### Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing – Office of Nursing Research

The over-riding mission of the Office of Nursing Research (ONR) is to facilitate faculty and students in the generation, dissemination, and application of knowledge as it relates to nursing care of individuals and families across the lifespan and around the globe. To this end, the Dean of the School of Nursing has invested significantly in the ONR. The ONR includes the Associate Dean for Research (Drenna Waldrop, PhD); the Assistant Dean for Research (Nathan Mutic); the Director of the Biostatistics and Data Management Core (Melinda Higgins, Ph.D); 3 FTE Methodology/Statistical Experts; a Data Manager; a Biobehavioral Lab Director (Whitney Wharton, PhD); a Lab Manager; a Lab Assistant; 1 Grant Editor; a full-time Program Manager; a full-time Project Manager; and an Administrative Assistant. The Office of Nursing Research also includes the Research Administration Department (RAD). The RAD includes the Director (Selena McBride), a Pre-Award Team Lead (Jake Young), a Post-Award Team Lead (Emily Stone), 2 Pre-Award Administrators, and 2 Post-Award Administrators. Each of these individuals works to foster a climate of research facilitation and productivity.

Multiple resources are provided by the ONR. Briefly, as soon as a faculty member or student alerts the ONR that he or she intends to submit a proposal, an electronic notification is sent to the Associate Dean for Research, and the Program Manager. The Pre-Award Specialist, the Grant Editor, and the Statistical Team follow-up with the individual to begin discussions around the budget, to provide early methodological consultation, and to schedule an in-house, Mock NIH Review. These personalized contacts remain active until the proposal is submitted. When a proposal is awarded, the Post-Award specialist assists the faculty member or student to manage the award effectively by preparing monthly reports and reviewing them in regularly scheduled in-person discussions.

In addition to assisting faculty in grant submissions and management, publishing resources and manuscript editorial support is also offered through the ONR. Monthly series of research roundtables and colloquia provides additional opportunities for interdisciplinary dialogue and collaboration. In addition, the statistical team holds regular statistical workshops each semester, well attended by students and faculty alike. To coordinate all interactions, the offices of the ONR team are grouped in a complex on the plaza floor of the Nursing School.

The research efforts of the faculty and students in the School of Nursing address a variety of contemporary clinical and health policy questions. Pertinent areas of inquiry include symptom management in acute and chronic illness such as Cancer and Heart Failure and the impact and etiology of interacting symptoms – such as cognitive dysfunction, depression, sleep disruption, pain and stress – on symptom expression and management. Faculty scholarship includes work focused on improving health outcomes and self-management in a variety of conditions (e.g., HIV/AIDs, diabetes, maternal and child health, and PTSD). Work is also ongoing regarding the role of family, community, and spirituality in the support of persons faced with a variety of chronic illnesses, such as Alzheimer’s disease, and the influence of the microbiome on pregnancy outcomes and maternal health. Consistent with strategic themes in the school and across the university, a number of faculty members are engaged in international research, much of it focused on issues of maternal and newborn infant mortality. Almost all of these research examples, conducted by faculty members from the Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing, are interdisciplinary in nature.

The success of the School’s researchers is evidenced by our active research program of extramurally funded awards, currently totaling nearly $20 million, of which nearly $15M is comprised of NIH funding, resulting in the School of Nursing’s consistent ranking in the top five of NIH funded nursing schools in the last five years. Included in our NIH portfolio is The Center for Children’s Health Assessment, Research Translation, and Combating Environmental Racism (CHARTER), The Emory Roybal Center for Caregiving Mastery, a T32 award to train the next generation of nurse scientists, and twenty R01 awards to study such as: 1) Hermanas de Corazón: A Community Health Worker Initiative for improving Heart Health in Migrant Latina Farmworker Women (R01NR021664); 2) Informal Caregiving Networks of Older Adults with Dementia (R01AG082300); 3) Alzheimer's Special Care Units in Nursing Homes: Racial and Ethnic Disparities, Resident Outcomes, and State Policies (R01AG087296) and 4) Biological and social determinants of psychosocial sequelae in advanced head and neck cancer survivors receiving immunotherapy (R01CA281873). At least one member of the ONR faculty serves as Co-Investigator or Project PI on each of these major awards, with the goal of coordinating activities across and within them to maximize resources, visibility, and achievement. Additional support for faculty research comes from other federal organizations including the Center for Disease Control, and state and private organizations, including the American Heart Association, Sigma Theta Tau International, and the Oncology Nursing Society.