



UNLOCKING
THE POWER OF
**NURSING
RESEARCH**
TO IMPROVE LIVES

Overview of NINR's 40th Anniversary Activities

Shalanda A. Bynum, PhD, MPH

Yvonne Bryan, PhD

Lauren Oliveira Hashiguchi, PhD, MSPH

January 2026



National Institute
of Nursing Research

NINR 40th Anniversary Scientific Symposium: Advancing Nursing Science to Improve Health for All: NINR's Impact



Broad, Cross-Sector Audience

- 395 Registrants

- ❖ Academia
& professional
associations
- ❖ Community partners
- ❖ NIH leadership & staff



Spanned Discovery, Translation, and Future Directions



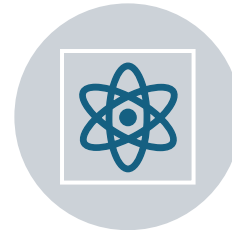
NINR Through the
Decades: A Historical
Perspective



Keynote Panel: NINR's
Scientific
Achievements—Impacts,
Insights, and Innovations



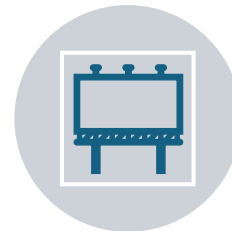
Early-Stage
Investigators Spotlight



Scientific Sessions:
Translating Science to
Solutions



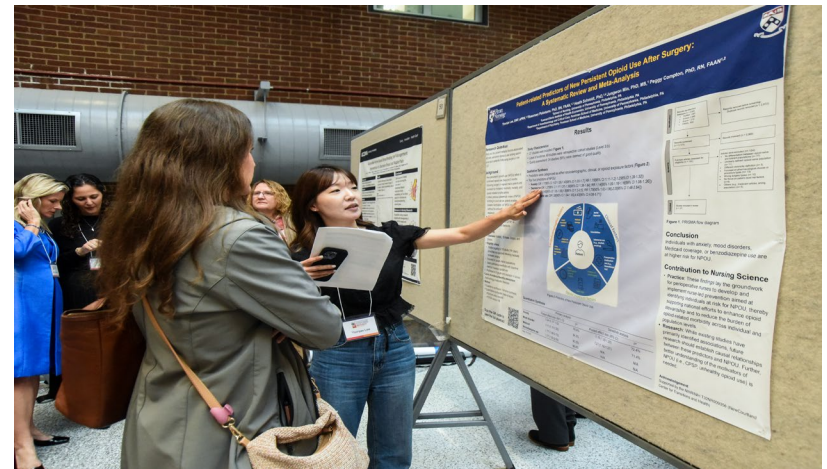
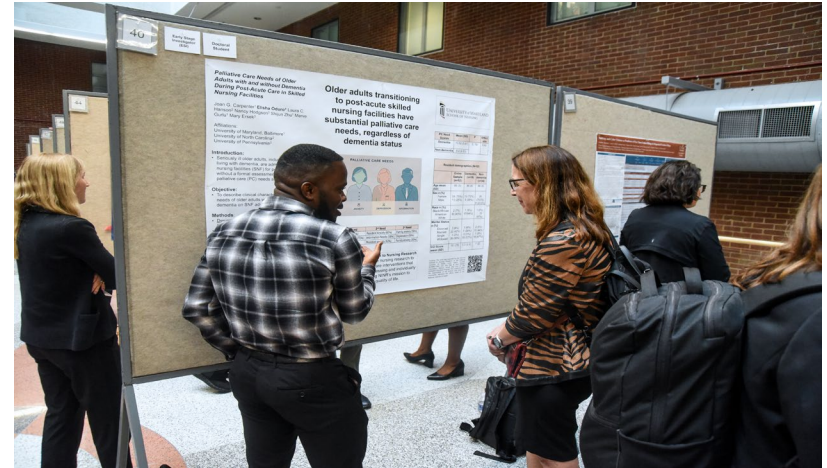
Voices of the Community
Panel: Nursing Research
Impact Through
Community Voice



Scientific Poster Session

Scientific Poster Session: A Robust Response

- 300 poster submissions
 - 68 accepted
 - 22 ESIs
 - 7 Students
 - 2 Community partners
- Scientific areas covered all NINR research priority areas



Four Core Insights Emerged from 40 Years of Nursing Science

- ✓ Nursing research is scientifically rigorous, shaping both policy and practice
- ✓ Community voices strengthen science
- ✓ Conditions of daily life require team-based approach across sectors
- ✓ Early-stage investigators fuel innovation and scientific breakthroughs



Opportunities for Action: Looking Ahead to Accelerate Impact



Integrate science, systems, and policy



Faster movement from discovery-to-practice



Expand community-partnered research



Advance conditions of daily life & life-course research



Leverage AI to support nursing research and care

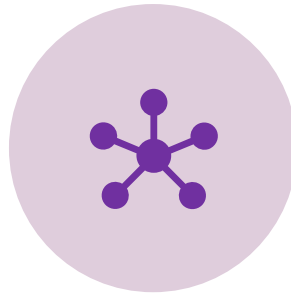


Grow the early-stage investigator pipelines

Nursing Science Is Essential to the Nation's Health



PROVEN IMPACT
ACROSS POPULATIONS



POSITIONED TO
ADDRESS EMERGING
CHALLENGES



REQUIRES SUSTAINED
INVESTMENT AND
PARTNERSHIPS

SDOH Research Institute: Faculty Convening



Purpose



Discuss opportunities for advancing research that addresses the conditions of people's lives



Share pathways for supporting early career investigators in advancing related work



Objectives

Identify strategies for advancing and sustaining SDOH research

Learn about NINR and NIH current research priorities

Understand best practices and approaches for supporting early career nurse scientists

Discussion Framing

Session 1: The Road Ahead for SDOH Research

- Over the past several months, what strategies have you used to advance and sustain your own program of research addressing the conditions of daily life? What lessons have you learned?

Session 2: Supporting Early Stage Investigators in Advancing SDOH Research

- What mentorship strategies have you found to be most successful or promising in supporting ESIs during times of change?

Core Insights

- *Language and Conceptual Rigor* is essential
- *Translation to Clinical Care and Community Practice* to ensure direct relevance
- *Interdisciplinary Collaboration* makes for better science
- *Community Engagement and Partner Priorities* maximizes health impacts
- *Granularity and Heterogeneity* important to understand what works and for whom
- *Funding Portfolio Diversification* to sustain research



Core Insights - Cont.

- *Mentorship Philosophy and Practices* should be holistic and supportive
- *Pipeline Development and Resilience* necessary to promote psychological hardiness
- *Defining Nursing Science and PhD Preparation* to advance the unique value of nursing and set baseline expectations
- *Institutional Culture and Incentives* should reward quality and career plurality



Opportunities for Action



Clarify and communicate preferred language and constructs



Encourage scientists to explicitly address heterogeneity and granularity



Support communication capacity building



Highlight and reward team science, community partnership, and translational impact



Elevate mentorship and psychological safety



Create forums that continue cross-site communities of practice

Early-Stage Investigator Mentoring Workshop



Purpose

The Early-Stage Investigator [ESI] Mentoring Workshop aimed to provide an opportunity for ESIs to hone their research skills and knowledge, and make the necessary connections needed to advance their research careers to achieve scientific independence.

Objectives

- ❖ Provide support, mentorship and guidance for professional growth.
- ❖ Enhance research capabilities aligned with NINR's priority areas. Foster understanding of community and multisector collaboration.
- ❖ Encourage innovation, especially in technology and emerging research fields such as AI & Data Science.
- ❖ Expand participants' professional networks to sustain long-term career success.

Program Overview



Participants:

- Twenty-three ESIs participated with seven external senior scientists and NINR Program staff serving as speakers.
- In addition, faculty from the SDOH Summer Research Institute Convening, a parallel event, joined the afternoon mentoring session as mentors.

Session 1:

- Keynote session by Dr. Christopher Lee focused on ESIs charting and navigating their research careers.

Session 2:

- “Scientific Mentorship: Benefits, Paths, and Pursuit” with Panel presenters, Drs. Ryan Shaw and Ronald Hickman, was designed to help ESIs understand how to build and sustain a successful research career and how high-quality scientific mentorship supports that journey.

Program Overview Cont.

Session 3:

Tips for Charting a Successful Research Career: Insights from Accomplished Scientists

Dr. Shawn Kneipp, PhD, RN, ANP, APHN-BC, Sarah Frances Russell, Distinguished Term Professor, Carolina Nursing Program, University of North Carolina

- How to build collaborations across institutions, specialties, and sectors to strengthen their research proposals

Dr. Maxim [Max] Topaz, PhD, MA, RN FAAN, Elizabeth Standish Gill, Associate Professor, School of Nursing, Columbia University

- Exploring innovative technologies to enhance research productivity [AI focused] – aim was to encourage ESIs to consider including technology and the use of AI in their research proposal as they think about and develop their research questions around improving health and outcomes for all

Moderator

Dr. Michael Cary, PhD, RN, Associate Professor and Elizabeth C. Clipp, Term Chair of Nursing, School of Nursing, Duke University

Program Overview Cont.

Session 4

- *Panel Presentation – NINR and NIH Current Priorities and Practices*
 - NINR Extramural Staff: Dr. Karen Kehl, Dr. Julia Seay, Dr. Nadra Tyus
- *Two Breakout Session Followed [each repeated once]:*
 - The primary purpose of the breakout session was to help the ESIs understand and navigate NIH's research funding process and career advancement pathways. [Program officers from NIH's Division of Extramural Science Programs]
 - Breakout 1: *Explained updates to the NIH review process, helping participants improve the quality and competitiveness of their grant submissions.*
 - Breakout 2: *Guided attendees in identifying new NIH/NINR funding opportunities and recognizing emerging research priorities.*

Sessions 5

- ESI Mentoring - Joint Session with ESI Speakers and Faculty from SDOH Research Institute: Provided mentoring and collaboration opportunities for early-stage investigators.

Session 6

- Faculty Reflection on SDOH Research Institute Convening: Dr. Melissa Horning, shared key insights, lessons learned and important take aways for ESIs.

Opportunities for Action

Continue to provide support for ESIs through regular virtual check-in, as well as planned follow-up activity for FY'26.

- ESIs expressed appreciation for the wealth of information shared regarding how some accomplished scientists have successfully navigated their research trajectory, including failures, successes, the role of a thoughtfully curated mentorship team, and the need for persistence and perseverance in the face of challenges.

Repeat in person mentoring opportunity for FY'27 based on input from ESIs.

- ESIs expressed gratitude for the Mentorship Panel experience with accomplished senior scientists which fostered networking that can lead to future collaborations, access to new resources, and ongoing mentoring relationships.

A Collaborative Effort!



Scientific Symposium

We thank the many scientific presenters, moderators, and community partners



SDOH Research Institute: Faculty Convening

We thank the 17 faculty who participated in the convening & the NINR Convening Planning Committee



Early-Stage Investigator [ESI] Mentoring Workshop

We thank the presenters, mentors, and POs who participated in the workshop & the NINR Workshop Planning Committee

Thank you NINR!

