At the Texas A&M School of Nursing, research is a primary foundation of our mission. We are developing innovations to enhance the education and preparation of nurses, improving the delivery of patient care for diverse populations and translating research evidence into practice.

Research in nursing helps shape scientifically and clinically viable outcomes in addressing inequitable access to health care. With research centers and strategic partnerships in place, our nurses have expertise in critical specialty areas, including forensic nursing, rural and underserved populations, integration of primary care with behavioral health care, opioid and substance use disorders, maternal and child health care, cancer prevention and screening, public health nursing, and chronic diseases.

Scholarship is a fundamental component of the academic curriculum, accomplished by integrating our research into teaching practice. As part of Texas A&M University, we strive to establish interprofessional and interdisciplinary collaborations in research to enhance the lives of people across the state, nation and world. We are dedicated to establishing strategic partnerships with a variety of public and private entities to support nursing research that addresses increasingly dynamic health care needs.

This report highlights our faculty’s scholarly activities, including current research and sponsored projects, presentations and publications.

**References**

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Greetings from the Texas A&M School of Nursing.

As associate dean for research, I am honored and delighted to share the continued growth and expansion of the school and celebrate the many key milestones achieved during calendar year 2021. Despite the continued impacts of the pandemic and multiple waves of COVID-19 variants that continued throughout the past two years, the school has sustained its upward trajectory through growth in research and scholarship. This report provides a summary of the key accomplishments for the past year.

Among the key metrics in assessing research productivity are extramural grant funding, yearly research expenditures, and peer reviewed publications and professional presentations. During fiscal year 2021, nearly 50 submitted proposals requested more than $32 million in funding, with $7 million in new yearly funding received. Sponsored research, outreach and education funding expenditures for fiscal year 2021 exceeded $3 million. Faculty increased research scholarship with over 70 journal articles, books, and chapters and 90 presentations.

Key notable events, firsts and milestones during the CY2021 period included the following:

- First-ever Texas A&M School of Nursing faculty established and staffed Nurse Family Partnership® (NFP) in the Brazos Valley and surrounding counties. This program serves vulnerable first-time moms from before 28 weeks gestation through the child’s second birthday (funded by competitive state and national funding). Our NFP program is the first new program in the state in five years and the only in the Brazos Valley area.

- Competitive renewal of the Texas A&M School of Nursing’s Texas Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners for Rural and Underserved training grant to increase the supply and distribution of qualified SANEs.

- Approval of the Doctor of Nursing Practice program by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. This will advance doctoral level research.

- Expansion of the first-ever Texas A&M School of Nursing faculty established and directed Rural Community Opioid Response Implementation Program providing prevention, treatment and counseling services in rural counties of southeastern Texas known as the Golden Crescent region.
• Expansion of the first-ever Texas A&M School of Nursing faculty established and directed Rural Community Opioid Response Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) program to reduce the incidence and impact of neonatal abstinence syndrome and consequences of SUD/OUD on women and families in the rural Golden Crescent area of Texas.

• Expansion of cancer screening, education and prevention with expanded and competitive funding from the Texas Cancer Prevention Research Institute (CPRIT), Houston Methodist Research Institute, Pink Alliance and Discovery Foundation.

• First-ever Texas A&M School of Nursing faculty established INPACTS initiative (Increasing Nursing Access Across Populations with Technology and Simulation), a HRSA funded program, to develop innovative curriculum and pedagogy using virtual reality.

• Texas A&M nurse scientists pioneering the development and integration of virtual reality and augmented reality into research, education and outreach initiatives.

• First-ever Texas A&M nurse-led vaccine confidence grant in partnership with a local rural health center, which was designed to bolster COVID-19 vaccinations and immunizations.

• Establishment Texas A&M School of Nursing Office of Community Outreach and Engagement (COE) at Houston Methodist Cancer Center.

At the School of Nursing, we strive to support, recognize and promote outstanding accomplishments in research and scholarship. The many accolades and awards received by faculty, students and staff during the past year are too many to highlight in a single report. However, this summary provides a broad overview of the myriad of activities and serves as a snapshot of the school’s exponential growth. We are committed to maintaining our focus on innovation, teaching, service and research as we reimagine and pioneer health care for the future.

Regards,

Jane Bolin, PhD, JD, RN
Associate Dean for Research
Regents Professor
Texas A&M School of Nursing


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**KEY**

* = Mentored students

© = Conference canceled due to COVID-19 pandemic

V = Virtual conference/presentation.

Bold = School of Nursing author or co-author