State, and has authored and co-authored eight books and more than 200 papers on psychotherapy, human development and higher education development. Ford is known for his seminal theory on *Humans as Self-Constructed Living Systems*, which he drew upon in caring for his late wife, Carol. The Fords co-authored a book, *Carol's Alzheimer's Journey*, describing the home care system they developed together, which deeply informed his knowledge of Carol's beliefs, strengths, skills and joys.

Building on his legacy of influence at Penn State, in 2014 Ford also helped to establish the PPCLSC within the Center of Geriatric Excellence in Penn State's College of Nursing. Speaking to the breadth of his impact, PPCLSC's director Kimberly VanHaitsma, Ph.D., says, "Dean Ford's body of work holds the potential to revolutionize the science and quality of person-centered care provided to older adults here in the U.S. and beyond. He gives generously of his time, wisdom and expertise to help guide and mentor all of us in the Center of Geriatric Nursing Excellence."

Now professor emeritus of human development and family studies, and dean emeritus of the College of Health and Human Development, Dr. Ford received the 2015 Community Champion Award from the Penn State Center for Geriatric Nursing Excellence for his substantive contributions to the advancement of the well-being of older adults.



Dr. Donald Ford attended the annual Center of Geriatric Nursing Excellence Spring Brunch. He was the Community Champion award winner in 2015.



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*We wish to acknowledge the significant ongoing contributions to research and scholarship by Penn State faculty, staff and students.*

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**Penn State University**

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**Program for Person-Centered Living Systems of Care**

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