

## ■ New Training Center Focuses on the Caregiver

Cristina Hendrix, DNS, GNP-BC, FNP, FAAN, associate professor for Duke University School of Nursing (DUSON), has launched the Duke Elder Family/Caregiver Training (DEFT) Center to reduce hospital readmissions and preventable emergency department visits with the elderly by focusing on the caregiver. The center started a pilot program in March to pursue caregivers of elderly patients being treated in a medical oncology unit.

Elderly patients are often discharged from the hospital or a rehabilitation facility to continue their care at home with a caregiver who may lack the knowledge or tools to continue care. The DEFT Center, funded by The Duke Endowment, is designed to assist caregivers in continuing to care for the elderly patient once they transition home.

Different than most transitional care models across the country, the center combines the academic and patient care strengths and components of a university health care system. DUSON graduate nursing students will have the opportunity to provide caregiving



training, which not only exposes them to difficulties that families often face when caring for a loved one at home but also increases the center's capacity to assist more caregivers.

Classes are designed to provide teach-back sessions in group and one-on-one settings, and caregivers will be videotaped for review once they are at home. The center's education and training will provide an additional layer of support that many patients and families would not otherwise have.

To learn more about the DEFT Center, visit [nursing.duke.edu/deft](http://nursing.duke.edu/deft).

## ■ Top DNP Program in the Nation Launches Executive Leadership Specialty

The Duke University School of Nursing (DUSON) Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Program has launched a new Executive Leadership specialty, and former School of Nursing dean **Catherine L. Gilliss, BSN'71, PhD, RN, FAAN**, Helene Fuld Health Trust Professor of Nursing, has been named as lead faculty. The specialty provides seasoned nurse leaders with the knowledge and skills needed to lead complex and changing organizations and health care systems.

The specialty is offered as a nine-credit track within the DNP program and will provide students with the skills to: lead complex organizations by understanding people, organizations and the advanced use of multiple sources of data; forecast and monitor trends in patient care, health care legislation and policy; develop skills in designing, implementing and evaluating the care of special populations; manage fast-breaking situations such as illness outbreaks, organizational emergencies or personnel issues; and develop and sustain a network of mentors and leaders to support professional growth.

To learn more about the Executive Leadership specialty, visit [nursing.duke.edu/dnp-executive-leadership-specialty](http://nursing.duke.edu/dnp-executive-leadership-specialty).

