

# **Introduction: Nursing and Patient Care Services**

## **Research Department, Stanford Health Care**

*Written by the ORPCS Department*

### **Background**

In Winter 2020, Dr. Michelle Y. Williams, PhD, RN, joined the Stanford Health Care Team, as the Executive Director of the Nursing and Patient Care Services Research Department, which, at that time, consisted of two, distinctive divisions, clinical trials, and academic nursing research. There were three full-time (two nurse scientists, one research RN program manager) and one relief (nurse scientist) staff in the Office of Research. The research program manager's role included supporting the transition of clinical research studies from the Stanford University School of Medicine to SHC Hospital Inpatient clinical units. The nurse scientists were responsible for supporting frontline nursing research projects.

The Nursing and Patient Care Services Research Department would continue to undergo several infrastructure iterations, from 2020 to 2022 current date, to meet the increasing demand for support to deploy clinical research studies from the Stanford University School of Medicine across Stanford Health Care Hospital Inpatient and Outpatient clinical care delivery settings.

### **A Closer Look: Nursing and Patient Care Services Research Department**

#### **Three Divisions:**

1. Clinical Trials Research Operations and Practice
2. Health Equity Research, Operations and Practice

### 3. Academic Nursing and Patient Care Research

## Clinical Trials Operations and Practice

*Purpose:* Purpose of the clinical trials infrastructure at SHC:

1. To support the seamless transition of clinical research studies from the Stanford University School of Medicine into care delivery settings across Stanford Health Care.
2. To support the integration of clinical research operations and practice standards across Stanford Health Care, assuring operational, clinical setting, and clinician readiness.

*The start:* Deployment of the first COVID clinical research trials in March 2020, while at the same time, experiencing a stark increase in Oncology, Hematology and Bone Marrow Transplant studies across Stanford Health Care Hospital Inpatient Nursing Units.

1. From July 2020 through October 2020, leveraged the Nursing Staffing Office Labor Pool, which was created as a triaging process and station to deploy clinicians who were displaced following cessation of elective surgeries and procedures, to create an Office of Research early clinical trials leadership oversight infrastructure across SHC Hospital Inpatient Services. This, to support frontline nursing and clinical staff with the increased clinical and operational demands related to the increased volume and complexity of new clinical trials studies being deployed at a rapid rate across the organization. In November 2020, due to the expected Flu surge impacting the SHC Hospital Inpatient daily census, and the added COVID surge, pre-vaccination, all Float Pool Nurses who were initially deployed to support the Office of Research, were reabsorbed within the Nursing Staffing Office to support standard patient care needs across the enterprise.

2. In August of 2020, Dr. Michelle Y. Williams commissioned a White Paper examining Nursing Involvement in Clinical Trials at Stanford. A seven-item survey was issued to Stanford Nursing to examine nursing involvement in clinical trials. Over a 24-hour period, 781 RNs responded to the survey across ambulatory, inpatient, emergency department and interventional clinical areas. The recommendations on the survey were:

- Provide education to all RNs involved in human subject's research on (a) the fundamentals of clinical trials research and (b) specific clinical

trials research protocol for ongoing research in their clinical practice area.

- Clarify the various roles of the RN in the clinical trials research ecosystem.

3. There was a clear need to develop a dedicated team of clinical nurses to support clinical trials across the inpatient hospital. A Clinical Trials Inpatient team consisting of a Director, a Patient Care Manager, two Assistant Patient Care Managers, and Clinical Research Nurses was established. In June 2021 the inaugural group of 6 Clinical Nurses were onboarded utilizing a curriculum aimed at clinical trial support. In addition to standard General Clinical Orientation, these nurses also received education on Good Clinical Practice and Social and Behavioral Research Best Practices. A second Cohort of 6 Clinical Nurses were onboarded in October 2021 to total 12 Clinical Research Nurses supporting clinical trials in the inpatient areas. In addition to staffing and direct trial support, this Clinical Trials team also developed resources to support bedside clinicians including a Digital repository of clinical trial documents.

4. As the need for COVID-19 treatments increased, the Clinical Trials team supported FDA Regulated treatments aimed at improving patient outcomes related to COVID-19. These treatments included expanded access, emergency use authorizations, and compassionate use cases. The Clinical trials team coordinated with the Professional practice team to implement FDA regulated treatments in both ambulatory and inpatient spaces such as Remdesivir and other Monoclonal antibody treatments.

*Current state:* For fiscal year 2020-2021, the Clinical Trials team supported 168 clinical trials across the inpatient hospital, with an increasing trend over time. We have supported 9 patients through FDA regulated monoclonal antibody treatments in FY21 and continue to collaborate with the professional practice team to support incoming FDA regulated treatments.

*Education about Clinical Trials:* Clinical trials education is now standard across New Employee Orientation, General Clinical Orientation, SHC Leadership and Management Academy, and The Nurse Residency Program.

*Future:* Our goal for FY22 and beyond is to extend clinical trials to support patients and clinicians across the Stanford Health Care enterprise, including implementation of clinical trials into our EPIC Electronic Health Record; EPIC for Research Module.

## Workforce Equity, Diversity, Inclusion

Stanford Medicine Black Nurses Association Chapter of the National Black Nurses Association: Chartering Ceremony, July 2021.

*Purpose:* To support Health Equity Research and Workforce Equity and Inclusion, Dr. Michelle Y. Williams, along with support from Dr. Sharon Hampton, Associate Chief Nursing Officer, and Emebet Aklilu, Project Manager, spearheaded the progression and launch of the Stanford Medicine Black Nurses Association Chapter of the National Black Nurses Association.

*The start:* Chapter effective, March 15, 2021. SMBNA Chapter Chartering Ceremony, July 2021: with David Entwistle, President & Chief Executive Officer and Dr. Dale Beatty, Vice President and Chief Executive Officer, Stanford Health Care serving as keynote speakers, and the SMBNA Chapter Board-of-Directors.

*Ritchie Abracosa*

*Dr. Sharon B. Hampton*

*Dr. Michelle Y. Williams*

*Emebet Aklilu*



*Current State:* Second year of Chapter. Board members will attend the 50th Annual National Black Nurses Association Conference in Chicago, July 2022.

*Board of Directors:*

- President: Dr. Michelle Y. Williams, PhD, RN, Stanford Health Care
- First Vice President: Dr. Michelle De Coux-Hampton, PhD, RN, Stanford Health Care
- Second Vice President: Esther Kolison, MSN, RN, Stanford Health Care
- Historian: Kimberely Hoglund, MSN, RN, Stanford Children's Healthcare
- Secretary: Crystal Miles-Threatt, MA, RN, Stanford Health Care
- Treasurer: Dr. Tiffany Victor-Castleberry, DNP, RN, Stanford Health Care

- Membership Chair: Hirut Truneh, MSN, RN, Stanford Health Care
- Health Policy: Shenee Laurence, MPH, RN, Stanford Health Care
- Parliamentarian: Dr. Sylvia Miller, DNP, RN, Stanford Children's Healthcare

## Academic Nursing and Patient Care Research

### *Purpose:*

1. To describe the role of a nurse scientist at Stanford Health Care.
2. To describe the mechanisms that support patient care focused, nurse-led research at Stanford Health Care

*The start:* A small acorn growing into an oak tree is a metaphor to describe the growth of ORPCS over the past two years. Nurse-led research is important to Stanford to advance the practice of nursing and improve patient care and to support SHC Magnet Re-designation.

*Current State:* ORPCS at end of 2021 had three Nurse Scientists (full-time) who have been assigned to clinical specialty areas/Service Lines to provide research expertise to nursing and other clinical leaders and consultation to frontline nurses and other clinicians with their research projects. Service Line assignments, include:

1. Mary E. Lough, PhD, RN: Intensive Care and Interventional Platform, SHC
2. Aubrey Florum-Smith, PhD, RN: Acuity Adaptable Unit (AAU), SHC and Stanford Health Care Valley Care: Nursing
3. Maria Yefimova, PhD, RN (2020-2022): Emergency Department and Ambulatory Services, SHC

Nurse scientists support inpatient and ambulatory research studies led by front-line nurses and other front-line clinicians.

## The Nursing Research Lab

The Nursing Research Lab was reimagined and relaunched in Fall 2020 by Drs. Michelle Y. Williams and Maria Yefimova, prior to which, the lab had

been on a two-year moratorium. The Lab relaunched as a collaboration involving all nurses with PhDs at SHC and Stanford Children's Hospital. Currently, 18 members meet monthly to discuss their own research and additional research issues. The members come from many different areas including:

- Nurse Scientists from ORPCS
- Nurses with PhDs who work at SHC in a clinical or administrative role
- Nurse Scientists from Stanford Children's Hospital
- Post-doctoral nurse scholars in the School of Medicine, who have been hired with Stanford Health Care donor funding from the Stanford Nurse Alumnae.

*Collaborative Research:* Collaborations between ORPCS and outside organizations

- Johnson & Johnson and Sigma
- University of Pennsylvania Clinical Wellness Survey, and Magnet4Europe Initiative
- Interprofessional clinical research with physicians in the SOM.

*Covid-19 Research:* Two nurse led studies examined different impacts of Covid-19. One study concerned family communication during ICU rounds using video (poster). A second study asked nurses about their experiences via focus groups (poster).

*School of Medicine Clinician Educator Faculty Positions for Nurses:* Increase in nursing faculty positions in the SOM Nurses. This designation allows a nurse to be the PI (Principal Investigator) on studies reviewed through the Institutional Review Board (IRB). Nurse led research supports the hospital on our Magnet journey.

*Education about Research Methods and Grants:* ORPCS offers multiple classes to educate clinicians about research. These include Research Primer class, Legacy Grant class, HealthCare Con. There are research presentations monthly to the Research and Innovation Council (RIC) on topics such as finding a research idea, publishing an abstract, creating a poster, writing a manuscript, and obtaining funding for research and Evidence Based Practice (EBP).