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Certification:

Dr. Jennifer Clifton attained the status of Certified Correctional Health Professional-Advanced (CCHP-A)! What a remarkable accomplishment for Jennifer to join an elite group of 40 correctional health professionals nationwide who have achieved advanced certification as a Certified Correctional Health Professional. Advanced certification distinguishes Dr. Clifton as someone who has demonstrated excellence, commitment, and contribution to the field of correctional health care.

Education Awards:

Announcements about education awards poured in during the past week!

The University of Utah Academy of Health Science Educators Selection Committee chose **Drs. Jenneth Doria, Jennifer Macali, Gillian Tufts, and Katie Ward** to be Fellows of the Academy. Their involvement in the Academy will be instrumental in creating a culture of collaboration and exceptional education within University of Utah Health. A virtual Induction Ceremony to honor Jenneth, Jennifer, Gillian, Katie, and other new Fellows will be held on April 6, 2021.

The Academy of Health Science Educators' Advancing Excellence in Education Committee selected **Dr. Kristin Cloyes** to receive the 2021 Outstanding Educator Award of Health Sciences Graduate Students.

The Academy of Health Science Educators' Advancing Excellence in Education Committee selected the Surgical Care Team to receive the 2021 Interprofessional Education Team Award. Team members include Amanda Johns, Dr. Don Blumenthal, **Dr. Denise Ward**, Julie Beckstrom, Dr. Brigitte Smith, Dr. Kirstyn Brownson, and Dr. Benjamin Brooke.

Altogether, these educators have achieved impressive accomplishments! Their work is creating a culture of exceptional education in the University of Utah Health community and is well-deserving of recognition.

Presentation:

The [Association of Diabetes Care and Education Specialists](#) invited **Dr. Julia Blanchette** to give an interdisciplinary webinar on January 26 titled, "The COVID-19 Vaccine and the Diabetes Care Team – Strategies to Effectively Share the Facts."

Publications:

Neller S, Beynon C, **McLeskey N**, **Madden C**, **Edelman LS**. Development of a long-term care nurse residency program. *J Gerontol Nurs.* 2021;47(2):37-43. <https://doi.org/10.3928/00989134-20210113-03>.

Dr. Julia Blanchette authored the chapter Physical Distancing, and COVID-19: The Medical Perspective, which will be published in an American Camp Association book titled Connection without Contact. The book will be released in March.

Grant Awards:

Dr. Djin Tay received a University of Utah Vice-President for Research Incentive Seed Grant in the amount of \$34,948 for her project titled *Examining the Palliative, End-of-Life, and Spousal Spillover Effects for Immunotherapy in Advanced Cancer*. Dr. Tay will develop a dataset of immunotherapy decedents and spouses to support the analysis of palliative care, end-of-life, and bereavement outcomes associated with immunotherapy receipt in advanced cancer. Further, she will examine the palliative and end-of-life outcomes of the 2,229 immunotherapy decedents, and explore stress-related physiological and psychological health outcomes of spouses of the married decedents.

Sara Bybee, PhD student and T32 pre-doctoral trainee, received a grant award from the American Psychological Foundation in the amount of \$8,000 for her project titled *Posttraumatic Growth among Sexual and Gender Minority Families Facing Advanced Cancer*. During this one year study, she will begin to establish an evidence-base of health disparities and unmet needs experienced by sexual and gender minority (SGM) families, understand any differences in the experiences of SGM and non-SGM families

facing advanced cancer, and identify factors contributing to SGM families' stress and coping while faced with advanced cancer.

In Other News:

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Utah Department of Health (UDOH) Office of Health Disparities led the COVID Community Partnership (CCP) project, which aimed to address disparities in COVID-19 related health outcomes among racial/ethnic minority communities in Utah. Community health workers (CHWs) were key to the COVID-19 emergency response, helping mitigate the spread and effects of COVID-19 in underserved and underrepresented communities. In a report regarding the CCP, UDOH Office of Health Disparities highlighted initiatives, including **Caring Connections**, that educated and supported CHWs. “In order to provide adequate mental health support to the CHWs in these emotionally taxing positions, self-care education was provided in weekly check-in calls. Support groups for the CHWs were facilitated by the **University of Utah Caring Connections** program and Latino Behavioral Health each week in both English and Spanish.” **Dr. Katherine Supiano** designed and provided support groups, with tremendous support from **Emily Donaldson**, Administrative Program Coordinator, and **Abdul Osman**, Caring Connections Coordinator. **Dr. Siobhan Aaron**, T-32 post-doctoral fellow, and **Esther Okang**, PhD Student, are conducting research focus groups to evaluate the experience of CHWs in the pandemic. Collectively, the team’s work has been impactful, supporting CHWs and giving voice to this “invisible” work force. Good news! The CCP has been funded for 2021.

Dr. Margaret “Mardie” Clayton chaired the Career Line Parental Leave Benefit Task Force, which recently created the parental leave benefit for Career Line faculty. The proposal to revise policy 6-315: Faculty Parental Benefits – Leaves of Absence with Modified Duties and Review Extensions was presented to the Deans, and passed by the Academic Senate on January 11, 2021. Estimated adoption is July 1, 2021, pending approval by University Administration.