

RWJ Funds Foundation Distinguished Nurse Researchers



Christine Kovner



Terry Fulmer



Jean K. Brown



Carol S. Brewer

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has awarded an eight year \$4.1 million dollar grant to New York University College of Nursing (NYUCN) to extend the significant work of Christine Kovner, PhD, RN, FAAN and Carol S. Brewer, PhD, RN to study newly licensed Registered Nurses (NLRNs) in order to track changes in their careers. The new grant extends the number of years NLRNs will be studied from four to 10 years. It also funds two additional cohorts of NLRNs and surveys about the quality of patient-care education.

“Following the same nurses for the first 10 years of their careers will provide an unprecedented opportunity to learn about how they make decisions about their work,” said Dr. Kovner, Principal Investigator and Professor of Nursing at NYUCN. Dr. Brewer, Co-Principal Investigator and Associate Professor of Nursing, School of Nursing at the University at Buffalo

(UBSN) and Statewide Director of the NYS Area Health Education Center System, noted, “This grant continues our work about the work patterns of new RNs over time that is particularly important both to the nursing profession and to our health care system.”

Findings from current Kovner-Brewer work, “Newly Licensed RNs Characteristics, Work Attitudes, and Intentions to Work” are available in the September issue of the *American Journal of Nursing* and at RNWorkproject.org.

Commenting on the importance of the extended study, NYUCN Dean Terry Fulmer, PhD, RN stated, “The findings will help leaders in the field make informed decisions about where in the system we need to make greater investments in educating, hiring, and retaining excellent nurses, which is so critical to the health of our nation.” Underscoring the fact that retention of new graduates is critical in solving the nursing shortage UBSN Dean Jean

K. Brown, PhD, RN, FAAN noted, “The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation astutely recognizes this, and we are grateful for their continued support of Drs. Brewer’s and Kovner’s extremely important research aimed at solving this retention problem.”

All four nursing leaders in this exciting effort are recipients of the Foundation’s Distinguished Nurse researcher Award: Dr. Kovner, 1994; Dr. Fulmer, 1996; Dr. Brown, 2002; and, Dr. Brewer, 2006. Upon learning of the RWJ grant, Foundation President Joan Madden Wilson stated, “The Foundation takes enormous pride in each of these extraordinary leaders. We commend them and offer our genuine appreciation to them for their continuing dedication to solving some of our profession’s most vexing problems.”