

Accelerating Nursing Research

Recognizing that nursing research is a key driver in delivering quality, effective health care, Marion E. Broome, dean of Duke University School of Nursing, and A. Eugene Washington, Duke University's chancellor for health affairs, have established a new challenge that aims to raise \$2 million for nursing research at Duke by 2022.

Through the **Challenge for Investment: Accelerating Nursing Research**, Broome and Washington hope to accelerate translational nursing research within the School of Nursing. They have set aside \$1 million to match donor contributions. With these matching funds, the challenge allows donors to support start-up, pilot and bridge funding that will ultimately attract additional sustained research support, doubling the value and impact of philanthropic contributions for research in the School of Nursing.

In March 2019, Holditch-Davis and her husband, **Mark C. Davis, BS'73, PhD**, made the inaugural gift to the challenge and established the **Holditch-Davis Family PhD Student Research Fund**, with a \$100,000 gift to benefit PhD students at the School of Nursing.

"We want to make things a little easier for PhD students, so they can finish the program faster and focus on the research that they really want to do, and not necessarily the cheapest research," says Holditch-Davis.

Mark Davis adds: "Getting a PhD degree is a big commitment that requires a lot of work and dedication. We don't want students to worry about logistics like how to find money for their research instead of focusing on their education."

Driving a Submarine

Holditch-Davis came to Duke Women's College in 1969. She enjoyed studying psychology and anthropology, but at the time, she did not think she would be able to make a living from that. She was interested in medicine, but thought that nursing



Improving Hip Fracture Outcomes

The School of Nursing currently conducts over 70 nursing research projects. Nursing research focuses on building the body of knowledge to identify evidence-based practices that will improve chronic diseases management, how patients respond to individualized treatments and their quality of life following acute illness and injury.



A hip fracture is a serious injury, with life-threatening complications. More than 300,000 older adults—those 65 years of age and older—are hospitalized for hip fractures in the U.S. every year. One in four older adults will die within 12 months of suffering a hip fracture. Hospital readmission of these patients nearly doubles their one-year mortality risk.

Michael Cary, PhD, RN, associate professor and his team are using electronic health data and novel machine learning algorithms to predict future outcomes for patients with a hip fracture—including their likelihood of functional recovery, risk for complications, and hospital readmission.

"Results from this research will enable health care providers to intervene early and refer patients for more intensive rehabilitation services so adverse outcomes can be prevented," says Cary, a senior fellow at the Duke Center for the Study of Aging and Human Development.