

Faith Community Nurses International is a professional membership organization for faith community nurses.

The FCNI Research Committee promotes and supports Faith Community Nursing practice by:

- ⇒ providing resources related to the utilization of evidence-based practice and development of scholarly work;
- ⇒ providing resources related to the development, implementation, and evaluation of research projects;
- ⇒ establishing a researcher network that can provide guidance and expertise to its members;
- ⇒ focusing on strategies to increase the awareness, application, and advancement of evidence-based practice in

Faith Community Nursing.

Highlights

Wishing you a bountiful harvest in all possible ways this fall!

If you would like to become involved in the Research Committee, please visit our website. We are looking for practicing FCNs who have experience doing research studies or EBP projects.

Research Committee
Members:
Donna Callaghan (Chair)
Esther Brown
Susan Chase
Yvette Dulohery
Susan Dyess
Andra Opalinski
Deborah Ziebarth

Consider joining the FCNI group on the Westberg Institute for Faith Community Nursing's "FCN Platform". The goal of this group is to encourage networking of both experienced and novice FCN researchers and educators. Go to <https://westberginstitute.org/> for

Spotlight News

In May, 2017, Emory Saint Joseph's initiated a new model for institutional support of Faith Community Nursing. The St. Joseph's branch of the Emory Health care system was originally opened by the Sisters of Mercy as the first hospital to be built in Atlanta following the civil war in 1880. It has maintained its Faith-based commitment to care. The first training for the new model being developed included nurses from all the hospitals in the Atlanta based system and will extend into communities. Rebecca Heitkam is the director of both congregational health ministries and faith community nursing. It has a goal of extending care into communities by focusing on chronic disease management and promoting the health through education and engagement. The 140 nurses participating in the initial week-long training program were commissioned for this new service, and will spend the next year building their portfolio for certification review by participating in community outreach, education, and health promotion. The centrality of faith and prayer was a feature of the training and support.

Current Research

A recent article in *Public Health Nursing* reports a secondary analysis of a funded project in Maryland in 2014 and 2015 that included 39 FCNs who received training and support as they ran a three-month program of screening and coaching in a congregational setting. The program was designed for referrals to providers if needed and at least three face to face coaching sessions, based on participant choice of lifestyle factors. Managing stress, healthy weight, and healthy activity were the top. Results for 109 participants who had been selected as being hypertensive or at risk for hypertension showed statistically significant lowering of both systolic and diastolic pressures across three the months. Satisfaction with lifestyle factors after coaching showed statistically significant improvements on all scales. The analysis was well explained and could be a model for similar studies.

Cooper, J. Zimmerman, W. The effect of a faith community nurse network and public health collaboration on hypertension prevention and control. *Public Health Nurs.* 2017;00:1-10, <https://doi.org/10.1111/phn.12325>