



**NICHE + Nebraska Methodist Hospital Regional Geriatric
Nursing Conference: Speaker Handout**

Kali Dayton, DNP, RN, AGACNP



Kali Dayton is a critical care nurse practitioner, host of the podcasts *Walking Home From The ICU*, and *Walking You Through The ICU*, and critical care outcomes consultant. She is dedicated to creating Awake and Walking ICUs by ensuring ICU sedation and mobility practices are aligned with current research. She works with ICU teams internationally to transform patient outcomes through early mobility and management of delirium in the ICU.

Donna Marie Fick, PhD, RN, GCNS-BC, AGSF, FGSA, FAAN



Donna Marie Fick is a Distinguished Professor in The Pennsylvania State University College of Nursing, the Elouise Ross Eberly Endowed Professor of Nursing, and Director of the Center for Geriatric Nursing Excellence. Her area of research has focused on two critical issues in the care of older adults: inappropriate medication use, and delirium superimposed on dementia (DSD). She is a member of the interdisciplinary panel for the American Geriatrics Society (AGS) Beers Criteria for inappropriate medication use in older adults and serves on the AGS Board. Dr. Fick has co-chaired the Beers Criteria since 2001. Dr. Fick also serves as an expert faculty member and coach for the Creating an Age Friendly Health System Initiative funded by the John A. Hartford Foundation (JAH) and led by the Institute of Healthcare Improvement (IHI). She served on the National Academy of Medicine (NAM) Committee on the Public Health Dimensions of Cognitive Aging, and has served on the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine Forum on Aging, Disability and Independence from 2017.

Sadie Hinkel, MA



Sadie Hinkel is the Program Director at the Alzheimer's Association - Nebraska Chapter. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in English Education from Morningside University and her Master's Degree in Writing from Coastal Carolina University. Sadie has extensive experience working in public education and advocacy, and is passionate about providing and enhancing care and support for those affected by Alzheimer's disease and other dementias.

Theresa Jizba, DNP, AGACNP-BC, ACHPN



Theresa Jizba is an Assistant Professor at Creighton University College of Nursing. She is a regional representative and an End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium (ELNEC) trainer. Dr. Jizba's clinical practice role is with the Nebraska Methodist Hospital's inpatient palliative medicine team. Her research interests include high-fidelity simulation and primary palliative care education.

Mandy Kirkpatrick, PhD, RN, FAAN, FNAP



Mandy Kirkpatrick is Associate Dean for Research and Innovation at Creighton University College of Nursing. Her research and teaching interests include preparing nurses and other health professionals to have difficult conversations and delivering high quality palliative care. These passions have led to a number of funded studies and publications, as well as appointment as an ELNEC regional representative alongside Dr. Theresa Jizba.

Karen Mack, DNP, MBA, APRN, CCNS, ACNP-BC



Karen Mack is executive director of the Nurses Improving Care for Healthsystem Elders (NICHE) program at NYU Rory Meyers College of Nursing, a 350-member organization whose mission is to create age-friendly healthcare services for older adults. NICHE is an award-winning nursing practice model that positions nurses to lead substantive changes in the design and delivery of nursing care to older adults to improve clinical outcomes, reduce the cost of care, and meet national quality goals. As the executive director of NICHE, Mack oversees the growth and implementation of the NICHE practice model to improve health outcomes for older adults in care delivery settings, including hospitals and long-term care. She is board-certified as an acute care nurse practitioner.

Mack joined NICHE leadership at NYU Meyers as director of programs in 2022. Before joining the NICHE program office, she led NICHE implementation at MedStar Health, a ten-hospital system in the Maryland and Washington, D.C. region, for a decade. Under her leadership, the health system achieved advanced NICHE member recognition of Exemplar or Senior Friendly at all MedStar Health hospitals. She also contributed to the work of the NICHE program through her presentations at NICHE Conferences and in reviewing NICHE materials.

Jane F. Potter, MD



Dr. Potter is a professor of Geriatrics, Gerontology, and Palliative Medicine at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, and Director of the Geriatric Medicine Fellowship Program. She joined the UNMC faculty in 1982. She has been a member of the American Geriatrics Society (AGS) since 1980 and was a member of the AGS Board of Directors from 2000 to 2008, where she also served as president and board chair. Dr. Potter is past president of the National Association for Geriatric Education Centers and a former member of the American Board of Internal Medicine Geriatric Test Committee. She is a deputy director for the AGS/John A. Hartford Foundation Geriatrics-for-Specialists Initiative and an editor of both "Geriatrics at Your Fingertips" and "The Geriatric Review Syllabus."

Marcia Shade, PhD, BS, RN



Dr. Marcia (pronounced *Mar-see-uh*) Shade is a nurse, scholar, educator, leader, and innovator. She is an Assistant Professor in the College of Nursing at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. Dr. Shade also is the founder and CEO of Voice-It Inc. a start-up company that focuses on creating digital health solutions that engage, inform, and empower older adults. Dr. Shade's scholarship focuses on improving pain management in older adults and has received both intramural and extramural funding to lead her program of research.

Dr. Shade is a dedicated educator who is committed to preparing the next generation of nurses to provide equitable evidence-based care and molding future nurse scientists. As a nurse innovator and entrepreneur, Dr. Shade works to extend the “reach and impact” of her research by creating and testing artificial intelligence technology to improve older adult’s pain management. She and her start-up company were selected as a winners of a highly competitive National Institutes of Health, National Institutes on Aging Small Business Accelerator that increases diversity in business research and development.

Christina Vejnovich, DNP, APRN-CNS, AGCNS-BC, CDP, CADDCT, PCCN-K



Christina Vejnovich is a dedicated Adult-Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist at Methodist Hospital in Omaha, Nebraska. She is committed to advancing geriatric nursing practice through education, research, and mentorship. She assists with the system-wide expansion of the Age-Friendly Health Initiative 4Ms framework, co-coordinates AgeWISE – a gero-palliative nurse residency program, and is the NICHE coordinator for Methodist Hospital. She is actively involved in the Methodist Hospital Research Council, implements geriatric best practices, and mentors nurses involved in translational research and evidence-based practice projects. She is a Certified Dementia Practitioner and a Certified Alzheimer’s Disease and Dementia Care Trainer. She is a member of the Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association, National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists, American Nurses Association, Nebraska Nurses Association, and is the Vice President of the Tau Tau chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International.

Jennifer Bierbaum, DNP, APRN-CNS, AGCNS-BC, CENP, GERO-BC



Jennifer F. Bierbaum is the MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center Director of Nursing Practice Innovation. She also serves as the MedStar Health Nurses Improving Care for HealthSystem Elders (NICHE) program coordinator for the system. Dr. Bierbaum graduated from Southeast Community College in Lincoln, Nebraska with an Associate Degree in Nursing, and later attended the University of Nebraska Medical Center School of Nursing where she earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Master of Science in Nursing and APRN certification as a CNS and Doctor of Nursing Practice degrees. In addition, Dr. Bierbaum attended the Wharton Nursing Leaders Program at the University of Pennsylvania.

Nadine Henry-Thomas, DNP, MSN-Ed, CMSRN, PCCN



Nadine Henry-Thomas is the Director of Nursing on a Cardiac Telemetry unit at MedStar Franklin Medical Center in Baltimore, Maryland, with over 20 years of clinical experience in a variety of settings. She is a graduate of Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing (DNP) in 2019 and Kaplan University (MSN-Ed) in 2013. Prior to her migration to the USA, she began her career in Jamaica as a medical-surgical nurse and midwife.

She is a co-coordinator of the MedStar Health Nurses Improving the Care of Healthsystem Elders (NICHE) System committee, with a passion for caring for the geriatric population in a safe, holistic, and individualized manner.

Becky Davis, DNP, MSN, RN



Becky Davis has been teaching at Creighton University College of Nursing for 10 years. She practiced for several years as a community/public health nurse before becoming a nurse educator. Her previous practice and current academic roles are consistently linked to care of under-resourced individuals, families and whole populations. Her research focus is in Health Disparities using community-engaged approaches - with themes in refugee health, age-friendly communities, spiritual dimensions of care, health communication, and community health education. She currently teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in Population Health and holds a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree in Advanced Public Health – Global Health Nursing.

Jordan Kreifels, BSN, RN, GERO-BC



Jordyn Kreifels is a registered nurse on the Acute Care for Elders unit at Nebraska Methodist Hospital. She has a degree in biological sciences with a certificate in gerontology from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and a degree in nursing from Creighton University. She is passionate about caring for older adults and has dedicated her career to improving the care we provide them.

Marilyn Lopez, DNP, RN, GNP-BC



Marilyn Lopez is a board-certified Geriatric Nurse Practitioner for over 30 years with a Doctorate in Nursing Practice (DNP). Currently, she is the Director of Nursing Geriatrics at the NYU Langone Health. She trains and mentors nurses on geriatric best practices, especially with high-risk older adults across specialty services. As an advanced practice nurse, she is focused on care improvements such as the development of hospitalized protocols and educational programs to staff, patients and families. She has single- and co-authored journal articles and presented numerous projects for a variety of national conferences since 1997. Dr. Lopez has published a chapter titled “Standardizing GRN Roles and Responsibilities: A Strategy for Sustaining NICHE in an Academic Medical Center” in *Nurses Improving Care for Healthsystem Elders*. Her DNP doctoral scholarly project titled “Implementing a Quality Improvement Program to Reduce Falls and Increase Patient Medication Satisfaction in an Academic Medical Center” was featured in the January/February 2023 *Geriatric Nursing Journal*. Furthermore, she is a constant liaison with the Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing and NICHE national conference planning committees in podium presentations and international student mentorship programs.

Elena D. Memoracion, DNP, RN, NEA-BC, FACHE, CPHQ



Dr. Memoracion is the Senior Director for Patient Care at North Shore University Hospital. In this role she provides leadership, strategic direction and operation of several inpatient care units, and multi-site dialysis program within Northwell Health. She leads the hospital's nursing quality program and had implemented performance improvement strategies and tools that resulted in patient and staff outcomes that outperformed the national benchmark. She earned her Doctor of Nursing Practice in Nursing Leadership from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio and Master of Science in Nursing Administration from Adelphi University in New York. She is board certified in Nursing Executive, Advanced; board certified in healthcare management and earned the credential - Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives, and a board Certified Professional in Healthcare Quality. She is a member of the American Organization of Nursing Leadership, American Nurses Association, American College of Healthcare Executives and National Association of Healthcare Quality. She is passionate about patient safety and had presented nationally on patient experience, safety and staff engagement.

Debra Recchia, RN, BSN, NE-BC, GRN



Debra Recchia is a Nurse Manager with over 20 years of leadership experience. She has garnered numerous accolades, notably the Zuckerberg Award, the Daisy Award for Leadership, and the Beacon Gold Designation for the Respiratory Care Unit. She is board-certified as a nurse executive and is a geriatric resource nurse. Debra Recchia is the Nurse Manager for the A.C.E. Unit at North Shore University Hospital. The A.C.E. Unit consists of adult patients with altered mental status due to dementia and delirium, as well as older adults requiring an enhanced level of care. Through her leadership, she empowers the staff to utilize the NICHE Principles in the daily care of the patients with a focus on the 4M's during daily IDR Rounds and assessments. She is dedicated to providing older adults with dignified, patient-centered care that prioritizes quality and safety.

Hope Castellani, BSN, RN, CCRN-BC



Hope Castellani has been a Registered Nurse (RN) at NYU Langone Health (NYULH) Tisch/Kimmel campus for two years. Hope works in an adult inpatient Surgical Intensive Care Unit (SICU) with a specialty in transplants. As a SICU nurse, she leads a unit team with laser focus critical thinking skills for high acuity patients requiring frequent monitoring and specialized nursing care. Most importantly, she guides nurses and staff in caring for patients with delirium by incorporating a newly piloted virtual delirium prevention bundle. Hope is a co-chair of the Geriatric Resource Practice Council (GRNPC) and Sunshine Committee for her unit which organizes bonding events focused on staff satisfaction and retention. As a co-chair of the GRNPC, she works closely with junior chairs, Nurses Improving Care for Healthsystem Elders (NICHE) coordinators, advanced practice nurses, geriatric nurse leaders and team members to strengthen RN geriatric knowledge, practice and gerontological certifications. Hope is an advocate for all patients and families in providing safe patient outcomes.

Iman Dolah, BSN, RN



Iman Dolah has been a Registered Nurse (RN) at NYU Langone Health (NYULH) Tisch/Kimmel campus for three years, working in the adult inpatient voluntary psychiatric unit. As a psychiatric nurse, she is a team leader on the Behavioral Emergency Response Team. She manages hospital-wide behavioral and psychiatric emergencies with a focus on hospital-acquired delirium and agitation, particularly in geriatric patients. Iman is a co-chair of the Geriatric Resource Practice Council (GRNPC), NYULH Quality Practice Council, and her Unit Practice Council. As a co-chair of the GRNPC, she works closely with junior chairs, Nurses Improving Care for Healthsystem Elders (NICHE) coordinators, advanced practice nurses, geriatric nurse leaders and team members to strengthen RN geriatric knowledge, practice and gerontological certifications. Currently, Iman is working with an interprofessional team of geriatric experts on a new virtual delirium prevention toolkit as a psychiatric nurse leader to further standardize the care for older adults.

Poster Presenters

Hilary Albert, BSN, CMSRN, Cedars Sinai Medical Center

Judy Badia, DNP, MSN, RNC, CPXP, CPPS, White Plains Hospital, Clinical Nurse Scientist

Liza Carpenter, RN, BSN, CMSRN, Texas Health Resources Arlington Memorial Hospital, Charge Nurse

Kwinia Marion Mitchell, BSN, RN, CMSRN, Texas Health Arlington Memorial, Registered Nurse

Laura Ditzel, BSN, RN, Northwell Syosset Hospital, Nurse

Rupal Christian, RN, Northwell Health, Nurse

Gabriela Giovannetti, RN, Jersey Shore University Medical Center, Geriatric Surgery Program Coordinator

Shelley Hart, MSN, RN, AC-CNS, OCN, Froedtert Health, Clinical Nurse Specialist

Melissa Heavican, MSN, RN, Methodist Fremont Health, Service Executive

Katy Bonham, MSN, RN, Methodist Fremont Health, Service Executive

Stephen Graham, BSN, Cleveland Clinic, Registered Nurse

Rey Solde, BSN, Cleveland Clinic - Marymount Hospital, Gero Psych Nurse

Rebecca Jizba, MSN, MBA, RN, NE-BC, Nebraska Methodist Hospital, Service Executive

Ashley Cunningham, MSN-Ed, CMSRN, RN, Stony Brook Medicine, Nurse Specialist

Danielle Cassano, MSN, Stony Brook Medicine, Nurse Manager

Nirmal Sharma, MSN, CMSRN, Stony Brook Medicine, Educator

Poster Presenters Continued

Blelisha Lising, MSN RN, NEA–BC, Kaiser Permanente, Director Nursing Services

Marithel Arambulo, MSN, BSN, RNC-OB, PHN, Kaiser Permanente, Assistant Nurse Manager

Nicholas Nguyen, PCCN BSN RN, Kaiser Permanente, Staff Nurse

Haddyn Rodriguez, BSN,RN, Kaiser Permanente, Charge Nurse

Woodlyne Pierre-Lallemant, MSN, RN, MEDSURG-BC, GERO-BC, NPD-BC, CNL, PMGT-BC, NYU Langone Health, NPDS

Waitline Williams, Phd, MPA, FNP,RN, NPD-BC, NYU Langone, Long Island, Nursing Professional Dev Specialist

Caton Raffensperger, MHA, MedStar Franklin Square Medical Center, Patient Experience Specialist

Nadine Henry-Thomas, DNP, MSN-Ed, CMSRN, PCCN, MedStar Franklin Square Medical Center, Director of Nursing

Rodica Sandor-Scoma, MHSA, BSN, RN, Inova Mount Vernon Hospital, Administrative Director

Glenda Joseph, MSN, FNP, GERO-BC, NE-BC, Inova Mount Vernon, Senior Director of Nursing Services

Jordyn Stangl, BSN, RN, GERO-BC, Nebraska Methodist Hospital, Registered Nurse

Laura Staraitis, RN, MSN, GERO-BC, Cleveland Clinic Lutheran Hospital, Nurse Manager

Tammy Leon, MSN, RN, NPD-BC, PMH-BC, Cleveland Clinic

Trishtine Tran, Kaiser Permanente San Jose Medical Center, Summer Nursing Work Study Intern

Danielle Weller-Roche, DNP, MSN-ED, RN, CCM, Prince Georges Community College, Associate Professor, Nursing

Hazen Yu, MBA, BSN, RN, CentraState Medical Center, Nurse Manager

Iryna Shpott, MSN, BSN, RN, CentraState Medical Center, Clinical Leader