

JENNA M. WHEELER, PhD, RN, CBC

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University of Central Florida College of Nursing
12201 Research Parkway Suite 300
Orlando, FL 32826

EDUCATION

PhD	Nursing University of Central Florida, Orlando Chair: Carmen Giurgescu, PhD, RN, WHNP, FAAN	August 2023
BSN	Nursing University of Central Florida, Orlando	August 2011
BS	Biology University of Central Florida, Orlando	May 2007

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATIONS

Florida State Registered Nurse RN9331481	Expires: 04/30/2025
Certified Breastfeeding Counselor #13941	Expires: 06/30/2025
Neonatal Resuscitation Program	Expires: 04/01/2026
Basic Life Support	Expires: 04/01/2026
Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative	Expires: 12/15/2026

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES

Postdoctoral Scholar University of Central Florida College of Nursing Orlando, FL 32826	10/2023 – Present
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- Conducts data analysis, prepares manuscripts for publication, and participates in various research activities under close mentorship of the Associate Dean of Research in order to develop scholarly independence and growth as a nurse scientist.

Research Assistant
University of Central Florida
College of Nursing
Orlando, FL 32826

04/2021 – 10/2023

- Assisted the Associate Dean of Research with advertisement, participant recruitment, data collection and management, administrative duties, staff training, and manuscript and presentation development for a National Institutes of Health R01-funded research study.

Advanced Care Registered Nurse
Orlando Health Winnie Palmer Hospital for Women & Babies
Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) Level IV
Orlando, FL 32806

10/2011 – Present

- Provides direct patient care for premature, full-term, and critically ill neonates in a 142-bed Level IV NICU with mastery of: neonatal physical assessment and resuscitation; critical thinking and intervention related to patient condition and plan of care; use of modern medical equipment/devices; timely documentation; effective communication and collaboration with healthcare team members; knowledge dissemination by precepting new NICU staff; and provision of therapeutic, ethical support and education for parents.

HONORS AND AWARDS

International NLNB Top Scientific Poster April 2023
Study Co-author

STTI Theta Epsilon Top Graduate Poster April 2023
Awarded \$100

Wiley Top Cited Article 2021-2022 February 2023
Public Health Nursing Journal

Wiley Top Downloaded Article 2021 February 2023
Public Health Nursing Journal

March of Dimes Graduate Nursing Scholarship June 2022
Awarded \$5000

Edwin and Sarah Smith Memorial Endowed Scholarship June 2022
Awarded \$1500

JKLM Moore Endowed Scholarship June 2021
Awarded \$1000

UCF Student Scholar Symposium
Awarded \$500

April 2021

UCF High Achievement Scholar
Awarded \$6,800 over four years for academic achievement.

2004 – 2007

Florida Bright Futures Medallion Scholar
Awarded 75% cost of tuition each semester over four years.

2004 – 2007

PUBLICATIONS

† denotes data-based; **ORCID:** 0000-0002-8035-1753

1. †**Wheeler**, J.M., Davis, J.W., Xie, R., LaManna, J., & Giurgescu, C. (2025, *In Press*). Influence of mother-father relationship on perceived stress among Black pregnant women. *Western Journal of Nursing Research*.
2. †**Wheeler**, J.M., LaManna, J., Esparza, L., Khalil, D., Davis, J.W., Xie, R., Misra, D.P., Giurgescu, C., & Kavanaugh, K. (2024). A mixed methods approach to understand mother-father relationship and perceived stress among Black pregnant women. *Journal of Perinatal and Neonatal Nursing*, 38(3), 256-270. <https://doi.org/10.1097/JPN.0000000000000838>
3. †Giurgescu, C., Adaji, R., Hyer, S., **Wheeler**, J.M., Misra, D.P. (2024). Neighborhood environment and perceived stress before and during the COVID-19 pandemic among childbearing Black women. *Journal of Perinatal and Neonatal Nursing*, 38(3), 334-341. <https://doi.org/10.1097/JPN.0000000000000837>
4. †Adaji, R., **Wheeler**, J.M., Misra, D.P., & Giurgescu, C. (2023). Mother-father relationship and depressive symptoms among pregnant Black women. *Western Journal of Nursing Research*, 45(11), 1027-1034. <https://doi.org/10.1177/01939459231202725>
5. Rossler, A., **Wheeler**, J.M., & Thiamwong, L. (2023). A multidimensional approach for nurse practitioners to screen fall risk and fear of falling in community-dwelling older adults. *The Journal for Nurse Practitioners*, 19(1), e104436, 1-3. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.nurpra.2022.08.019>
6. †Davis, J.W., Hyer, S., Xie, R., Martinez, V.C., **Wheeler**, J.M., Misra, D.P., & Giurgescu, C. (2022). Physical activity changes among non-Hispanic Black pregnant women. *Public Health Nursing*, 39(4), 744-751. <https://doi.org/10.1111/phn.13051>
7. †**Wheeler**, J.M., Misra, D.P., & Giurgescu, C. (2021). Stress and coping among pregnant Black women during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Public Health Nursing*, 38(4), 596-602. <https://doi.org/10.1111/phn.12909>
8. †Dove-Medows, E., **Wheeler**, J.M., Esparza, L., Misra, D.P., & Giurgescu, C. (2025, *Under Review*). A qualitative exploration of perceptions of the etiology of preterm birth among pregnant Black women. *Midwifery*.

PRESENTATIONS

† denotes data-based

1. †**Wheeler**, J.M., Davis, J.W., & Giurgescu, C. (2025, February). *Exploring Activity Support, Motivation, and Habit among Black Pregnant People*. **Podium** presentation, 38th Annual Southern Nursing Research Society (SNRS) Conference, Memphis, TN.
2. †**Wheeler**, J.M., Esparza, L., Khalil, D., Giurgescu, C., & Kavanaugh, K. (2024, June). *Ideal-Type Analysis: An Innovative Methodology to Understand Mother-Father Relationship and Perceived Stress among Black Pregnant Women*. **Podium** presentation, Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science (CANS) State of the Science Conference, Washington, D.C.
3. **Wheeler**, J.M., Davis, J.W., Giurgescu, C., & LaManna, J. (2024, April). *Mother-Father Relationship and Perceived Stress among Pregnant and Postpartum Women: An Integrative Literature Review*. **Podium** presentation, Sigma Theta Tau Theta Epsilon Chapter 32nd Annual Scholarship Day, Orlando, FL.
4. † Davis, J.W., Martinez, V.C., Hyer, S., **Wheeler**, J.M., & Giurgescu, C. (2024, April). *Factors Associated with High vs Low Physical Activity among Black Women Throughout Pregnancy*. **Podium** presentation, Sigma Theta Tau Theta Epsilon Chapter 32nd Annual Scholarship Day, Orlando, FL.
5. †Dove-Medows, E., McCracken, L., **Wheeler**, J.M., Giurgescu, C., & Misra, D. P. (2023, April). *“We Need Loving” Perceptions of Causality of Preterm Birth among Pregnant Black Women*. Poster presentation, International Normal Labour and Birth (NLNB) Research Conference, Grange-over-Sands, England.
6. †Davis, J.W., Hyer, S., Martinez, V.C., **Wheeler**, J.M., Misra, D.P., & Giurgescu, C. (2023, April). *Physical Activity among Non-Hispanic Black Pregnant Women across Pregnancy*. **Podium** presentation, Sigma Theta Tau Theta Epsilon Chapter 31st Annual Scholarship Day, Orlando, FL.
7. †**Wheeler**, J.M., Xie, R., Misra, D.P., Giurgescu, C. (2023, April). *Mother-Father Relationship and Perceived Stress among Black Pregnant Women*. **Podium** presentation, Sigma Theta Tau Theta Epsilon Chapter 31st Annual Scholarship Day, Orlando, FL.
8. †**Wheeler**, J.M., Khalil, D., McCracken, L., Misra, D.P., Giurgescu, C., & Kavanaugh, K. (2023, April). *Using Ideal-Type Analysis to Explore Relationship Typologies with Father of the Baby among Pregnant Black Women*. Poster presentation, Sigma Theta Tau Theta Epsilon Chapter 31st Annual Scholarship Day, Orlando, FL.
9. †**Wheeler**, J.M., Xie, R., Misra, D.P., Giurgescu, C. (2023, April). *Mother-Father Relationship and Perceived Stress among Black Pregnant Women*. **Podium** presentation, Orlando Health APH/WPH Nursing Research and EBP Council, Orlando, FL.

10. †**Wheeler**, J.M., Khalil, D., McCracken, L., Misra, D.P., Giurgescu, C., & Kavanaugh, K. (2023, April). *Using Ideal-Type Analysis to Explore Relationship Typologies with Father of the Baby among Pregnant Black Women*. **Podium** presentation, Orlando Health APH/WPH Nursing Research and EBP Council, Orlando, FL.
11. †**Wheeler**, J.M., Khalil, D., McCracken, L., Misra, D.P., Giurgescu, C., & Kavanaugh, K. (2023, March). *Using Ideal-Type Analysis to Explore Relationship Typologies with Father of the Baby among Pregnant Black Women*. Poster presentation, 37th Annual Southern Nursing Research Society (SNRS) Conference, Orlando, FL.
12. †Davis, J.W., Hyer, S., Xie, R., **Wheeler**, J.M., Martinez, V.C., Misra, D.P., Wilbur, J., & Giurgescu, C. (2022, November). *Among African American Pregnant People the Association of Neighborhood Disorder with Depressive Symptoms was Modified by Physical Activity*. Poster presentation, American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting, Boston, MA.
13. †Davis, J.W., Hyer, S., Xie, R., **Wheeler**, J.M., Martinez, V.C., Misra, D.P., Wilbur, J., & Giurgescu, C. (2022, September). *Association of Neighborhood Disorder with Depressive Symptoms Moderated by Physical Activity among Black Pregnant People*. **Podium** presentation, Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science (CANS) State of the Science Conference, Washington, D.C.
14. †**Wheeler**, J.M., Khalil, D., McCracken, L., Misra, D.P., Giurgescu, C., & Kavanaugh, K. (2022, September). *Relationship with Father of Baby and Perceived Stress among Black Pregnant Women*. Poster presentation, Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science (CANS) State of the Science Conference, Washington, D.C.
15. †**Wheeler**, J.M., Khalil, D., McCracken, L., Misra, D.P., Giurgescu, C., & Kavanaugh, K. (2022, April). *Relationship with Father of Baby and Perceived Stress among Black Pregnant Women*. **Podium** presentation, Sigma Theta Tau Theta Epsilon Chapter 30th Annual Scholarship Day, virtual.
16. †**Wheeler**, J.M., Khalil, D., McCracken, L., Misra, D.P., Giurgescu, C., & Kavanaugh, K. (2022, March). *Relationship with Father of Baby and Perceived Stress among Black Pregnant Women*. Poster presentation, UCF Student Scholar Symposium, Orlando, FL.
17. †**Wheeler**, J.M., Khalil, D., McCracken, L., Misra, D.P., Giurgescu, C., & Kavanaugh, K. (2022, February). *Relationship with Father of Baby and Perceived Stress among Black Pregnant Women*. Poster presentation, 36th Annual Southern Nursing Research Society (SNRS) Conference, New Orleans, LA.
18. †Davis, J.W., Hyer, S., Martinez, V.C., **Wheeler**, J.M., & Giurgescu, C. (2022, February). *Black Women's Physical Activity and Physical Activity Correlates During Pregnancy*. **Podium** presentation, 36th Annual Southern Nursing Research Society (SNRS) Conference, New Orleans, LA.

19. †**Wheeler**, J.M., Misra, D.P., & Giurgescu, C. (2022, January). *Stress and Coping among Pregnant Black Women during the COVID-19 Pandemic*. **Podium** presentation, Orlando Health APH/WPH Nursing Research and EBP Council, Orlando, FL.
20. †**Wheeler**, J.M., Misra, D.P., & Giurgescu, C. (2021, April). *Stress and Coping among Pregnant Black Women during the COVID-19 Pandemic*. **Podium** presentation, Sigma Theta Tau Theta Epsilon Chapter 29th Annual Scholarship Day, virtual.
21. †**Wheeler**, J.M., Misra, D.P., & Giurgescu, C. (2021, March). *Stress and Coping among Pregnant Black Women during the COVID-19 Pandemic*. Poster presentation, UCF Student Scholar Symposium, virtual.
22. †**Wheeler**, J.M., Misra, D.P., & Giurgescu, C. (2021, February). *Stress and Coping among Pregnant Black Women during the COVID-19 Pandemic*. Poster presentation, 35th Annual Southern Nursing Research Society (SNRS) Conference, virtual.
23. **Wheeler**, J.M., Gilbert, M., Jackson, T., Martinez Gonzalez, J., Martinez, G., Naylor, C., Prescott, A., Rosado Isales, D., Bowles, S., & Diaz, A. (2019, August). *A Nurse-Driven, Evidence-Based Approach to Gastric Tube Practices in the NICU*. Poster presentation, Orlando Health Nursing Excellence Conference, Orlando, FL.
24. **Wheeler**, J.M., Gilbert, M., Jackson, T., Martinez Gonzalez, J., Martinez, G., Naylor, C., Prescott, A., Rosado Isales, D., Bowles, S., & Diaz, A. (2019, May). *A Nurse-Driven, Evidence-Based Approach to Gastric Tube Practices in the NICU*. Poster presentation, Magnet Celebration & Nursing Practice Council Poster Fair, Orlando, FL.
25. **Wheeler**, J.M. (2018, August). *Patient Experience: Emma's Story*. **Podium** presentation, Orlando Health Nursing Excellence Conference, Orlando, FL.
26. **Wheeler**, J.M., Miller, H., Martinez, G., Naylor, C., & Perez, J. (2018, July). *Trends in Caffeine Therapy and Associated Neonatal Outcomes in Very Preterm Infants: A Retrospective Study*. Poster presentation, 4th Annual Florida Nurses Association Research & EBP Conference, Orlando, FL.
27. Naylor, C., **Wheeler**, J.M., Bowles, S., & Diaz, A. (2017, November). *The Bunker Bundle: A Best Practice to Battle the Risk of Infection*. Poster presentation, Magnet Celebration & Nursing Practice Council Poster Fair, Orlando, FL.

RESEARCH FUNDING

Drs. Diane and Thomas Andrews Postdoctoral Research Award
 \$5000 – Primary Investigator
Mother-Father Relationship and Mental Health among Black Expectant Families: A Pilot Study

May 2024

RESEARCH AND QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Fathers Matter

Research, Research Assistant, 2020 – 2023

- Aim: To examine the role of mother-father relationship and biopsychosocial paternal factors across pregnancy on birth outcomes among Black and African American women.
- Contributions: Participant recruitment & enrollment; Collection & management of data; Collaboration with Primary Investigator on analysis & manuscript development

Biosocial Impact on Black Births (BIBB)

Research, Research Assistant, 2020 – 2023

- Aim: To examine the role of biopsychosocial stressors across pregnancy on birth outcomes among Black and African American women.
- Contributions: Recruitment site manager; Participant recruitment & enrollment; Collection & management of data; Collaboration with Primary Investigator on analysis & manuscript development

Nursing Medication Management for Preventing Unintended Extubations

Quality Improvement, Project Lead, 2020

- Aim: To examine best practices for pain and agitation medication management in order to reduce and prevent unintended extubations in the NICU.
- Contributions: Review of the literature & hospital policy; Project development & management; PDSA cycle implementation and modification; Unit education

Two-for-Tubes to Prevent Unintended Extubation

Quality Improvement, Project Co-Lead, 2020

- Aim: To reduce unintended extubations in the NICU through collaborative interventions by nursing and respiratory care.
- Contributions: Review of the literature & hospital policy; Project development & management; PDSA cycle implementation and modification; Unit education

A Nurse-Driven, Evidence-Based Approach to Gastric Tube Practices in the NICU

Quality Improvement, Project Lead, 2019

- Aim: To ensure that all gastric tubes are placed correctly and to standardize the management of gastric tubes in the NICU by utilizing evidence-based practices.
- Contributions: Review of the literature & hospital policy; Project development & management; Unit education development & dissemination

The Bunker Bundle: A Best Practice to Battle the Risk of Infection

Quality Improvement, Project Member, 2017

- Aim: To reduce the risk and number of infections by creating an evidence-based bundle for infection prevention in the NICU.
- Contributions: Review of hospital policy; Project development; Unit education

Trends in Caffeine Therapy and Associated Neonatal Outcomes in Very Preterm Infants: A Retrospective Study

Research, Primary Investigator, 2017

- Aim: To evaluate the outcomes of current caffeine therapy practices in the NICU and establish a baseline standard of care.
- Contributions: Review of the literature & hospital policy; Proposal development & design; Proposal presentation & poster development; Approval received from hospital Institutional Review Board, Nursing Research Council, & Physician Committee

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Preparing Tomorrow's Faculty

Spring 2025

- Introductory graduate course on post-secondary teaching in North America with focus on teaching undergraduate **core curriculum**. Objectives include knowledge and/or demonstration of: learning style and motivation; course design; learning assessment and feedback; teaching pedagogies; classroom management and climate; presentation and lecture; and teaching philosophy. **Completion certificate** will be provided.

Teaching Assistant

Fall 2024 – Dr. Carmen Giurgescu

- Provided assistance with two Webcourses in the following ways: (1) Course design including: syllabus; learning objectives; course activities schedule; and grading rubrics. (2) Helped manage student correspondence throughout the semester. (3) Mentored students one-on-one regarding course progression and final projects.
- **NGR7823** – Psychometrics & Measurement for Nursing Research: Led one discussion week among **five graduate students** and assigned grades with feedback.
- **NUR4970H** – Honors Undergraduate Thesis: Worked with **one undergraduate student** on literature search strategies and thesis structure.

NICU Education Projects

2017 – 2020

- Responsible for creating educational materials, administering assessments, and disseminating education related to Quality Improvement projects on the unit.
- Responsible for educating nursing staff and leadership; approximately 300 altogether.

NICU Preceptor

2016 – 2022

- Responsible for the teaching, mentoring, nurturing, assessment, and oversight of graduate nurses, new hires, and nursing students; approximately 50 altogether.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

National Postdoctoral Association (NPA)

01/2024 – Present

Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science (CANS), #22788	07/2022 – Present
Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing (STTI) Theta Epsilon Chapter, #2474714	12/2021 – Present
Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric, and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN), #66581570	04/2021 – Present
Southern Nursing Research Society (SNRS), #001088	01/2021 – Present
National Association of Neonatal Nurses (NANN), #00176735	01/2013 – Present

NURSING LEADERSHIP AND PRACTICE COUNCILS

Central Florida Association of Neonatal Nurses (CFANN)	01/2013 – 12/2020
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President, 01/2018-12/2019 • President Elect, 01/2016-12/2017 	
WPH NICU Level III Unit Nursing Practice Council	01/2014 – 01/2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair, 2018 • Vice Chair, 2017 	
APH/WPH Hospital Nursing Practice Council	01/2017 – 01/2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair, 01/2019-08/2020 • Vice Chair, 2018 	
APH/WPH Evidence-Based Practice & Research Council	01/2021 – 12/2023
APH/WPH Magnet Champion	10/2015 – 12/2020
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Magnet Redesignation Leader, 2018 	
OH Nursing Research Council	01/2017 – 12/2023
OH Corporate Nursing Practice Council	01/2018 – 12/2020
UCF Student Nurses Association	05/2010 – 08/2011
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accelerated BSN Program Liaison 	

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & CONTINUING EDUCATION

SNRS Webinar	09/2024
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Topic: “Accelerating Biobehavioral Nursing Research to Achieve Health Equity Using Secondary Data Analysis”

CANS Webinar 02/2024

Topic: “Which Pathway? Navigating Your Trajectory in Early Career and Beyond”

NPA SmartSkills Monthly Webinars 01/2024 – Present
Example Topics: Hidden Curriculum, Collaborative Partnerships, Interpersonal Communication, Effective Feedback, Public Policy

UCF Faculty Writing Accountability Group (WAG) Member 10/2023 – Present

PhD Student WAG Leader 01/2023 – 06/2023

Systematic Review Workshop 02/2022

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Invited Speaker

University of Central Florida, 02/2025

- PhD Intensive Panelist, Topic: Interdisciplinary Collaboration

Invited Speaker

University of Central Florida, 10/2024 (canceled due to hurricane)

- PhD Intensive Panelist, Topic: Mock Review of Research Proposal

Invited Speaker

University of Central Florida, 10/2023

- PhD Intensive Panelist, Topic: Doctoral Fellowship Opportunities

Invited Speaker

Florida Career College, 06/2021

- Professional presentation for Patient Care Technicians on importance of timely and accurate vital signs and phlebotomy.

VOLUNTEER SERVICES

Conference Organizer/Master of Ceremonies

CFANN Presents: WILD ABOUT BABIES! Caring for the Late-Preterm Infant, 11/2018

- Hosted, planned, managed, and executed this educational conference including program development, advertisement, and procurement of professional speakers, Continuing Education Units, and vendor sponsorship.

Ronald McDonald House Volunteer

WPH Unit Nursing Practice Council, 07/2017 & 03/2018

- Prepared and provided full-course meals and drinks for RMH families and guests.

Conference Volunteer

ANCC National Magnet Conference, 10/2016 & 10/2019

- Provided volunteer support for conference operations.

Give Kids the World Volunteer

UCF nursing student, 2011

- Provided volunteer support for daily activities with kids and families.