

## College of Nursing *Highlights*

- Save the Date: Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on March 2, at 6 p.m.
- Terry Fedele and Jay Van Vechten were appointed chair and vice-chair of the College Advisory Board for 2018-19.
- Dean Marlaine Smith was a Visiting Scholar at Wuhan Polytechnic University, Tongji University, and several hospitals in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China.
- Dr. Shirley Gordon served on a webinar panel, titled "Head Lice- Considerations for Health Care and Social Service," hosted by the U.S. Environment Protection Agency.
- Joanna Gabon, Tara Melotek, Brittany Murray, Orisel Martinez, Raquel Brown, Regine Reaves, Olivia Silvera, and Suzanne Arnold received Florida Nurses Foundation scholarships.
- Dr. Rhonda Goodman, Clinical Instructor Joan Morris, and a group of BSN students travelled to Guatemala during the winter break to provide health promotion and screenings to more than 400 indigenous Maya villagers. They also conducted a foot clinic for older adults with diabetes and installed 12 wood stoves.



### Dr. Ruth Tappen Awarded Grant to Develop Fit2Drive

In Florida, there are more than 540,000 people living with Alzheimer's disease (AD), the most recognized form of dementia. The number of people in Florida who are age 65 and older with AD is expected to increase 41.2 percent by 2025 to a projected 720,000. Research fellows from the [FAU Brain Institute](#) received more than \$1 million from the Florida Department of Health's [Ed and Ethel Moore Alzheimer's Disease Research Program](#), supporting research leading to the prevention and possible cure for AD.

Among the FAU Brain Institute awardees is Dr. Ruth Tappen, Professor and Christine E. Lynn Eminent Scholar in FAU's College of Nursing, who was awarded \$237,500 for her project titled, "Fit2Drive: Development and Testing of a Driver Risk Predictor for Individuals with Alzheimer's Disease."

Florida has a high proportion of older drivers, and physical and cognitive impairments prompt concerns related to their driving habits. There is a high level of concern about dementia and driving, with many examples of resistance and unsafe driving continuing by individuals with dementia, proving to be a danger to themselves and others. To try to combat this, the reality of unsafe driving must be made visible to both the driver and caregivers to get the person to stop driving. Results from a Fit2Drive Calculator make unsafe driving visible in an objective manner.

"Dr. Tappen has extensive research in this area, and the funding from the Florida Department of Health will help further her work to address memory disorders and the toll they take on the individual, their caregivers and society," said Dr. Marlaine Smith, Dean of the College of Nursing.

Co-investigators include Drs. Maria Ordonez, David Newman and Monica Rosselli, FAU, and Dr. Mustapha Mouloua, University of Central Florida.



### Dr. Debra Hain Awarded Grant to Improve Medication in Older Adults Undergoing Hemodialysis

Providing high-quality, cost-effective care to an aging population living with multiple chronic diseases, like chronic kidney disease (CKD), presents a daunting challenge in today's health care system. Individuals with CKD, who have a high risk for cardiovascular mortality and morbidity, must manage a complex daily medication regimen, which can be a challenge, especially for older adults with cognitive impairment. They forget to take medication or take it incorrectly.

There is little research exploring interventions that may help older adults successfully self-administer medications, in particular those undergoing hemodialysis as a result of CKD. Implementation of cognitive support strategies may assist older adults undergoing dialysis to successfully self-administer medication and self-report adherence to the prescribed medication regimen.

Dr. Debra Hain was awarded a \$176,300 grant from [Keryx BioPharmaceuticals](#) for her study, "Cognitive Support Strategies to Improve Medication in Older Adults Undergoing Hemodialysis." Investigator-collaborators on the research include Drs. Ruth Tappen, David Newman and Monica Rosselli, Florida Atlantic University.

*Caring is a Science, and we study it. Caring is an Art, and we practice it. Caring is a Way of Being, and we live it.*



Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing  
777 Glades Road; Boca Raton, FL 33431  
Phone: 561.297.6261  
[nursing@fau.edu](mailto:nursing@fau.edu)  
<http://nursing.fau.edu>

