

**Baruch College/George Washington University
Interdisciplinary Nursing Quality Research Initiative Team**



Dr. Shoshanna Sofaer has been a member of the School of Public Affairs faculty since 1998, and recently received the prestigious designation as the Lorraine and Ralph Lubin Distinguished Visiting Professor, Weil Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences, Department of Public Health. She previously held academic positions at the George Washington University Medical Center and the UCLA School of Public Health. She completed her M.P.H. and Dr.P.H. degrees at the UC Berkeley School of Public

Health, specializing in health planning, policy and management. She received her undergraduate degree from Barnard College, Columbia University, in government. At the School of Public Affairs, Dr. Sofaer teaches courses in the health care policy track, including Health Policy, and Quality Measurement, Reporting and Improvement. She also teaches core courses such as research methods, managing organizations in the public and non-profit sectors and program evaluation. Dr. Sofaer has a wide range of research interests, which include: health care quality measurement and improvement; the development and assessment of materials and interventions to provide health care consumers with information to support them in choosing and using health care wisely; the development and assessment of broad based coalitions and partnerships, at the local and state level, to pursue community health improvement objectives; the assessment of innovative medical and nursing education programs. Dr. Sofaer also uses a wide range of research methods in conducting her studies, and is considered an authority on the use of qualitative and mixed methods in health services and health policy research. She is a methodological and/or substantive consultant to many research efforts based in other universities and research institutes. She is widely published. In addition to her teaching and research, Dr. Sofaer is active in working on a variety of important policy issues. In recent years, she has been a member of the Institute of Medicine's Committee on the Consequences of Uninsurance, which has published a series of reports that culminated in January, 2004 with a final report that articulated principles that should guide the development of proposals to achieve universal access to health care coverage; Dr. Sofaer chaired the sub-committee responsible for this particular report.



Dr. Jean Johnson currently serves as the Senior Associate Dean of the Health Sciences Programs at The George Washington University (GW) School of Medicine and Health Sciences and is a professor in the newly established Department of Nursing Education. She is responsible for all of the Health Sciences Programs at GW and has provided the leadership in online education to better meet the career goals of students. She has been extensively involved in the national leadership of nurse practitioner education throughout her career and has served as President of the

National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties, and President of the American College of Nurse Practitioners. In addition, she has been active in legislative and regulatory policy focusing on nursing issues. She has Co-chaired the National Task Force on Evaluation Criteria for Nurse Practitioner Programs and has also facilitated the Advanced

Practice Registered Nurse Consensus Group as well as the APRN Joint Dialogue Group. In addition, she has served on the Pew Health Professions Commission, the National Fund for Medical Education, and the Institute of Medicine's Committee on the Future of Primary Care. She was also a fellow in the Primary Care Health Policy Fellowship. She was the Principle investigator of the National Nursing Emergency Preparedness Initiative and is spearheading efforts to train nurses to be prepared for terrorism and natural disasters. In addition, Dr. Johnson has worked internationally on nursing issues in Saudi Arabia, Eritrea and South Africa. Dr. Johnson has been highly involved in quality improvement in nursing and was the co-PI of a Robert Wood Johnson INQRI grant, is a senior consultant on the Nursing Quality and Safety Alliance project, and has worked in quality improvement in nursing homes creating innovative materials and presentations to members of the American Health Care Association for many years. She is also faculty on the Quality and Safety Education for Nursing project. She was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties and also made an honorary member of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing in 2009.



Dr. Ellen M Dawson, serves as Chair and Associate Professor of the Department of Nursing Education (DNE), School of Medicine and Health Sciences at the George Washington University. Dr. Dawson obtained her MSN, and PhD in Nursing from George Mason University, Fairfax, VA. She has over 17 years of experience teaching at the undergraduate and graduate level and more than 30 years of clinical experience as an RN and later as an Adult Nurse Practitioner.

Dr. Dawson recently completed serving as Co-Investigator on a two-year Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant: *Interdisciplinary Nursing Quality Research Initiative (INQRI): Developing and testing nursing quality measures with consumers and patients* (completed September 2008). She is currently a consultant on a \$331,000.00 Robert Wood Johnson grant: *Nursing Engagement in Performance Measurement and Public Reporting*, and 15% funded on the Robert Wood Johnson grant : *Planning a National Nursing Quality and Safety Alliance* (\$340,000.00). Dr. Dawson was Co-PI on a \$2 million Office of Domestic Preparedness grant, *the National Nurse Emergency Preparedness Initiative* (NNEPI). A highly-interactive, web-based course, titled "Nurses on the Front Line: Preparing for and responding to a CBRNE event". The United States Distance Learning Association (USDLA) presented its 2008 International Distance Learning Award to The George Washington University Department of Nursing Education's National Nurse Emergency Preparedness Initiative (NNEPI) in conjunction with the 2008 National Conference in St. Louis, Mo.

Dr. Dawson is known nationally regarding her work with community health workers and the efforts to sustain community health programs through community- based participatory research. Recommended by the Fairfax County Health Department in acknowledgement of work accomplished through the Community Access Program (CAP) a Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services

Administration (HRSA) grant she was recognized by the Fairfax County, Virginia, Board of Supervisors for contributions pertaining to access to health care for vulnerable populations.



Dr Christine Pintz the director of the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Program at George Washington University where she has been a member of the faculty since 1998. She received her MSN from the University of Pennsylvania and her PhD from the University of Maryland. She has been a nurse practitioner since 1988 and is certified in women's health and family practice. She has worked on number of women's health studies, including the Women's Health Initiative. She has conducted several educational studies which have focused on educational measurement and the evaluation of student performance. In 2007, she was selected as a Medical Informatics Course Fellow sponsored by the National Library of Medicine and the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, MA. For two years, she worked with the Interdisciplinary Nursing Quality Research Initiative (INQRI) on a study entitled, *Developing and Testing Quality Measures with Consumers and Patients* funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. She facilitated, coded and analyzed data from focus groups. She recently received an Advanced Nursing Education grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration.



Dr Andrea Brassard is the coordinator of the Adult Nurse Practitioner Program at George Washington University where she has been on faculty since 2006. She received her MPH and DNSc degrees from Columbia University where she was a public policy fellow. An adult nurse practitioner, she is knowledgeable in long term and home health care. She worked with Robert and Rosalie Kane on several research projects. Her other research interest is smoking cessation. She was a project manager for the American Nurses Foundation on the Tobacco Free Nurses project.



Kirsten Firminger is a Research Associate working with Dr. Sofaer at Baruch College. She is currently in the dissertation stage of her doctoral work in Social Psychology at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. She received her B.A. in Psychology and Anthropology from the University of Michigan, where she worked for several years as a Research Associate and Data Manager for the School of Social Work and the Institute for Social Research. Currently, Ms. Firminger applies her expertise in qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis across multiple research grants with Dr. Sofaer centering on providing health care quality information to the public, including reports on the quality of hospitals, nursing homes, hospices, nurses and physicians. Ms. Firminger has worked extensively on the development and cognitive testing of public reports of comparative quality.