



Center for Correctional Health Networks

# CCHNet Newsletter

## Welcome To Our First Edition!

The Center for Correctional Health Networks (CCHNet) is a newly formed practice-based research center designed to support the interdisciplinary network members who study and test health care innovations and quality improvement strategies in real world practice settings to determine effectiveness, efficiency and equity of outcomes upon persons with incarceration experiences.

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The newsletter is designed to provide updates on the work of faculty and students in our correctional health network. We will highlight the work of our network scholars, their innovations in healthcare, and explore real world issues faced by those persons who are or have been incarcerated. It is our hope that the newsletter will bring a greater awareness of correctional health, and promote opportunities for collaboration in clinical research, practice and education.

We would love to share the innovative news and professional celebrations of our network partners. We currently have 25 members in our network. To join or to share your news items, send your name and contact information to our email address: [CCHNet@uconn.edu](mailto:CCHNet@uconn.edu)

For the latest information regarding CCHNET research, meetings and events, please visit our website at: <http://cchnet.uconn.edu>

## Nursing Student-Professor Duo Win SHARE Award

A collaborative proposal created by Dr. Denise Panosky, an associate clinical professor in the School of Nursing, and Alyssa Zabin, a psychology student, has won a SHARE award. Alyssa, an honors student with a double major in psychology and sociology, received the award for a project entitled “Social Challenges for Correctional Nurses Delivering Healthcare.” Zabin is working with Dr. Panosky on a study investigating stressors for nurses in correctional settings. Dr. Panosky received funding from the Center for Promotion of Health in the New England Workplace (CPH-NEW) to conduct a pilot study with nurses in three CT Department of Correction facilities to assess job-related stress and to determine what intervention will reduce stress in the workplace. Panosky, who specializes in correctional nursing, believes healthcare is very important. She reports that interdisciplinary collaboration is very important “as we want to look at patients through many lenses.”



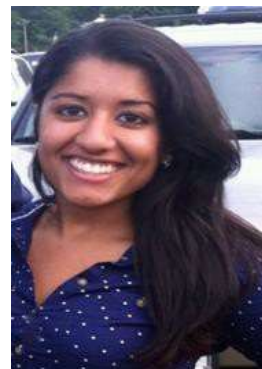
UConn’s Sciences, Humanities, and Arts Research Experience (SHARE) Awards are given to undergraduate students working with faculty mentors whose research projects are in the student’s chosen field. The student works 10 hours a week on the project. The project is currently in progress.

## Faculty-Student Collaboration Wins SURF Award

Undergraduate student Shelja Patel, a pre-med student with a double major in human rights, was recently selected for the SURF (Summer Undergraduate Research Fund) award. She was awarded a stipend and research expenses for her proposal to explore correctional nurse descriptions of differences in their experiences of providing nursing care to patients in a corrections facility following participation in the Correctional Nurse Competency Program<sup>©</sup>.

Working under the guidance of Dr. Shelton in the new Center for Correctional Health Networks (CCHNet), Patel will be interviewing nurses as part of a quality improvement evaluation study aimed at assessing the impact of CNCP<sup>©</sup>, a Health Resources and Services Administration grant funded program awarded to Dr. Shelton. The goal of this proposed project is to examine clinical outcomes resulting from the 3-year competency training provided by the program. Patel says “As human rights major, I am interested in the rights of marginalized populations. This project is a great way to apply my knowledge to the real world and hopefully make a difference, even if it is a small one, in the lives of inmates in prisons by exposing the realities of healthcare in CT prisons.”

Patel will conduct the research through the summer with plans to present her work at a national correctional conference in the fall. She plans to publish her final paper.



## Simulation Provides Innovative Training for Prison

Dr. Desiree Diaz, director of UConn’s nursing simulation laboratory, works with other faculty (Ms. Reagan and Dr. Panosky) to train nurses who provide health care to inmates as part of an innovative program using simulation as a method for learning. “We use pretend scenarios suggested by nurses in the prisons to enhance clinical practice,” Diaz explained. “For example, in one simulation, nurses will receive a sick call for an inmate with chest pain. Nurses work through the simulation to ask questions and practice skills such as when to order a 12-lead EKG”. The high fidelity computer driven mannequins named Carl and Tony are programmed to breathe, blink, make bowel sounds, and can even talk back to caregivers. They are dressed in DOC jumpsuits representing inmates and travel to prisons throughout Connecticut in the first of its kind high fidelity mobile learning lab designed for correctional nurses. The Correctional Nursing Competency Program<sup>©</sup> was funded by HRSA through a grant awarded to Dr. Shelton.



Diaz lectures nationally and internationally on using simulations as a learning tool for nursing. She has co-authored an article on the benefits of nursing simulations with Dr. Shelton and Dr. Panosky to appear in the Journal of Correctional Health Care in 2014.

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## Effectiveness of a Co-Pay System in a Correctional Environment

Andrew Glick (2014), a pre-med student attending UCONN School of Medicine this fall. With an individualized major of Multidisciplinary Approaches to Healthcare, he conducted an integrative literature under the guidance of Dr. Megan Ehret, Dr. Shelton and Ms. Banfi, Librarian. He received funding to present his findings at the 7th Academic and Health Policy Conference on Correctional Health which was held March 20 & 21 in Houston, TX.

Glick explored the effectiveness of co-payment policies in correctional healthcare settings. That is, looking for evidence that would justify the practice of charging inmates co-payments, or small fees, when an inmate requests a healthcare visit. He hoped to see if co-payment policies were associated with changes in the following: utilization of different services, barriers to care, and health outcomes (e.g. adverse medical events). He had also hoped to learn if co-payment policies are cost-effective. In short, most states and federal correctional facilities have co-payment policies, but the evidence to support this practice is scarce: the effects on utilization are not clear and there is no evidence on health outcomes or cost-effectiveness.



## Creating Pathways for Correctional Health Research Translation

Dr. Deborah Shelton, School of Nursing and Dr. Megan Ehret, School of Pharmacy were awarded funds from the Connecticut Institute for Clinical and Translation Science (CICATS) to support correctional health research scholars. Two activities are planned: a collaborative research workshop to be held in May 2014 with a focus on diabetes among correctional populations; and, a project to identify and develop correctional research dissemination strategies in collaboration with persons who have had an incarceration experience. Both activities are designed to effect clinical change in the correctional health system and lay groundwork for future research.

The Research Symposium will be held on May 29th at 12:30-3:30 pm in the Widmer Wing (WW01) of the School of Nursing. Dr. Donna Zucker from the University of Massachusetts and Professor Louise Reagan from the University of Connecticut will be leading the discussion. Future opportunities for research collaborations will be explored. Refreshments and Continuing Education Units will be awarded.

A psychology graduate student, Mackenzie Goodrich is assisting in the outreach to consumers who are releasees to explore the design of messaging and use of evidence-based information generated from research studies. Their recommendations will be translated into technological materials for pilot testing in a follow-up study.

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## Presentations, Publications, Grants, and Awards

### Presentations:

Ehret, M.J., Glick, A., Shelton, A., Stern, M. & Banfi, V. Effectiveness of a Co-Pay System in a Correctional Environment, 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Academic and Health Policy Conference on Correctional Health, Houston, TX, March, 2014.

Ehret, M.J., Shelton, D. & Barta, B. Medication Adherence in a Corrections Population with Bipolar Disorder, National Commission on Correctional Health Care Annual Meeting, Las Vegas, NV, July, 2013.

Maruca, A. & Shelton, D. (2014). Correctional nursing interventions for incarcerated persons with mental disorders: A systematic review. 26th Annual Scientific Sessions, Eastern Nursing Research Society: Promoting Health through Nursing Science. April 9-11, 2014. Philadelphia, PA.

Parr, K., Baker, F. & Ehret, M. Burden of Medical Co-Morbidity in Men and Women with Serious Mental Illness, American Association of Public Health Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, November 2013.

Pettigrew, C. & Shelton, D. (2014). Nursing Workforce Development: Partnering for Practice Improvement through Simulation in Connecticut. Poster. 7<sup>th</sup> Academic and Health Policy Conference on Correctional Health; March 20-21, 2014, Houston, TX.

Shelton, D., Diaz, D. D., Panosky, D., Nicholson, M., & Weiskopf, C. Changing a culture: Implementation of the ANA Correctional Nursing Competencies, National Conference Correctional Healthcare, Nashville, TN, December 2013.

Shelton D, Ehret M, Trestman R. & Cislo A. Building Sustainable Research Teams with Correctional Partners, 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Academic and Health Policy Conference on Correctional Health, Houston, TX, March 2014.

### Publications:

Bailey, C. & Shelton, D. (2014) Self-reports of faulty parental attachments in childhood and criminal psychopathy in an adult incarcerated population: An integrative literature review. *Journal of Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing*, 21(4), 365-374. DOI: 10.1111/jpm.12086

Barry, L. C., Ford, J. D. & Trestman, R. (2014). Comorbid mental illness and poor physical function among newly admitted inmates in Connecticut's jails, *J Correct Health Care* 20: 135  
DOI: 10.1177/1078345813518634

Diaz, D. A., & Allchin, L. (2013). Importance and promotion of linguistic safety in the healthcare setting. *Clinical Journal of Oncology Nursing*, 17, 374– 375. DOI: 10.1188/13.CJON.374-375.

Ehret, M.,J., Baker, W.L. & O'Neill, H. (2013) BDNF Val66Met Polymorphism and Lithium Response: A meta-analysis. *Personalized Medicine*, 10(8):777-784. DOI: 10.2217/pme.13.7.

Ehret, M. J., Shelton, D., Barta, W., Trestman, R., Maruca, A., Kamath, J. & Golay, L. (2013). Medication adherence among female inmates with Bipolar Disorder: Results from a randomized controlled trial. *Psychol Serv*; 10: 106-14. DOI: 10.1037/a0031433.

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## Presentations, Publications, Grants, and Awards

### Publications (continued):

Ehret, M. J. & Sobieraj, D. (2014). Prevention of Interferon-Alpha Associated Depression with Antidepressant Medications in Patients with Hepatitis C Virus: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis. *International Journal of Clinical Practice*, 68(2):255-61. DOI: 10.1111/ijcp.12268.

Maruca, A., & Diaz, D. A. (2013). Does simulation enhance undergraduate psychiatric nursing education? A formative assessment. *Advances in Dual Diagnosis*, 6, 14-23. DOI: 10.1108/17570971311308999.

Tanguay, S., Trestman, R. & Weiskopf, C. (2014). Patient Health Satisfaction Survey in Connecticut Correctional Facilities, *J Correct Health Care* 20: 127. DOI: 10.1177/1078345813518633.

### Grants Submitted:

Dr. Deborah Shelton & Dr. Megan Ehret: Center for Health Intervention and Prevention (CHIP) Seed Grant Program, \$14,975; *Comparison of Virtual and Simulation Technology upon Correctional Nurse Competency*.

Dr. Deborah Shelton: Connecticut Institute for Clinical and Translational Science (CICATS) \$144,868; Mentoring (M-1) Award.

Dr. Denise Panosky: Josiah Macy Foundation Faculty Scholars Program. \$200,000; *Correctional Nursing Leadership Development*.

### Awards:

Megan Ehret (Pharmacy) received the Robert L. McCarthy Faculty Service Award 2014.

Dr. Deborah Shelton and Dr. Megan Ehret have received a \$27,000 Core Interest Group award from the Connecticut Institute for Clinical and Translational Science (CICATS) for their proposal *Creating Pathways For Correctional Health Research Translation*.

Shelja Patel and Dr. Deborah Shelton received the \$4,000 SURF (Summer Undergraduate Research Fund) award for their proposal to explore *The Lived Experience of Nurses Providing Quality Health Care to Inmates of CT Prisons*.

Alyssa Zabin and Dr. Denise Panosky received \$2,000 for SHARE (Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts Research Experience) for their proposal *Social Challenges for Correctional Nurses Delivering Healthcare*.

Dr. Denise Panosky & Dr. Deborah Shelton received \$11,000 from CPH-NEW (Center for the Promotion of Health in the New England Workplace) Pilot Program to examine *Reducing Stress among Correctional Nurses through Focus Groups*.

### Save the Date- Research Symposium

May 29, 2014, 12:30 – 3:30 pm  
UCONN School of Nursing Widmer Wing- WW01  
“Creating Pathways for Correctional Health Research Translation”



Our newsletter is Biannual! To share your stories, contact us at:

Center for Correctional Health Networks (CCHNet)

Email: [cchnet@uconn.edu](mailto:cchnet@uconn.edu)

Phone: [860-486-2184](tel:860-486-2184)

Any questions about CCHNet? Check our website!

<http://cchnet.uconn.edu>



Center for Correctional Health Networks

## Research Fund Established

*We will miss our team member Donald Squier, who passed on March 2<sup>nd</sup> 2014. In his memory, a research fund has been established. Donations can be submitted on an ongoing basis to:*

*UCONN Foundation*

*The Donald Squier Memorial Fund*

*2390 Alumni Drive, Unit 3206*

*Storrs, CT 06269-3206.*

