Congratulations! PhD in Nursing Graduate Named Chief Nurse at Dana Farber Cancer Institute.

At the conclusion of a national search, Anne Harvey Gross, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN, a 2010 graduate of the Nursing PhD program here at UMass Boston has been selected to replace Patricia Reid Ponte, RN, DNSc, FAAN, NEA-BC as Senior Vice President for Patient Care Services and Chief Nurse, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Executive Director, Oncology Nursing and Clinical Services, Brigham and Women's Hospital. Prior to this appointment, Dr. Gross had been Dana Farber’s Vice President of Adult Nursing and Clinical Services.

Anne came to the PhD in Nursing program to improve the care of oncology patients by focusing on Health Policy. She also came to UMass Boston because of the close relationship it has with Dana Farber. A lifelong learner, Anne felt her education was not yet complete. She “came to understand that as nurses we have so much knowledge of the health care system – but I needed the leadership skills and tools of health policy to influence healthcare in a different way.” She did not embark upon her doctorate as a novice, having attained degrees from Maryville College, St. Louis University and Boston College. She also worked in oncology for several years, and in public health in Latin America for 10 years. Why oncology nursing? “I love this specialty because nurses get to walk a journey with a patient and their family for a period time and really impact their quality of life.” It is no wonder that Anne chose, as her dissertation topic, Factors Influencing Hopelessness and Complementary Therapy Use in Patients with Ovarian Cancer.

In addition to her administrative career, Anne continues a pace with her contributions to nursing scholarship. She has co-authored articles on leadership effectiveness, interdisciplinary teamwork and multidisciplinary governance models for this health policy graduate.

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Meet The New Faculty of CNHS

Rachel C. Drew, PhD, BSc, Assistant Professor, earned a BSc in Sport and Exercise Sciences and a PhD in Exercise Physiology at the University of Birmingham in the United Kingdom. Following a brief hiatus from research, she completed her post-doctoral research training in the Heart and Vascular Institute at Penn State College of Medicine in Hershey, PA. as a Research Associate. She joined the Department of Exercise and Health Sciences in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences at UMass Boston as an Assistant Professor.

Dr. Drew's research interests include examining the reflex mechanisms involved in the control of blood pressure, heart rate, and blood flow to the kidneys during exercise and changes in posture in healthy adults. Her research also examines the influences of healthy aging and cardiovascular disease on these areas of integrative cardiovascular physiology. Dr. Drew's current research focus is on the effects of aging and race on reflex changes in blood pressure control and kidney blood flow in response to exercise, as well as how exercise training affects these acute cardiovascular responses.

Michelle Ferguson, DNP, PPCNP-BC is a Clinical Associate Professor in the College of Nursing who is also the Clinical Associate Director of the Post-Master’s Certificate Nurse Practitioner Program. She is a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner who instructs our graduate nursing students in the areas of Advance Pediatrics and Obstetric primary care. She is a strong advocate for online teaching and learning, and is dedicated to the progression of innovative online education. Dr. Ferguson received her Bachelor of Nursing Degree from the University of the Virgin Islands - St. Thomas. She then traveled to the United States as a travel nurse and advanced her nursing education at Florida International University where she received her graduate Advance Practice Nursing Degree.

In 2010, her dedication to clinical practice and advancement of nursing education led to her the pursuit of a Doctor of Nursing Practice Degree also at the University of Miami in Miami, Florida. Her educational journey there allowed her to develop pediatric school entry vaccination guidelines for children in Florida. Dr. Ferguson taught at FIU for 4 years before joining us at the University of Massachusetts, where she is committed to growing and evolving the Online Post Master Certificate program. Just recently, she participated as a 2016-17 AACN-Wharton School of Business Nurse Executive Leadership Fellow, with this new-found knowledge she plans to execute growth of our graduate Online programs.

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Her two most recent publications are Transforming Oncology Care: Developing a Strategy and Measuring Success, in Seminars in Oncology Nursing and Teamwork and Electronic Health Record Implementation: A Case Study of Preserving Effective Communication and Mutual Trust in a Changing Environment, for the Journal of Oncology Practice.

When asked how she juggled children in college, a full time job and her PhD work, Anne stated that she didn’t know – she just did it, largely with the support of UMB faculty and her PhD student cohort! However, Anne believes her internship was the seminal experience of her studies. During her internship in Washington, DC, she discussed policy with senators and congressmen and helped develop policy statements. This experience helped elevate Anne’s understanding of the healthcare system – and leadership. Her kinship with CNHS remains strong by serving on our Advisory Board and Dean Search committees. Indeed, CNHS looks forward to more collaborations with Dana Farber and our alumna Dr. Anne Gross!
Meet The New Faculty of CNHS

Mary Fischer, PhD MSN
WHNP-BC earned a nursing diploma from the Massachusetts General Hospital School of Nursing, a BA in Psychology from UMass Boston, and an MSN from the MGH Institute of Health Professions. In 2011, she earned a PhD from the UMass/Worcester Graduate School of Nursing; she received the Dempster NP Doctoral Dissertation Research Grant from the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners for her dissertation on Women’s Experiences with Discontinuing Menopause Hormone Therapy.

Clinically, Dr. Fischer practices as a Women’s Health Nurse Practitioner at Atrius Health Inc. where she provides care for women across the lifespan; she is also one of the clinicians in the subspecialty Menopause Consultation Service. She is certified as a Menopause Practitioner and also holds certifications as an International Board Certified Lactation Consultant and a Lamaze Certified Childbirth Educator. She is also the Nursing Education Coordinator at Atrius Health, where she works to establish clinical-academic alliances and promote staff development.

At UMass Boston she teaches in the Master’s Program, and has recently been appointed as the Director of the Post-Master’s Certificate Program. Her teaching and research interests include Women’s Health, menopause and alternative strategies for symptom management, and qualitative/mixed methods research. She has also served on the Consumer Education Committee of the North American Menopause Society and was part of the 2011-2013 cohort of the North American Menopause Society Research Mentorship Program.

Priscilla Gazarian, PhD, RN
earned a BSN from the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, an MS from the University of Massachusetts Boston, and a Doctorate from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. She has an appointment as a Nurse Scientist at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston, MA where she has developed a program of research on preventing hospital harm.

Dr. Gazarian has investigated the role of nurse decision-making in preventing adverse events through the use of cognitive task analysis. She was a Co-Investigator on PROSPECT (Promoting Respect and Ongoing Safety through Patient-centeredness, Engagement, Communication and Technology) funded by the Gordon and Betty Moore foundation and the Nursing Director for STRIDE (Strategies to Reduce Injuries and Develop Confidence in Elders), funded by NIA/PCORI. She is currently interested in the prevention of hospital harm through improved patient engagement with a focus on Advance care planning and goals of care conversations, while teaching our undergraduate programs.
Meet The New Faculty of CNHS

Huimin Yan, PhD

Huimin Yan, PhD received her bachelor’s degree in Kinesiology from the Beijing Sport University. She continued her education in Exercise Physiology at Iowa State University, where she earned her master’s, and at the University of Illinois-Urbana, Champaign, where she earned her PhD. She completed post-doctoral fellowship at the East Carolina University before joining the College of Nursing and Health Sciences.

Dr. Yan’s program of research focuses on examining the interaction of diet and exercise on vascular function in health, disease, and disabilities throughout the human lifespan, with a specialization in health disparities (including racial differences).

Professor Yan is using a minimally-invasive microdialysis technique to examine muscle and adipose tissue microcirculation and non-invasive techniques to assess cardiac function, vascular function, and arterial stiffness. Her current pilot research project is to assess microvascular function, sympathetic reactivity, and the effect of exercise training in modulating microvascular function and sympathetic reactivity in obese and hypertensive African Americans and Caucasians, funded by the American College of Sports Medicine.

Associate Clinical Professor Christine Salvucci, DNP, RN, CNE

Christine Salvucci, DNP, RN, CNE has returned to UMass Boston. She is a graduate from the RN-BS program and then earned her Master’s in Nursing from Northeastern as a clinical nurse specialist in community health and received her DNP from Regis College in 2013.

Dr. Salvucci holds certified nurse educator status from the National League of Nursing.

For her capstone, Dr. Salvucci focused on standardized testing programs utilized to prepare students for taking the NCLEX-RN examination. For her doctoral dissertation, Dr. Salvucci focused on NCLEX-RN outcomes related to standardized testing scores, final exam grades, ethnicity, age, and previous baccalaureate degrees. Her most recent research focused on minority nursing faculty related to recruitment, hiring and retention which is published in the Summer 2016 issue of the Journal of Cultural Diversity. Dr. Salvucci has an interest in global health and has participated in numerous mission trips to the Dominican Republic for the delivery of medical care with the hope of another trip summer 2017.

Dr. Salvucci’s nursing experience has covered intensive care, medical surgical nursing, and community health. As an educator, Dr. Salvucci has over 20 years of nursing education experience as a faculty member and administrator.

Kai Zou, PhD

Kai Zou, PhD earned his BS and MS degrees in Exercise Science from Beijing Sport University in China, in 2006 and 2009 respectively. After that, he completed his PhD in Kinesiology (Exercise Physiology Concentration) at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where he studied and developed novel strategies to improve skeletal muscle repair and growth following exercise training as his dissertation topic. This project was funded by the American College of Sports Medicine Doctoral Student Research Grant. To further pursue research in exercise and skeletal muscle physiology, in 2014, he joined a research lab as a postdoctoral research fellow in the East Carolina Diabetes and Obesity Institute at East Carolina University. At ECU, his research focused on understanding the cellular mechanisms responsible for the metabolic improvements and remission of type 2 diabetes after Roux-en-Y gastric bypass surgery (RYGB) and was supported by the post-doctoral fellowship from the American Heart Association.

Dr. Zou has extensive research experience in the field of skeletal muscle physiology and metabolism. His current research focuses on elucidating the cellular mechanisms underlies the dysregulation of skeletal muscle glucose metabolism, mitochondria dysfunction and insulin resistance associated with metabolic diseases (i.e., obesity, type 2 diabetes) and understanding how interventions, such as exercise, diet and bariatric surgery, can improve metabolic function and insulin sensitivity. The ultimate goal of his research program is to develop innovative therapeutics in order to treat metabolic diseases and improve metabolic health.
Jessica Whiteley, PhD received her doctorate from Virginia Polytechnic University in clinical psychology in 2001. In 2005, after completing a post-doctoral fellowship and research faculty appointment at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, she joined the Department of Exercise and Health Sciences (EHS) in CNHS as an Assistant Professor. Dr. Whiteley was promoted to Associate Professor in 2012. Dr. Whiteley has been either a Principal Investigator or Co-Investigator on over 15 NIH funded studies, most of which have examined the efficacy of behavioral interventions to promote physical activity, healthy eating, and smoking cessation. Within these health behaviors, her particular areas of emphasis are women’s health, health disparities, motivational interviewing and eHealth.

Dr. Whiteley is currently a Co-Investigator (and Principal Investigator of the UMass Boston site) for an NIH-funded project. The study, conducted in collaboration with George Washington University, seeks to determine if evidence-based health behavior change interventions designed to help university students attain and maintain a healthy body weights can be effectively delivered via Facebook and text messaging. Students have an opportunity to translate their classroom knowledge to experience learning by conducting participant interviews and taking physiological and body composition measures. This year EHS PhD candidate, Jamie Faro is the Project Coordinator. EHS Masters students Anders Gundersen and Keyshla Melendez-Rosado are graduate research assistants. Heather Harker Ryan, a PhD Nursing student, is a senior research assistant. Furthermore, three EHS undergraduates are also working as research assistants.

This fall, Dr. Whiteley has assumed the role of Interim Chair for EHS. EHS is an interdisciplinary department, with expertise and research ranging from the cellular and bench science to society at large with collaborative, interdisciplinary efforts in areas such as obesity and obesity interventions, physical activity interventions, exercise physiology, and health disparity populations.

In her new role, Dr. Whiteley is excited to support and nurture the growing EHS programs; with nearly 700 undergraduate students, EHS has grown over 350% since 2005. In addition, EHS introduced a master’s program in 2013 and a doctoral program in 2014. Dr. Whiteley hopes to also support the EHS faculty who are dedicated to excellence in teaching, research, and experiential learning, all of which provide students with the experience they need to enter the rapidly-growing fields of allied health professions and exercise science.
Selected Grants

**Teri Aronowitz, PhD FNP**
10/2015 – 9/2018 US Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), UMass Boston Nursing Substance Abuse, HIV and Hepatitis C Prevention Program. This $900,000 grant will support a 3-year program aimed at decreasing substance abuse and behaviors that place minority college-aged young persons at risk for HIV and Hepatitis C infections. Dr. Aronowitz will recruit a group of UMass Boston nursing students to serve as peer educators for the University of Massachusetts Boston Nursing Substance Abuse, HIV, and Hepatitis C Prevention Program. The program is a collaboration between CNHS, University Health Services, and community organizations, Wayside Youth and Family Support Network and Harbor Health Services. Wayside will train junior and senior nursing students to deliver an evidence-based intervention to UMass Boston students ages 18 to 24. The team will work to decrease substance abuse and other behaviors that place this group at risk for sexually transmitted infections. Aronowitz also wants to increase the number of students who get tested for HIV and Hepatitis C, which will be Harbor Health’s major role on the grant. The nursing students will obtain national certifications as peer educators in order to deliver the intervention to freshmen and sophomore UMass Boston students. Within UMass Boston, the intervention is a collaboration between the Nursing Department and the Exercise and Health Sciences Department and the American College of Sports Medicine Paffenbarger-Blair Fund for Epidemiological Research on Physical Activity.

**Suzanne Leveille, PhD RN**
7/11-6/17 Principal Investigator, NIA/NIH (R01), *Attentional Demands of Chronic Pain and Risk for Falls in Older Adults*. This $3.2 million grant is to better understand the risk of falls related to chronic pain in older adults. The purpose of this study is to examine a hypothetical pathway whereby chronic pain is a potential distractor and thereby puts older adults at risk for falls and mobility difficulties. Dr. Leveille and colleagues are examining the relationship between chronic pain and attention measures and dual task gait performance in the third assessment wave of the MOBILIZE Boston Study cohort, a population-based cohort of over 350 adults now aged 76 or older, living in the community in and around Boston.

Initially, when the MOBILIZE Boston Study began in 2005, the study enrolled 764 persons aged 70 and older. The current assessment included an extensive health interview and tests of cognitive and physical performance. Following the assessment, participants submit monthly fall calendar postcards to report falls over the subsequent 2 years. Data analyses are underway and initial findings have been presented at national scientific meetings by Dr. Leveille, her colleagues, and a number of CNHS students, both graduate and undergraduate students. The research study is collaboration between UMass Boston, Hebrew SeniorLife, and several experienced researchers at Harvard-affiliated institutions and at the University of Tel Aviv.

**Huimin Yan** - 2016-2017: “Effect of Physical Activity on Sympathetic Reactivity and Microvascular Function: Association to Social Context in African American Women”. The funding for this $10,000 grant is the American College of Sports Medicine Paffenbarger-Blair Fund for Epidemiological Research on Physical Activity.
Selected Publications

Dr. Rosanna DeMarco Co-Edited a book on HIV and Aging

Several CNHS and UMB faculty and students authored or co-authored chapters:

Dr. Rosanna DeMarco
Dr. Leonard Alberts
Dr. Teri Aronowitz
Dr. Suzanne Leveille
Dr. David Pantalone
Dr. Courtney Sprague
Ms. Saurja Tapa (PhD Student)


(Note, co-authors Hannah Fraley and Julianne Mazzawi are PhD students in the Dept. of Nursing.)


Awards

Assistant Professor Suha Ballout, PhD and Associate Lecturer Linda Chiofar, MS were recipients of this year’s Daisy Awards. DAISY is an acronym for Diseases Attacking the Immune System, and the DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses were created by the family of Patrick Barnes who were awed by the skill, care, and compassion of his nurses. The award serves to both recognize and thank nurses whom the Barnes family see as society’s "unsung heroes.” For example, Ms. Chiofar received the Daisy Award "to honor her exceptional impact on students and her inspirational influence on their future". This is a nationally recognized award for excellence in nursing.

Jacqueline Fawcett, PhD, FAAN was honored by her selection as a Fellow of the Academy of Nursing Education (FANE). The induction ceremony was held at the National League for Nursing Educational Summit meeting in Orlando, FL, September, 2016.

Emily Jones, PhD received two honors this year as she wraps up her Robert Wood Johnson fellowship. She is the recipient of the Eastern Nursing Research Society (ENRS) Rising Star Research Award, that was presented at the annual scientific session of the Eastern Nursing Research Society, Pittsburgh, PA, April 2016. Also in April, she was inducted as a Fellow in the Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association (FPCNA).

Exercise and Health Sciences Students Win New England College Bowl, Advance to Nationals

For the first time, EHS undergraduates took home First Place in the New England American College of Sports Medicine Conference this fall. They outperformed 21 other teams from all over New England to take home the coveted trophies. The team of three, Sean Derby-Kilfoyle, Lindsay Breidel, and Tri Vo, were mentored by Associate Professors Dr. Sarah Camhi and Dr. Laurie Milliken. The team studied and prepared, which paid off as they took over first place in the complex final question.

The students will have an all-expense paid trip to the national ACSM meeting this spring where they will be representing all of New England. Please join us in congratulating the EHS team and department for this accomplishment.

Click here for the full story.
Wishing you a Happy, Healthy and Wonderful New Year!
From the College of Nursing and Health Sciences!