

## PURPOSE

The Rural Health Care Research Center (RHCRC) will provide infrastructure necessary to conduct and disseminate research responsive to the health care needs of impoverished individuals, racial and ethnic minorities, and the elderly living in rural areas.

The Center will test innovative clinical and system interventions including testing the adaptation of existing interventions for use in rural areas, training programs for rural health care providers in new nursing practices, investigating the role of emerging telehealth technologies in overcoming the scarcity of services and expertise in rural areas.

To further this work, our research will examine individual and organizational barriers common to rural areas including such factors as poverty, isolation, lack of specialty providers and resources, which are often a part of rural life.

## THE RURAL HEALTH CARE RESEARCH CENTER

Elizabeth Merwin, PhD, RN, FAAN *Director*  
Cassandra E. Christmas, *Administrative  
Coordinator*

### Year 5 Studies

Online Screening for Postpartum Depression  
*P.I. Emily E. Drake, RN, PhD*

The Impact of Cell Phones and SMS on  
Clinical Outcomes in Patients with HIV/AIDS  
*Co-Investigator: Sarah Delgado, RN, MSN,  
ACNP*  
*Co-Investigator: Rebecca Dillingham, MD,  
MPH*

Motivations for Seeking Emergency  
Department Care among Rural and Urban  
Patients

*P. I. Sarah L. Anderson, Ph.D., RN*  
*Co-Investigator: Audrey Snyder, Ph.D., RN*  
*Co-Investigator: Sandra Annan, Ph.D., RN*

Shared Decision Making and Public  
Mental Health in Rural Virginia Counties  
*P.I. Irma H. Mahone, RN, Ph.D.*



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# THE RURAL HEALTH CARE RESEARCH CENTER

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National Institutes  
of Health  
National Institute of  
Nursing Research  
2004-2009  
P20 NR009009

## OBJECTIVES

- Build the research infrastructure of the University of Virginia School of Nursing
- Foster interdisciplinary collaboration among nurse researchers and investigators from other disciplines.
- Improve rural health care by:
  - designing novel interventions to meet specific needs of rural people in culturally appropriate ways;
  - using technology to deliver clinical and system interventions in rural settings;
  - adapting interventions developed in tertiary health care settings for use in rural areas;
  - training rural health care providers in new assessment and therapeutic techniques and system improvements.
- Develop long-term community partnerships with rural clinicians, policy makers and consumer groups.



## INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH TEAM

*Center Director: Elizabeth Merwin*

### *Executive Committee*

Elizabeth Merwin, PhD, RN, FAAN, *Chair*  
Marty Doherty, MBA  
Dean Dorrie K. Fontaine, RN, PhD, FAAN  
Emily Hauenstein, PhD, LCP, APRN, BC  
Ivora Hinton, PhD  
Pamela A. Kulbok, APRN, BC, DNSc  
Barbara Parker, PhD, RN, FAAN  
Sharon W. Utz, PhD, RN

### *Division Directors*

#### *Administrative Core:*

Elizabeth Merwin, PhD, RN, FAAN

#### *Pilot-Studies Core:*

Barbara Parker, PhD, RN, FAAN

#### *Methods Core:*

Emily Hauenstein, PhD, LCP, RN

#### *Culturally Responsive Designs:*

Ivora Hinton, PhD

Melvin Wilson, PhD

#### *Technology:*

Sarah Farrell, PhD, RN, CS

#### *Investigator Development:*

Ann G. Taylor, Ed.D., RN, FAAN

#### *Statistics:*

Mark Conaway, PhD

#### *Data Management:*

Ivora Hinton, PhD

### *Advisory Board*

Kathleen Buckwalter, PhD, RN, FAAN  
(*University of Iowa*)

Angeline Bushy, PhD, RN, FAAN  
(*University of Central Florida*)

Debra L. Carter, RN, Ed.D., FNP  
(*UVA College at Wise, Department Chair, Assistant Professor of Nursing*)

Dean Dorrie K. Fontaine, PhD, RN, FAAN  
(*Dean, UVA School of Nursing*)

Beth O'Connor, M.Ed  
(*Executive Director, Virginia Rural Health Association*)

Karen Rheuban, MD  
(*UVA, Director, Health System Telemedicine Program*)

Melvin Wilson, PhD  
(*UVA Professor of Psychology*)