



# CCHNet Newsletter

## Welcome To Our Third Edition!

The Center for Correctional Health Networks (CCHNet) is a 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.

We would love to share the innovative news and professional celebrations of our network partners. 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)

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For the latest information regarding CCHNET research, meetings and events, please visit our website at: <http://cchnet.uconn.edu> or follow us on Twitter, @cchnetuconn!



## Introducing Dr. Jennifer Peck



Pictured here is Dr. Jennifer Peck

Dr. Jennifer Peck, an assistant professor in the Department of Criminal Justice at the University of Central Florida, was a guest editor for the March 2016 issue of the *Journal of Crime and Justice*. The thirteen-article special issue highlighted contemporary topics surrounding the overrepresentation of racial and ethnic minorities throughout the juvenile and adult criminal justice systems. The goal of the special issue was to include a board range of themes surrounding formal sources of social control (e.g., police, courts, corrections) as well as perceptions and/or public opinions of topics that focus on the relationship between race/ethnicity and offending behaviors. Her other interests include conducting research on the treatment of disadvantaged youth in correctional settings, while focusing primarily on racial and ethnic differences.

## Opportunity for a Fully Funded PhD in Nursing – Correctional Health Funded by Robert Wood Johnson Foundation University of Connecticut's Future of Nursing Scholars Program

Persons involved with the criminal justice (CJ) system are disproportionately substance users and more likely to have complex health and mental health disorders, and be marginalized from community health resources. Despite these realities, there is a dearth of clinical research aimed at improving treatment outcomes among CJ populations.

The aim of this three-year training program is to increase the number and capacity of clinical scientists working with CJ populations.

The PhD program focus in Correctional Health will be led by an experienced team of clinical investigators in the Center for Correctional Health Networks at the University of Connecticut, School of Nursing who collectively have decades of experience conducting research related to translation of evidence-based practices to CJ involved populations.

The program aims to provide full-time students with the following:

1. A solid educational foundation for clinical research including research methods and scientific writing; including a *paid* RWJ Scholars Boot Camp in Princeton, N.J.
2. Supplemental education opportunities on issues unique to CJ involved populations;
3. A *paid* mentored research experience, includes monthly stipend (\$26,020.19 [across 2 semesters] and tuition support approximately \$15,000 [academic year]). Awardees will also receive additional funding of \$25,000 which will cover summer stipends, fees, books, and other expenses (a total of more than \$65,000 in scholarship funding for each of the 3 years of study);
4. Access to and expansion of career building networks.

**Program Eligibility:** US Citizenship; application and acceptance to PhD program; two scholars enrolled annually

**Application Process:** submission by email of a one page essay (single-spaced) about how you would use this award to complete your doctoral studies and begin your research trajectory in 3 years. Please outline both personal and professional commitments you will make to the process. Essays are due by email April 1<sup>st</sup> to Dr. Jaqueline McGrath (Jacqueline.mcgrath@uconn.edu). Interviews with our research mentors and final decisions are made in April.



## CICATS Core Interest Groups: A Celebration of Excellence in Research


The first annual Connecticut Institute for Clinical and Translational Science (CICATS) CIG Celebration event was held on Thursday, January 28, 2016 from 5:00PM to 7:00PM in the Academic Lobby of UConn Health.

The purpose of this event was to provide an opportunity for CIGs to showcase the success and merit of the work of the CIGs and of their funded CICATS research projects, recruit new CIG members, and find potential collaborators with other CIGs, researchers and community based organizations.

Louise Regan, PhD, MSN, APRN, Assistant Professor and Post-Doctoral Student at New York University, presented on the Center for Correctional Health Networks on behalf of Dr. Deborah Shelton.



*Pictured here is Dr. Louise Regan presenting her poster at the Correctional Health CIG in Farmington, CT*



### Center for Correctional Health Networks (CCHNet)

#### Description

CCHNet is a 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.

#### Accomplishments & Research Highlights

In the past year, CCHNet:


- Monthly RIG meetings
- Submitted over 30 publications in peer-reviewed journals, chapter and books
- Promoted funding of Honor students
- Two Rowe Scholars
- Two post-doctoral students
- Participated in over 15 national & international research conferences
- Completed two studies
- Developed secondary sources at <http://tinyurl.com/cchnetsources>

#### Past Activities

- Journal of Evidence Based Practice in Correctional Health
- Minor/certificate in Correctional Health
- CCHNet/CICATS Science Café
- CCHNet/Obesity CIG Obesity Seminar
- Web page at <http://cchnet.uconn.edu>
- Identification of national correctional nurse research priorities


#### Leaders

CCHNet's director and founder is  
*Dr. Deborah Shelton, PhD, RN, NE-BC, CCHP, FAAN*  
[cchnet@uconn.edu](mailto:cchnet@uconn.edu)



#### Future Activities

- Rediscovery of Self-Care Model
- Advance CNCP® project
- Funding



*Pictured here is the poster presented by Dr. Louise Regan at the CICATS CIG celebration event.*

## ACCJH (Academic Consortium on Criminal Justice Health) Baltimore, Maryland, March 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>

The 9<sup>th</sup> ACCJH Conference was held on March 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> at the Embassy Suites in Baltimore, Maryland. The goals of the conference were to: Learn about emerging research in correctional health and gain new skills in developing applied research, create opportunities for networking and partnerships and to reflect on emerging health policy issues in correctional health and criminal justice (ACCJH, 2015). We are pleased to have CCHNet members Dr. Deborah Shelton, Dr. Louise Reagan, Dr. Donna Zucker, Dr. Robert Trestman, Dr. Cindy Peternelj –Taylor, and Dr. Lisa Barry representing CCHNet in Baltimore, Maryland.



Dr. Deborah Shelton and Dr. Louise Reagan presented at the 9<sup>th</sup> ACCJH Conference. Their presentation, 'Factors contributing to clinical competency among Correctional Nurses,' provided an overview of the HRSA funded correctional nurse competency program (CNCN) implemented in Connecticut. The purpose of this project was to improve nurse performance on four highly utilized clinical protocols. Their presentation included the significant clinical outcomes found from this study.



Pictured here are Dr. Deborah Shelton and Dr. Louise Reagan presenting at the



Pictured above is Dr. Cindy Peternelj-Taylor.

Dr. Cindy Peternelj –Taylor, RN, BScN, MSc, PhD(c) from the College of Nursing at the University of Saskatchewan presented results from her study – a mixed methods exploratory research study exploring roles, responsibilities, and learning needs of correctional nurses practicing in provincial correctional facilities.

Dr. Robert Trestman, PhD, MD from the UConn Health Center presented at the conference on an START NOW, an evidence-informed skills training model of treatment which aims to specifically target impulsivity, aggression, and interpersonal discord among inmates. The curriculum takes into account demographics, pathways to incarceration, prevalence of mental illness and diagnoses, and relational style of female inmates.



Pictured above is Dr. Robert Trestman.



Pictured above is Dr. Donna Zucker.

Dr. Donna Zucker, RN, PhD, FAAN from UMass Amherst presentation at the conference described the nursing activities of building capacity and networks in Correctional Care and Criminal Justice. The presentation demonstrated that development of new knowledge in correctional care relies on building local, regional, national, and international networks.



Pictured above is Dr. Louise Reagan.

Dr. Louise Reagan, PhD, NP presented a presentation at this conference, which explored the question: do incarcerated persons with controlled and uncontrolled diabetes differ in terms of sociodemographic, cognitive, and clinical characteristics. The presentation included results from a cross-sectional study that examined the relationships of diabetes knowledge, illness representation and self care behaviors with glycemic controls in 124 incarcerated persons.

***‘Active and Passive Suicide Ideation in Older Prisoners’  
By Dr. Lisa Bary, Ph.D., M.P.H***

Dr. Lisa Barry is an Assistant Professor at the UConn Health Center's Center on Aging, with a primary appointment in the Department of Psychiatry. Dr. Barry recently published an article titled ‘Active and Passive Suicide Ideation in Older Prisoners’ in *Crisis - The Journal of Crisis Intervention and Suicide Prevention*.

The U.S. prison population is aging; growing numbers of older adults are being incarcerated and even more are aging “in place.” Knowledge gained from this study, will advance our understanding of how unique demands of the prison environment may affect change in one’s physical capabilities and cognition over time, ultimately influencing health, function, severity of depression and suicidal ideation (SI) in older inmates. Findings from this project will help to spearhead a reformulation of priorities within correctional mental health care involving older inmates, moving from mere risk assessment and depression detection to true individualized risk reduction and suicide prevention.

Dr. Lisa Barry also presented at the ACCJH conference. Her presentation at the conference also looked at whether depression is associated with other negative health conditions among older prisoners with chronic medical illness.



Pictured here is Dr. Lisa Barry.

## CCHNet at the Eastern Nursing Research Society (ENRS) Conference Pittsburg, PA April 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

The Eastern Nursing Research Society Conference was held in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania this April and focused on theme of: Nursing Science: Bridging Research and Health. This three-day conference involved presentations, keynote speakers and multiple research interest groups – some of which focused on the advancements of correctional health. We congratulate Dr. Lorie Goshin, Mary Kay Dollard, Dr. Annette Maruca, Dr. Deborah Shelton, Dr. William Barta, Dr. Louise Reagan, and Dr. Alison Colbert presenting their research at this conference.



Pictured above are Dr. Lorie Goshin (left), Mary Kay Dollard (middle), and Dr. Annette Maruca (right).

The members of CCHNet listed above partook in a research symposium – ‘Nursing’s Research Efforts to Enhance Health Equity at the Interface of the Criminal Justice System.’ This symposium addressed the issue of the impact healthy equity in the nursing profession due to a series of recent policy shifts resulting in the release of nonviolent offenders into community systems of care. Listed below are the papers that were presented in the symposium.

### Presentations:

Ms. Dollard: Absent from statistics: How health disparities remain elusive while incarceration is hidden from population-based research

Dr. Goshin & Dr. Colbert: Nursing Science to Improve Health Equity and Human Rights in the Criminal Justice System

Dr. Maruca: Self-Care Management for Correctional Populations: A Literature Review

Dr. Reagan & Dr. Barta: Associations between Diabetes Knowledge and Glycemic Control among Incarcerated Persons with Diabetes

Dr. Shelton: Knowledge Translation and Dissemination: informational preferences of post-release persons

## Research Studies – Updates

### *Inmate Self Care: Improving Medication Adherence During and After Incarceration*

*Dr. Deborah Shelton & Elliot Bosco, Graduate Student, School of Pharmacy*

The Inmate Self-Care Study seeks to explore factors that influence medication and treatment adherence among incarcerated persons, including the factors that influence their adherence upon release. The knowledge gained from the study will contribute to development of future interventions to improve adherence among those returning to the community and thus, decrease recidivism due to untreated symptoms or behaviors. Thus far, over 40 inmate interviews have been completed by graduate students from the School of Pharmacy under the supervision of Dr. Shelton and Lynne Neff, MS, RN, at Correctional Managed Health Care. Elliott Bosco, PharmD student is Co-I. Data analysis has begun and will progress to the end of the spring semester. School of Pharmacy students, Elliott Bosco, Samantha Steiger, and Anna Keogh have visited inmates to collect data on adherence to treatments and medications. The students have helped to develop the interview questions and the collection process. Various other School of Pharmacy students are assisting in the transcription of the interviews and analysis of the data collected.

Beginning in the Fall of 2016, two new students –Sonali Shah and Samara Katini– will be assuming the co-investigator roles.



Pictured from Left to Right: Elliot Bosco, Samantha Steiger, Anna Keogh, Samara Katini, and Sonali Shah

**Elliot Bosco's** final project explores the role of the patient-provider relationship in correctional healthcare. Elliott seeks to understand how criminal justice involved patients with chronic diseases perceive their relationship with their provider and to identify factors that positively or negatively impacts their participation in care and adherence to recommended medication and treatment.

**Anna Keogh's** final project aims to identify facilitators and barriers to medication adherence among criminal justice involved persons with mental disorders. Using qualitative methods, she plans to explore perceptions of persons who are currently incarcerated or in transition.

## Publications, Presentations, and Grants

### Publications:

- Barry, L. C., Wakefield, D. B., Trestman, R. L., & Conwell, Y. (2015). Active and Passive Suicidal Ideation in Older Prisoners. *Crisis*, 1-7.
- Cislo, A., Trestman R.L. (2016). Psychiatric hospitalization after participation in START NOW. Letters to the Editor. *Psychiatric Services* 2016; 67:143; doi: 10.1176/appi.ps.201500456. Published online January 4, 2016.
- Diaz, D.; Reagan, L.; Shelton, D. & Barta, W. (2016). Psychometric Evaluation to Measure Satisfaction using Simulated Clinical Education in a Correctional Setting. *International Journal of Nursing Sciences*, 10.1016/j.ijnss.2016.02.001
- Downer AV, Trestman RL. (2016). The Prison Rape Elimination Act and Correctional Psychiatrists. Editorial, *Journal of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law*, 44:9-13. March 2016.
- Ferguson, W., Cloud, D., Spaulding, A., Shelton, D., Trestman, R., Altice, FL., Rich, J., Lippman, C., Thomas, D., & Taxman, F. (2016). A Call to Action: A blueprint for Academic Health Sciences in the era of mass incarceration. Special Issue in Correctional Health. *Journal for Health Care to the Poor and Underserved*, 27(2), 5-17. DOI:10.1353/hpu.2016.0051.
- Hufft, A. & Shelton, D. (2016). Sexual Violence in Correctional Settings. In Faugno, D & Speck, P. (Eds). *Sexual Assault* (2nd ed). Saint Louis, Missouri: STM Learning, Inc.
- Leiber, Michael J., Jennifer H. Peck, and Nancy Rodriguez. (2016). Minority Threat and Juvenile Court Outcomes. *Crime & Delinquency*, 62(1), 54-80.
- Leiber, Michael J., Jennifer H. Peck, and Maude Beaudry-Cyr. (2016). The Likelihood of a “Youth Discount” in Juvenile Court Sanctions: The Influence of Offender Race, Gender, and Age. (Special Issue: “Race and Juvenile Justice”). *Race and Justice: An International Journal*, 6(1), 5-34.
- Maruca, A. & Shelton, D. (2016). Correctional Nursing Interventions for Incarcerated Persons with Mental Disorders: An Integrative Review. *Issues in Mental Health Nursing*. 6: 1096-4673  
DOI: 10.3109/01612840.2016.1145308.
- Peck, Jennifer H. (2016). Contemporary Issues of Race/Ethnicity, Offending Behavior, and Justice Responses. (Special Issue: “Contemporary Issues of Race/Ethnicity, Offending Behavior, and Justice Responses”). *Journal of Crime and Justice*, 39(1), 1-8.
- Peck, Jennifer H. and Maude Beaudry-Cyr. (2016). Does Who Appears before the Juvenile Court Matter on Adjudication and Disposition Outcomes? The Interaction between Client Race and Lawyer Type. (Special Issue: “Contemporary Issues of Race/Ethnicity, Offending Behavior, and Justice Responses”). *Journal of Crime and Justice*, 39(1), 131-152.
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Trestman, RL. (2016) START NOW: Psychotherapy in Prison. *Connecticut Psychiatrist*, a Publication of the Connecticut Psychiatric Society, 55:1-9, April 2016.

Zucker, D.M. (2016). LARP and Nursing Labyrinth Installation: April 16-25, 2017

<http://dailycollegian.com/?s=labyrinth>

## **Presentations:**

Cassandra A. Atkin-Plunk, Gaylene S. Armstrong, and Jennifer H. Peck. "Procedural Justice, Problem-Solving Courts, and Race". American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting. Washington, D.C. November 2015.

Michael J. Leiber, Jennifer H. Peck, and Maude Beaudry-Cyr. "A Test of Sampson and Laub's Macro-Level Perspective of Social Control: Implications for Blacks and Juvenile Court Outcomes". American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting. Washington, D.C. November 2015.

Michael J. Leiber, Jennifer H. Peck, and Maude Beaudry-Cyr. "Race, Prior Offending, and Juvenile Court Outcomes". Midwestern Criminal Justice Association Annual Meeting. Chicago, Illinois. September 2015.

Shelton, D. & Reagan, L. (2016). The Link between Correctional Nurse Competencies and Clinical Outcomes. 14th Biennial International Conference on the Nurse's role in the Criminal Justice System, Saskatoon Canada; October 7-9, 2015.

Shelton, D. (2016). Post-incarceration: A new Consumer Movement in Self-Care. 14th Biennial International Conference on the Nurse's role in the Criminal Justice System, Saskatoon Canada; October 7-9, 2015.

Shelton, D. & Bailey, C. (2016). Psychopathy: What does the Evidence Say about Treatment? Poster. 14th Biennial International Conference on the Nurse's role in the Criminal Justice System, Saskatoon Canada; October 7-9, 2015.

Shelton, D. & Reagan, L. (2016). Factors Contributing to Clinical Competency among Correctional Nurses. 9th Academy & Health Policy Conference on Correctional Health, March 17-18, 2016, Baltimore, MD.

Shelton, D. & Weiskopf, C. (2016). Improving Care by Investing in Nurse Competencies. Spring conference on Correctional health Care. National Commission on Correctional Health Care, April 9-12, 2016. Nashville, TN.

Shelton, D. (2016). Knowledge Translation and Dissemination: Informational Preferences of Post-release Persons. 28th Annual Scientific Sessions: Eastern Nursing Research Society, April 13-15, 2016. Pittsburg, PA.

Trestman RL, Wright J. START NOW: Gender Specific Modification for Women. 9th Academic & Health Policy Conference on Correctional Health, Baltimore, MD March 16-18, 2016.

Zucker, D.M. & Cook, M. (2016). Invited Speaker. Barriers and Solutions to Wellness using Labyrinths and Discussion on Health Issues and Incarceration. Improving Public Health for Underserved Populations: Roadmaps to Success. A collaborative educational event between Tulsa Community College and Oklahoma State University, Tulsa, OK April 7-8.

Zucker, D.M. (2016). Correctional Health Care: Local, Regional and International Collaborations. 9th Academic and Health Policy Conference on Correctional Medicine. March 17-18, 2016. Baltimore, MD.

**Grants:*****Received:***

Dr. Lisa Barry, Ph.D., M.P.H, at the University of Connecticut Health Center received the 2012 Standard Research Grant in the amount of \$75,000 for research on suicide ideation in elderly inmates to identify risk factors in vulnerable groups such as prisoners and the elderly that can be targeted for suicide prevention efforts.

Dr. Deborah Shelton received the “UCONN Faculty Scholar” grant in the amount of \$2,000 to support transcriptions for the Medication Adherence study.

Donna Zucker, PhD, RN, FAAN received \$290,000 from SAMSHA for *SBIRT Training: The Power of Nursing to Change Health*. The aim of this grant is to educate and train nursing students in the use of Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) so that it will be used in lifelong professional practice.

***Submitted:***

Dr. Deborah Shelton has submitted a RO3 entitled “Accelerating Knowledge Translation to Optimize Quality of Care Behind Bars” To AHRQ. The aim of this study is to translate knowledge into practice in the Connecticut Department of Correction health care system.

Dr. Deborah Shelton has submitted a LOI to the Hillman Foundation to study transitional care for reentry populations. The grant, “CareLink-C: Transitional Support for Wellness” would seek to address self-care management of chronic disease among transitioning inmates.

Dr. Deborah Shelton has submitted a grant on behalf of the CICATS CIG in the amount of \$15,000 to the Institute for Clinical and Translational Sciences at UCONN Health for “Self-care Management among Post-incarcerated Persons”.

**Awards:**

Dr. Robert L. Trestman received the 2016 American Psychiatric Association Manfred S Guttmacher

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Award.

# Save the Dates!

10<sup>th</sup> Academic & Health Policy Conference on Correctional  
Health

March 16 – 17, 2017 - Atlanta, Georgia

NCCHC (National Commission on Correctional Health  
Care) Spring Conference

April 29-May 2, 2017 – Chicago, Illinois

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*The Donald R. Squier Memorial Scholarship fund has been established to develop a source of funding for future correctional health research scholars. We are soliciting tax deductible donations on an ongoing basis. Send your donation to:*

*UCONN Foundation  
The Donald Squier Memorial Fund  
2390 Alumni Drive, Unit 3206  
Storrs, CT 06269-3206.*

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>



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