

2018

Distinguished Contributions to Nursing Science

Elizabeth I. Merwin, PhD, RN, FAAN

Alumni Awards



Elizabeth I. Merwin, PhD, RN, FAAN, is the Ann Henshaw Gardiner Professor of Nursing and executive vice dean of Duke University School of Nursing and a professor emerita of nursing at the University of Virginia (UVA). She is an accomplished nursing and health services researcher whose work has focused on improving care for underserved populations in rural areas and mentally ill, impoverished and minority populations.

Merwin has a particular interest in reducing health disparities, shortage of health professionals in rural and underserved areas, and in identifying strategies to increase diversity within the health professions. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) and other external funding agencies have consistently funded her research programs. Her current study on reducing health disparities in seriously mentally ill, rural and minority populations focuses on individuals under the age of 65, who are eligible for Medicare due to a disability and mental illness.

Merwin was previously the Madge M. Jones Professor of Nursing and associate dean for research at the UVA School of Nursing. While at UVA, she conducted an NIH-funded study on shortages of health

professionals in rural areas. She was the principal investigator and director of a National Institutes of Health/National Institute of Nursing Research funded Rural Health and Nursing Research Center, where many pilot studies incorporated technology to improve care.

In 2008, she served as editor of the *Annual Review of Nursing Research* volume on rural health. She co-conducted two workforce studies on the supply and demand for certified registered nurse anesthetists, which were funded by the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists.

At the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Merwin has been a review committee member for the Healthcare Systems and Value Research study section for five years, and she is a scientific reviewer on the Health Care Research Training study section.

She was elected to the American Academy of Nursing in 1994, and in 2008, she received the Distinguished Professor Award from the UVA School of Nursing.

Merwin earned a PhD in health services organization and research and a master of science in nursing degree from Virginia Commonwealth University. She received a bachelor of science in nursing degree from Radford College.