

# Research That Sets the Standard

## The Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing at UC Davis



The Family Caregiving Institute at the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing at UC Davis brings together world-class researchers, clinicians and educators who are dedicated to supporting the millions of individuals providing care to aging family members or friends across the United States. Our experts collect the empirical evidence that shapes policy, transforming the way we teach and practice caregiving.

The Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing seeks to partner with visionary philanthropists to take our research to new heights and improve caregiving for millions across the nation, now and for generations to come.

### Our Vision

About one in five Americans provides care to a family member. The complexity and intensity of caregiving for older adults and people with disabilities is increasing as the population ages and more individuals are living longer with physical, cognitive and mental health challenges. Caregivers are an essential — but often overlooked — link in facilitating optimal health outcomes for patients in home and community settings.

The School of Nursing is conducting critical research in an area that is understudied but increasingly urgent to explore: caregiving. Our teams create, evaluate and outline best practices, setting standards of care that go on to shape policy and ultimately guide caregivers and the organizations that serve them.

Transitions of care, dementia, cancer survivors, Alzheimer's disease, heart failure and more — the comprehensive breadth of our focus areas puts us at the leading edge of discovery. In turn, we use our research to reduce health inequities, address social determinants of health and better support not only our patients but also the loved ones who care for them.

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Among the many high-impact research projects that are advancing excellence in nursing practice on a national scale, here are just a few of the ways we are setting the standard in caregiving.

Our researchers are leading a national effort to enhance nursing schools' curricula by including expected caregiving competencies for graduates that ensure all future nurses have the knowledge and skills they need to work with family caregivers. Current U.S. curricula typically touch on family caregivers but lack the level of detail and nursing-specific language needed to sustain high quality care.

**Alex Fauer**, an assistant professor in the Family Caregiving Institute, is leading exceptional work focused on older cancer survivors and their caregivers, an under-studied area in the field of nursing. Fauer is committed to the inclusion of historically underrepresented populations in clinical trials — such as older adults and Latinx patients — thereby improving outcomes for diverse communities.

Assistant Professor **Julia Bidwell** is studying hospital-to-home transitions for older adult couples who are managing heart failure. She wants to better understand how couple dynamics may support smoother transitions that result in fewer clinical events for the patient, less stressful experiences for the care partner and better quality of life for both.

We are partnering with the **California Department of Aging** and adult day care centers to improve dementia care and enhance services to work in new and more diverse populations. Our goal is to create a modernized community care model for people with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders.



## Philanthropic Opportunities

Name endowed research funds that provide a lasting source of support for critical investigation

GIFTS STARTING AT \$250,000

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Name current-use research funds that accelerate groundbreaking discoveries in nursing science

GIFTS STARTING AT \$25,000

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Support research priorities at the School of Nursing, allowing researchers to investigate more topics and expanding the scope of already existing projects

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