

Faculty Spotlight

UWO
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OSHKOSH



Dr. Kathleen Wren, Director of DPN & Associate Professor, Nursing

Could you tell us about your research interests?

I am the Director of Doctor of Nursing Practice (DPN), with Nurse Anesthesia Emphasis, and Associate Professor at UWO. I have been here for seven-and-a-half years. My research interests are chronic pain management (clinical) and simulation learning (educational).

What research projects are you currently working on? What would you like your next project to be?

I am currently working with a student involving Ketamine infusions for chronic pain management to determine patient characteristics that would predict improvement in pain treated with ketamine infusions.

What challenges have you faced in your career to date? What have you learned from those experiences?

It is challenging to plan and implement research studies, especially with furlough restrictions. I have found that including doctoral students (Nurse Anesthesia DNP students) in the research team to be helpful with writing and implementing the study protocol. Additionally, I schedule out time each week or bi-weekly in which to work on research.

Can you share your experiences applying for and receiving extramural funding?

I have been fortunate to received ~\$3M in funding for programmatic grants and scholarships from Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) during my academic career. However, programmatic grants for nurse anesthesia programs have been eliminated, and I need to look for other sources of funding for this endeavor.

What advice would you give other UW Oshkosh faculty applying for grants?

I recommend volunteering as a grant reviewer for the type of grant you wish to eventually apply for. If this is not possible, find a grant reviewer opportunity for a related grant or grant area. By being a reviewer, you are able to obtain important feedback about what the grant agency is looking for and feedback given by reviewers in your area of grant applications that will assist in making your application top tier.