

New Faculty Appointments



Howard

Valerie M. Howard EdD, MSN, RN, CNE, FAAN, is associate dean of academic affairs. She has more than 21 years of experience in higher education, with the past eleven years dedicated to researching, developing, implementing and evaluating innovative teaching methods and leadership and team building experiences across the curriculum. Prior to coming to DUSON, she served as Dean at Robert Morris University's (RMU) School of Nursing and Health Sciences (SNHS) in Pittsburgh, PA, where she was also the University Professor of Nursing. Her accomplishments as Dean included improved certification exam pass rates, increased enrollment, execution of contracts with health care organizations to support clinical education of nurses, successful accreditation efforts for nursing and health sciences programs, improved marketing efforts and the development of innovative and collaborative majors. Prior to her position as Dean, she served RMU in various leadership roles including Director of Development and Assistant Dean for External Affairs, Academic Department Head and Academic Integrity Council Chair.



Convoy

Sean P. Convoy, DNP, PMHNP-BC, is an assistant professor. He comes to Duke from Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), where he led faculty for its Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Program and was instrumental in its dramatic improvement in first-time board certification pass rates and the transition to a hybrid delivered program. Prior to his time at VCU, he served 22 years in the U.S. Navy, where he was an advanced practice psychiatric-mental health nurse in both traditional and austere environments around the world. He completed three deployments in support of Operation Enduring and Iraqi Freedom where he distinguished himself. He also advanced the scope of APRN nursing practice in the military. He served as both the Navy's interim psychiatric-mental health nursing subspecialty advisor to the Navy surgeon general and program director and chair at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, Daniel K. Inouye Graduate School of Nursing's Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner Program. He holds a BA in Psychology from Elon College, received his BSN from Norfolk State University, an MSN and Post Master's certificate from the University of Virginia, and a DNP from Rush University. He is considered an authority in operational psychiatry, mental illness prevention, cognitive therapy and caregiver stress, and has delivered podium presentations at numerous national, regional and virtual conferences and has published in peer reviewed journals in these fields.



Knisely

Mitchell Knisely, PhD, RN-BC, ACNS-BC, is an assistant professor. He comes to Duke from the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing, where he completed a postdoctoral fellowship. His program of research seeks to identify and understand the relationships among pain and associated symptoms, self-management behaviors, and omics factors in patients with inflammatory bowel disease and other chronic conditions. He has published and presented widely in these areas. In the clinical arena, he has led or contributed to initiatives to improve pain management in acute and outpatient care settings. He earned his BSN from Purdue University, MSN and PhD from Indiana University, and trained at the National Institutes of Health National Institute of Nursing Research's 2015 Summer Genetics Institute. He is also board certified as an adult health clinical nurse specialist and in Pain Management Nursing.

Tolulope "Tolu" Oyesanya, PhD, RN, is an assistant professor. She comes to Duke from the Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing at Emory University, where she was an instructor. She completed a post-doctoral fellowship in brain injury research at Shepherd Center in Atlanta. Her research focuses on care of patients with traumatic brain



Oyesanya



Falyar



Tola



Cadavero

injury (TBI) in acute and post-acute treatment settings, as well as support of family caregivers of patients with TBI. Her current research focuses on transitional care for patients with TBI discharged directly home from acute care without rehabilitation services, with an emphasis on improving post-discharge self-and family-management of care and patient independence and participation. She received her BSN, MSN and PhD from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Christian Falyar, DNAP, CRNA, is an assistant professor. He comes to Duke from the Department of Nurse Anesthesia at the University of Iowa and Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia's Acute Pain Fellowship, where he held an adjunct faculty appointment. He also was an experienced staff anesthetist at Great River Health Systems, a regional medical center serving a community of approximately 100,000 from southeast Iowa. Before moving to Iowa, he was an assistant professor at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), where he coordinated the regional anesthesia program from 2013-2015. He also served as affiliate faculty and on-site student clinical coordinator at VCU and Georgetown University. He retired from the Air National Guard after 21 years of service and attaining the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. In his final five years of his military career, he served as the chief nurse of the

192nd Fighter Wing, and was the senior ranking nurse. He received his ASN from Shenandoah University, BSN from West Virginia University, completed the VCU Nurse Anesthesia Program, and received his Doctorate in Nurse Anesthesia from VCU. He received a post-doctoral fellowship award from the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA) Foundation for his research evaluating the effects of general anesthesia on regional blood flow to the brachial artery in the cubital fossa. He lectures extensively on ultrasound-related anesthesia topics and has coordinated the open ultrasound-scanning lab at the AANA annual congress. He has been published in many leading nurse anesthesia focused peer-reviewed journals. In 2011, he created VAULT (www.vaultultrasound.com), a forum where CRNAs can discuss and network about the latest trends in ultrasound-guided anesthesia procedures.

Denise Tola, DNP, CRNA, is an assistant professor. She comes to Duke from Georgetown University, where she was the clinical director for the Nurse Anesthesia Program. She has been a practicing CRNA for more than 25 years. She began her professional nursing career as a burn/trauma nurse, and her CRNA

experience spans four states in Level 1 trauma centers, university hospitals, community hospitals and surgery centers. At Georgetown, she taught and coordinated courses through the CRNA program. She is a member of Sigma Theta Tau International, the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists, Virginia Association of Nurse Anesthetists, and serves as a reviewer of case studies for publication in the International Student Journal of Nurse Anesthesia.

Allen Cadavero, PhD, RN, CCRN, is an assistant professor. Prior to joining Duke faculty, he worked as a clinical instructor in our ABSN Program, and he worked as a cardiothoracic critical care nurse in the Duke Heart Center. He brings more than 20 years of clinical experience in critical care, medical-surgical nursing, perioperative nursing, home health, and wound management. He previously was on faculty at Alamance Community College where he taught adult health concepts including medical-surgical nursing, critical care, and fundamentals and was a National League of Nursing Ambassador and a certified nurse educator. He received his BSN from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, MSN in Nursing Education from Duke University School of Nursing, and a PhD in Nursing Education from Villanova University.