



FN | NR

NightinGala

OCTOBER 15, 2025



Friends of the National Institute of Nursing Research™

FNINR's VISION

is to improve health through expanding support for NINR.

FNINR's MISSION

is to strengthen and magnify NINR's impact in advancing nursing science.

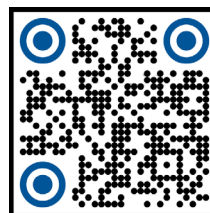
The Friends of the National Institute of Nursing Research (FNINR) is an independent, non-profit, organization founded in 1993. Nurse researchers are grounded in clinical nursing practice and focused on the physical, mental, emotional, and social needs of patients. They recognize the illness and the presence of health risk factors affecting the overall well-being of individuals.

The healthcare community faces new challenges and opportunities to improve patient care each year. With the continuing leadership provided by NINR and the support of FNINR, nurse researchers will continue to contribute to the enhanced health and well-being of all Americans, especially in a time when cost-effectiveness and quality of care are equally championed by the public and the Nation's decision makers.

National Institute of Nursing Research

The National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) was first established in 1986 and was elevated in 1993 to an institute at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the nation's medical research agency. NINR believes that nursing research is the key to unlocking the power and potential of nursing by leveraging nursing's strengths and unique knowledge and perspectives inherent to the discipline to the benefit of all people. Their overall mission is to lead nursing research to solve pressing health challenges and inform practice and policy – optimizing health and advancing health equity into the future.

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by scanning the QR code.**





**Teri A. Murray, PhD, PHNA-BC,
RN, ANEF, FADLN, FAAN**

On Behalf of the FNINR Board of Directors, ***Welcome to the NightinGala!***

Tonight we gather to celebrate the power of nursing research that transforms health, informs policy, and improves lives. This evening is also a celebration of you, our community of supporters, whose generosity makes our mission possible.

FNINR is dedicated to advancing rigorous, innovative nursing science and to ensuring that nurse-led research is recognized for its critical contributions to population health. Our mission drives us to advocate tirelessly for nursing research, securing resources that expand opportunities for nurse scientists and amplify their discoveries. Through this work, we also champion the next generation of nurse scientists, ensuring a strong and sustainable future for our field.

At the heart of our work are FNINR's core values: we are committed to supporting rigorous nursing research that produces compelling science; to demonstrating the transformative improvements in health that nurse-led research makes possible; to communicating the value of nursing research so its impact is seen, heard, and understood; to advocating for the funding and visibility needed to advance our field; and to building capacity by mentoring and cultivating the next generation of nurse scientists. These values guide every initiative, program, and conversation we undertake.

Tonight, as we honor outstanding nurse scientists and the leadership of FNINR, let us also celebrate the collective impact of this community. Your support ensures that nursing research continues to thrive and that its influence on health policy and practice grows stronger.

We hope you enjoy this evening of recognition, fellowship, and celebration. Thank you for standing with FNINR and for helping us champion the cause of nursing research. Together, we are improving health for all.

Kind regards,

*President, FNINR
2024-2025*





A Message from the NINR Acting Director



Courtney F. Aklin, PhD

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

As we join together for this year's NightinGala, I am excited to share that NINR is celebrating its 40th anniversary as an entity at NIH. It is a special moment that provides us with an opportunity to pause, reflect, and commemorate the extraordinary contributions of nurse scientists and all who support them. It's also a moment to reaffirm our commitment to sustaining the remarkable promise of nursing research to transform health and improve lives.

Since its founding in 1993, FNINR has been an indispensable partner in amplifying the impact of NINR's work and nursing research more broadly. At NINR, we are proud to advance a scientific vision grounded in understanding the influence of daily life conditions on health, informed by the voices of communities, and driven by innovative solutions. From developing community-engaged research models for disease prevention and health promotion, to advances in population and community health, to redesigned systems and models of care, NINR funded investigators

are generating real world solutions grounded in evidence, and responsive to the needs of the public.

Equally important, NINR is building new pathways for early-stage investigators. We are investing in the next generation of nurse scientists whose work will ensure that our research remains relevant, impactful, and responsive to the needs of individuals, families, and communities.

The NightinGala reminds us that we are part of a vibrant community of scientists, clinicians, and supporters who believe deeply in the power of nursing research to improve health for all. I am both humbled and inspired to join with you in this mission.

Tonight, we celebrate not only the incredible accomplishments of the nurse scientists whose work has advanced cutting-edge care and improved lives, but also the future promise of this field. Our collective efforts to bridge practice, research, education and policy are paving the way for health solutions that are both cost-effective and meaningful for individuals, families, and communities. The challenges facing our nation's health care system are real and complex, but with the creativity, compassion, and rigor of nurse scientists, we are well-positioned to meet them.

On behalf of NINR, thank you for your dedication and for the passion you bring to advancing nursing science. May tonight's celebration renew our shared commitment and strengthen the partnerships that will carry us forward. Together, we will continue to expand the reach, relevance, and impact of nursing research because the future of health depends on it. We have a real seat at the table where our work is building a future that gives every person the opportunity to live their healthiest life.

With appreciation and warm regards,

Courtney F. Aklin, PhD

Acting Director

National Institute of Nursing Research





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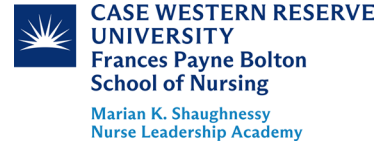
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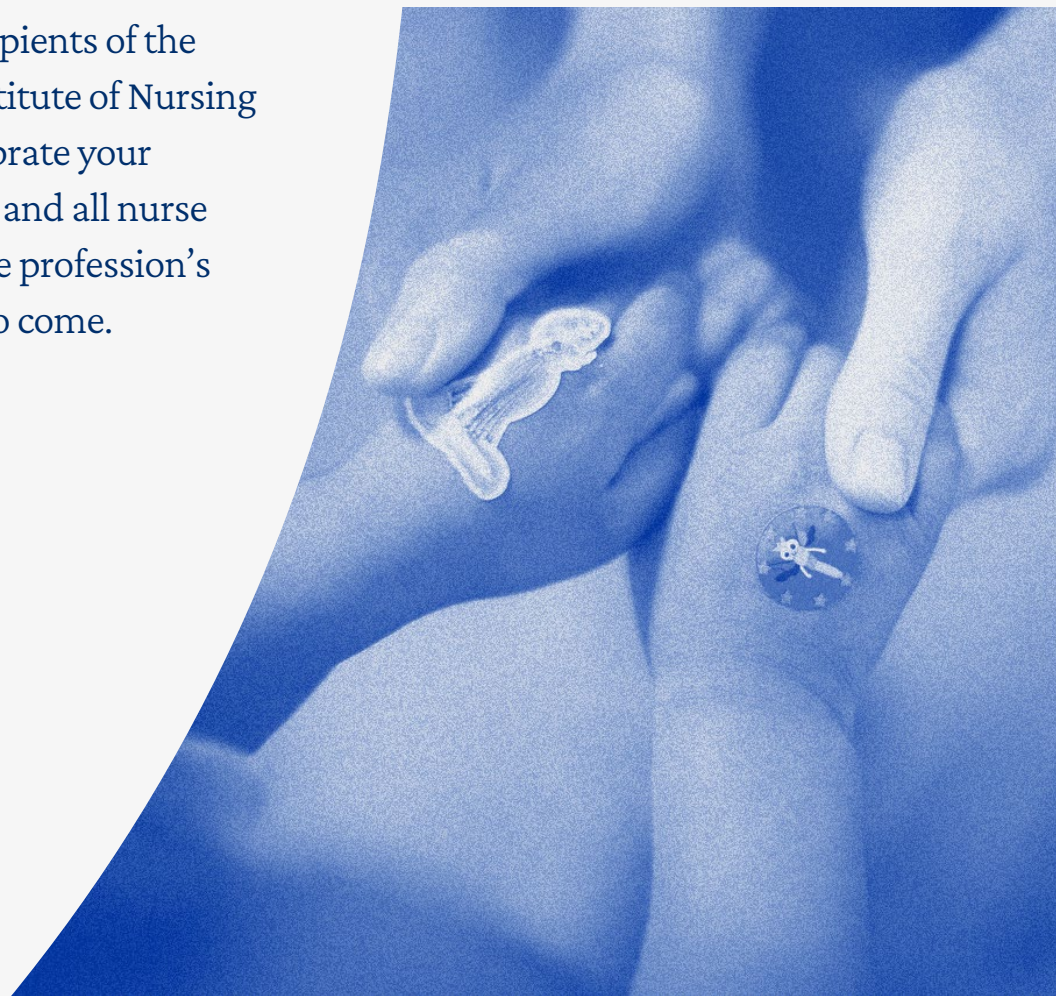
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Congratulations to the recipients of the Friends of the National Institute of Nursing Research Awards. We celebrate your innovation and join you — and all nurse scientists — in ensuring the profession's influence for generations to come.

nursing.emory.edu



ORGANIZATIONAL *Table* Hosts





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Learn more at z.umn.edu/NursingResearch

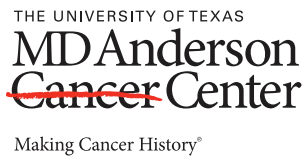


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A circular logo with the word "Awards" in a large, elegant script font and the year "2025" in a smaller, sans-serif font below it. The background of the logo is a mix of purple and blue watercolor-like textures.

Awards 2025

ADA SUE HINSHAW NURSE SCHOLAR AWARD

The Ada Sue Hinshaw Nurse Scholar Award is considered the pre-eminent award given by FNINR and is named in honor of the first permanent Director of the National Institute of Nursing Research. Recipients have a substantive and sustained program of science that would afford her/him recognition as a prominent senior scientist.

FAYE GLENN ABDELLAH LEADERSHIP AWARD

The Faye Glenn Abdellah Leadership Award is named for this renowned nurse researcher. Faye Abdellah's vision has resulted in inestimable value created by nurse scientists over the years. This award will go to an organization or individual with a sustained or lasting impact on nursing science through advocacy, institutional leadership, or individual program of research that has led to the public awareness of the value of nursing science in improving health at the individual and/or population levels.

THE PRESIDENT'S AWARD

The President's Award is given based on a specific theme established by the President of FNINR, varies annually, and is awarded to a nurse researcher with sustained contributions in the field. In 2025, the recipient will be a nurse researcher who has made a significant impact on the improvement of the health of marginalized and/or minoritized populations. The focus of the research should be on health equity, health disparities, and/or the social and structural determinants of health. The recipient should have a long-standing trajectory in this focus area (at least 10 years) and demonstrate substantial positive outcomes/impact and improvements in the health of communities and populations.

WELCH/WOERNER PATH-PAVER AWARD

The Welch/Woerner Path-Paver Award is named after Colleen Conway-Welch, the renowned nursing advocate, and Louise Woerner, the Founding President of FNINR. The recipient is a mid-to-late career nurse scientist who has achieved one or more breakthroughs in theory development, research methods, instruments, or subject matter that has paved the way for other scientists and who has influenced and mentored the next generation of nurse researchers.

PROTÉGÉ AWARD

The Protégé/Protegee Award is given to an evolving nurse scientist who shows great promise in advancing science and who is within the first 6 years of completing either their PhD or Post-Doctoral study.

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THE
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Dr. Huda Abu-Saad Huijer

Dr. Huda Abu-Saad Huijer is an internationally recognized nursing scholar, educator, and leader. She earned her BSN from the American University of Beirut (AUB) and her Master's and PhD from the University of Florida, USA. Her career includes academic appointments at the University of California, San Francisco, the University of Maastricht in the Netherlands, the University of Surrey in the UK, and AUB. At Maastricht, she developed the MSN and PhD programs and established the Centre for Nursing Research.

As Founding Dean of the Hariri School of Nursing at AUB (2003–2020), Dr. Abu-Saad Huijer launched multiple nursing programs, including Lebanon's first PhD in Nursing Science (2018), and achieved CCNE accreditation for the BSN and MSN programs—the first outside US territories.

Since 2021, she has served as Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Balamand (UOB), overseeing nursing, public health, nutrition, medical laboratory sciences, community engagement and Optometry. She is leading US accreditation efforts for all academic programs achieving ACEN and ACEND accreditation for nursing and nutrition and working on CEPH for public health. She chaired the committee that launched UOB's interdisciplinary PhD in Health Sciences.

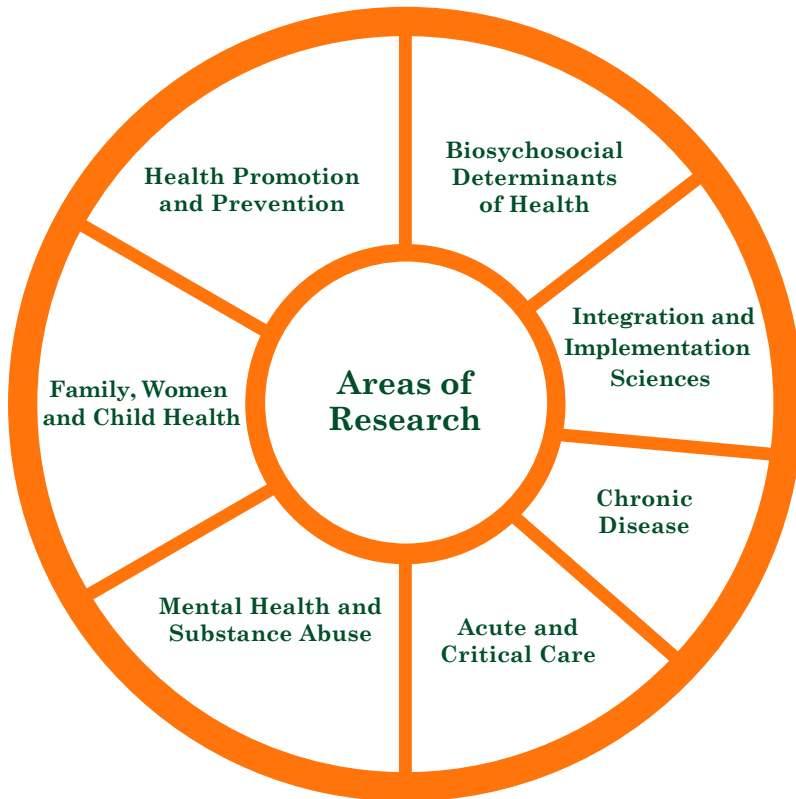
Dr. Abu-Saad Huijer's research focuses on pain management and palliative care in children and adults. She has led numerous funded projects, supervised over 50 doctoral dissertations, mentored faculty internationally, and published over 300 articles and two books. She serves on international expert panels, including the WHO and the Lancet Commission on Global Access to Pain Control and Palliative Care.

Her numerous honors include induction into the Sigma Theta Tau International Nurse Researcher Hall of Fame, the FAAN Fellowship, the Princess Mona Regional Award, the National Center for Scientific Research lifetime research award, and several lifetime achievement awards. She ranks among the top 2% of researchers worldwide (Scopus H-index: 68; over 11,400 citations).



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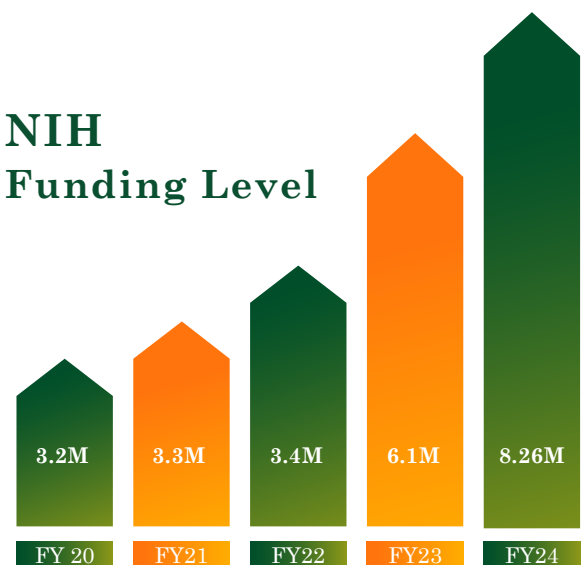
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Source: Blue Ridge Institute for Medical Research FY 20-24

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THE Faye Glenn Abdellah LEADERSHIP AWARD



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de Tornay Center for Healthy Aging, University of Washington School of Nursing

Dr. Rheba de Tornay was an early champion of healthy aging. In 1998, Dr. de Tornay and her husband, Rudy, endowed the de Tornay Center for Healthy Aging at the University of Washington School of Nursing to serve as a catalyst for advancing gerontological research, education, and practice. The center leads innovations in healthy aging, leveraging local and global partnerships and interdisciplinary collaborations to address pressing challenges in gerontology, advance the field of gerontological nursing, and shape aging policies and guidelines. The center has mentored over 165 scholars, awarded more than \$750,000 in research funding to students and \$200,000 to faculty for pilot studies and facilitated hundreds of publications, influencing nursing science, policy, and education. Many of the center's alumni attribute their career success and research to its mentorship, underscoring the impact shaping the next generation of nurse scientists and gerontological leaders. The center bridges nursing, medicine, social work, public health, and informatics to develop and implement innovative aging interventions. Center affiliates lead pioneering research on frailty, dementia care, physical activity, and digital health solutions, with its early-stage research funded by the center evolving into federally and privately funded research programs. Alumni and international collaborators play a central role in innovative, aging-focused research and educational initiatives in Thailand, China, Taiwan, Germany and beyond. As the world faces an aging population and increasing demands for aging-centric healthcare solutions, the de Tornay Center remains at the forefront, driving discoveries that influence clinical practice, inform public policy, and empower communities. The de Tornay Center's ongoing efforts to mentor emerging nurse scientists, foster research collaborations, and pioneer solutions to pressing gerontological health challenges ensure that its impact will endure for generations to come.



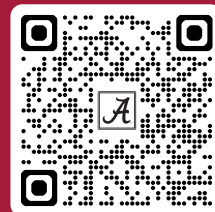
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THE
President's
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Hudson P. Santos, Jr., Dean, School of Nursing and Health Studies
University of Miami

Hudson P. Santos Jr., PhD, RN, FABMR, FAAN, is the dean of the University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies. He is also a tenured professor and the inaugural Dolores J. Chambreau, RN Endowed Chair in Nursing. Dr. Santos has secured over \$50 million in NIH research funding. Among his current funded projects, he is the Principal Investigator for Miami cohort of the NIH Environmental Influences on Child Health Outcomes (ECHO) program.

Dr. Santos' program of research has informed clinical practice by uncovering how psychosocial and biological dimensions of early-life adversity interact with the genome to shape perinatal and child health outcomes. These findings have led to early intervention strategies that are integrated into care for high-risk populations. His integration of multi-omics methods into nursing science has set new standards for addressing complex health issues and represents a significant methodological advancement in the field.

Dean Santos is the immediate past-president of the International Society of Nurses in Genetics (ISONG), chair-elect of the Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science National Advisory Council, a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing, the Academy of Science, Engineering and Medicine of Florida, and the Academy of Behavioral Medicine Research. He was inducted into Sigma's International Nurse Researcher Hall of Fame

Before joining the University of Miami in 2022, he was a tenured distinguished scholar at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC-CH) School of Nursing. He completed his postdoctoral fellowship at Duke University and was a visiting scholar at the University of British Columbia at Vancouver. Dr. Santos holds a PhD in Nursing Science from the University of São Paulo and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the State University of Paraíba in his native Brazil.



**Bernadette Henrichs, PhD, CRNA, CCRN, CHSE,
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Dean and Professor
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THE
*Welch/Woerner
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Betty Bekemeier

Betty Bekemeier is a professor at the University of Washington (UW) School of Nursing and Director of the UW School of Public Health's Northwest Center for Public Health Practice. She is a distinguished public health systems researcher focused on examining and improving the effectiveness of our public health systems and workforce. Her research has been of growing interest as the dire need for evidence of public health system effectiveness has become increasingly obvious to policy-makers and health system leaders in the wake of COVID-19.

Dr. Bekemeier continues to lead many studies regarding local health department systems and their impact on health outcomes and disparities. Her work includes the Public Health Activities and Services Tracking (PHAST) Study, which was initiated in 2010 and became a highly regarded database of uniquely detailed and linked data regarding local health department services and supporting interdisciplinary studies. She also led development of the Uniform Chart of Accounts, providing standardized public health financial data collected prospectively among health departments. Dr. Bekemeier's studies on change, variation, data standardization, financing, workforce, and outcomes regarding public health systems are conducted in close partnership with public health practice leaders, have included numerous mentees, and have been immediately relevant to addressing current policy issues.

Her efforts in guiding the generation of evidence and data to support research and public health practice improvement include development of a dissemination and implementation model aimed at facilitating the uptake and integration of standardized local public health services and financial data into state and local systems. She is also a national public health and nursing leader and has served in significant leadership positions in organizations that include the American Public Health Association and the American Academy of Nursing.



LEADERS START HERE

Celebrating 40 years of the NINR and the advancement of nursing science, our faculty lead cutting-edge research and innovations that improve health outcomes across South Carolina and beyond.

sc.edu/nursing



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Dr. Jasmine Travers-Altizer

Dr. Jasmine Travers-Altizer is an Associate Professor and Health Services Researcher at NYU Rory Meyers College of Nursing and Assistant Director of the NYU Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing. She leads a robust research program focused on improving health outcomes for older adults across long-term care settings, with expertise in health equity, nursing homes, long-term services and supports, and workforce issues. Since joining NYU Meyers in 2020, she has secured 11 research grants, eight as Principal Investigator. She currently leads a RWJF Harold Amos Career Development Award, an NIA-funded K76 Beeson Emerging Leader Award, and an NIA-funded R01, with total funding exceeding \$6 million.

Her research, leadership, and policy engagement extend across state and national levels. She serves on the Working Group on Aging for Senator Kirsten Gillibrand's Special Committee on Aging and has provided expertise to AARP, the U.S. Department of Justice, and LeadingAge. National recognition as an expert in aging, equity, and workforce has led to service on the American Geriatrics Society Research Committee, the CMS Technical Expert Panel, and two Congressional testimonies, which influenced state and federal priorities on aging and workforce. She was one of only four nurses appointed to the National Academies Committee on Nursing Home Quality.

Dr. Travers-Altizer has authored over 70 peer-reviewed articles in high-impact journals, with more than 3,300 citations and an h-index of 27. She has presented at 49 national and international conferences, including 28 invited talks. Her honors include the ENRS Rising Star Research Award, AGS Health in Aging New Investigator Award, Fellowship in the American Academy of Nursing and the New York Academy of Medicine, and an Editorial Fellowship with JAMA. Her training includes fellowships at Yale University, the University of Pennsylvania, and an NINR-funded diversity supplement, catalyzing her trajectory as a leader in advancing equity in long-term care.

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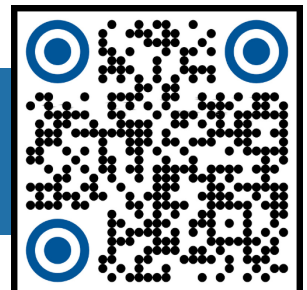


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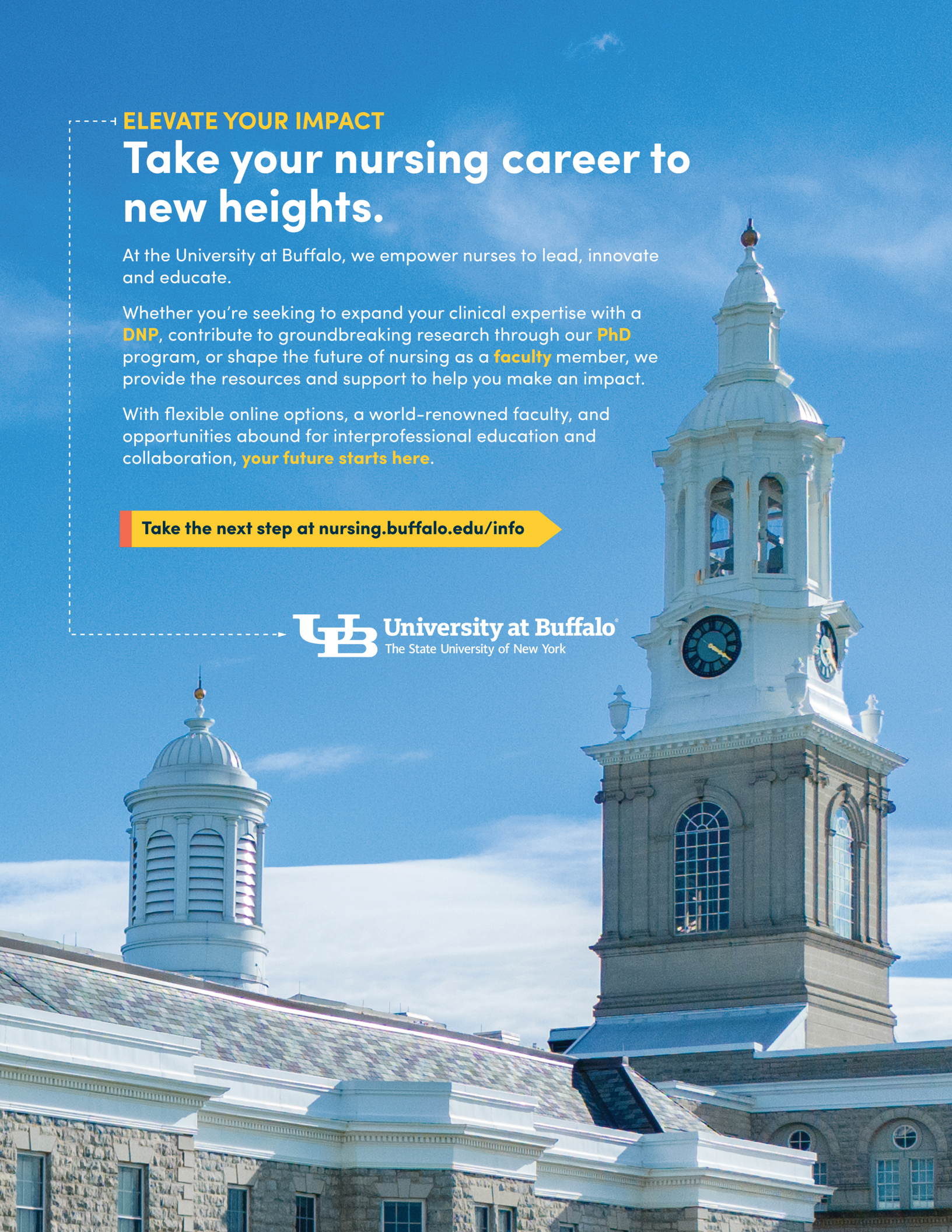
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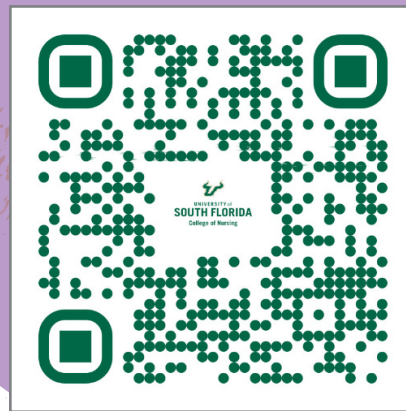
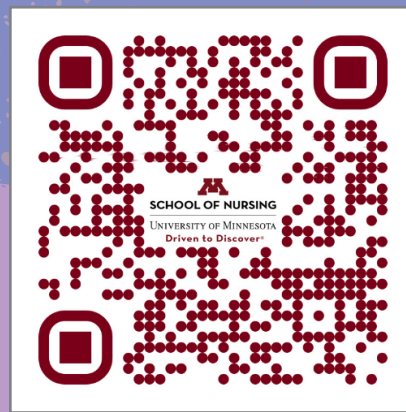
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