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Expertise Areas:
Transcultural Topics

- Cultural competence and humility
- Health disparities
- Mental Health
- Migration

Cultural Groups

- Latino/a persons
- African Americans

Clinical Topics

- Community Outreach and Engagement
- Mental health and well-being
- Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Nursing
- Leadership

Research Methodology

- Community-based participatory action
- Qualitative

Other

- Reviewer for the *Journal of Nursing Education*
- Certified as a Teacher of English as a Foreign Language

Languages spoken, read/write*

- English
- Spanish

Select Publications
Journals

Fitzgerald, E.M., Cronin, S., & Hess-Bocella, S. (2015). Anguish, yearning, and identity: Toward a better understanding of the pregnant Hispanic woman's prenatal care experience. *Journal of Transcultural Nursing* 1-7.

Fitzgerald, E.M. (March 2012). Evidence-Based Tobacco-Cessation Strategies with Pregnant Latina Women. *Nursing Clinics of North America*, 47(1): 45-54.

Fitzgerald, E.M., Cronin, S.N., & Campinha-Bacote, J. (2009). Psychometric testing of the Inventory for Assessing the Process of Cultural Competence Among Health Care Professionals Student Version (IAPCC-SV). *Journal of Theory Construction and Testing*, Vol. 13, Number 2, pp 64-68.

Selected Presentations:

Fitzgerald, E.M. (2012). "Evidence-based Tobacco Cessation Strategies with Pregnant Latina Women". Presented at Stream 4-2: "New Horizons in Women's Health: at the BIT's 1st International Congress of Gynaecology and Obstetrics, Guangzhou, China.

1- What Sparked my Interest in Transcultural Nursing:

My interest in Transcultural Nursing was sparked through my involvement as a volunteer in English Conversation Club at the Louisville Free Public Library where I taught English as a Foreign Language to immigrants and refugees. I interacted with many people who were not able to access health care and they experienced health disparities. I also met Dr. Josepha Campinha-Bacote, who agreed to serve as a Transcultural Nurse Mentor.

I traveled to Mexico and completed a certificate in Cultural Awareness offered through Via Lingua. I worked with nurses and physicians at the Ciudad Guzman Regional Hospital and helped them develop a tool for psychosocial screening of women in labor and delivery. Since my journey began in Transcultural Nursing in 2006, I have travelled to many different countries and interacted with health care professionals in China, Mexico, Peru, Ecuador, Honduras, and Nicaragua. I have also volunteered with refugees and immigrants in Louisville, KY and Columbus, OH to help them improve their English language skills and obtain better access to health care services. I hope that my journey inspires other nurses to become active in the Transcultural Nursing Society and practice cultural humility.

2- Present/Future Directions:

Presently, I am involved in a Learning Community sponsored by the University Center for the Advancement of Teaching (UCAT) at OSU to redesign the Nursing in Nicaragua Study Abroad Program to add a service learning designation to attract more students, to serve the people of Nicaragua during our time in country, and to create sustainable programs of service delivery.

A future goal is to work with the nurse educators in Nicaragua to help them explore development of a chapter in Sigma Theta Tau, International. I am collaborating with colleagues at OSU to help re-establish the Free Clinic for Latino/a persons who lack insurance. Finally, I plan to continue to publish my work in peer-reviewed journals, to present my work at international conferences, and to network with nurses throughout Latin America.

3. Favorite Transcultural Story:

I was invited to participate in a conference in China and accepted the invitation. However, I had not been to China previously and I did not speak the language. I arrived in Guangzhou after a 17-hour flight, tired and in culture shock. Many of the conference participants were on the same flight and we all had the same information about transportation to our hotel. After an hour of negotiation, we all encountered different fare amounts and took interesting routes to our hotel. Once we arrived at the hotel, we were greeted warmly and treated to a wonderful stay. Our sponsors made sure that we were well fed and comfortable and went out of their way to entertain us, make us feel at home, and help us set up our presentations. I met nurses, physicians, and psychologists from all around the world. We were together 24/7, as we shared all of our meals together, interacted in the lobby of the conference center, and ventured out together to explore the city. The workers in the hotel and people we met on the street were curious about us and eager to practice English with us. Everyone was patient, kind, friendly and eager to learn about one another. It was an amazing 4 days of cultural exchange and this experience strengthened my desire to practice cultural humility.