JENNA M. WHEELER, PHD, RN, CBC

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6825 Lake Nona Blvd. Email: Jenna. Wheeler @ucf.edu ORCID: 0000-0002-8035-1753 Orlando, FL 32827 **EDUCATION** PhD Nursing 08/2020 - 08/2023University of Central Florida, Orlando Dissertation: Mother-Father Relationship and Perceived Stress among Black Pregnant Women: A Mixed Methods Approach Chair: Carmen Giurgescu, PhD, RN, WHNP, FAAN **BSN** Nursing 05/2010 - 08/2011University of Central Florida, Orlando BS 08/2003 - 05/2007Biology University of Central Florida, Orlando LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION 09/2011 - 04/2027Florida State Registered Nurse RN9331481 **Certified Breastfeeding Counselor** 05/2016 - 06/2028#13941 **Neonatal Resuscitation Program** 09/2011 - 04/2026**Basic Life Support** 09/2011 - 04/2026**Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative** 01/2017 - 12/2026**EMPLOYMENT** ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS Assistant Professor – Tenure Track 08/2025 - PresentUniversity of Central Florida College of Nursing

University of Central Florida | College of Nursing

Postdoctoral Scholar

10/2023 - 08/2025

University of Central Florida College of Nursing Orlando, FL 32826

 Conducts data analysis, prepares manuscripts for publication, and participates in various research activities under the mentorship of Dr. Giurgescu in order to develop scholarly independence and growth as a nurse scientist.

Research Assistant

04/2021 - 10/2023

University of Central Florida College of Nursing Orlando, FL 32826

• Assisted Dr. Giurgescu with advertisement, participant recruitment, data collection and management, administrative duties, staff training, manuscript preparation, and presentations for a National Institutes of Health R01-funded research study.

CLINICAL APPOINTMENTS

Advanced Care Registered Nurse

10/2011 – Present

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

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.

AWARDS AND HONORS

International Normal Labour and Birth Research Conference Top Scientific Poster Role: Co-Author	04/2023
STTI Theta Epsilon Top Graduate Poster Awarded \$100	04/2023
Wiley Top Cited Article 2021-2022 Public Health Nursing Journal Role: First Author	02/2023

Wiley Top Downloaded Article 2021 Public Health Nursing Journal	02/2023
Role: First Author	
March of Dimes Graduate Nursing Scholarship Awarded \$5000	06/2022
Edwin and Sarah Smith Memorial Endowed Scholarship Awarded \$1500	06/2022
JKLM Moore Endowed Scholarship Awarded \$1000	06/2021
UCF Student Scholar Symposium Awarded \$500	04/2021
UCF High Achievement Scholar Awarded \$6,800 over four years for academic achievement.	08/2003 - 05/2007
Florida Bright Futures Medallion Scholar Awarded 75% cost of tuition each semester over four years.	08/2003 - 05/2007

PUBLICATIONS *data-based

Google Scholar citations=66; h-index=4; i10-index=1 (August 18, 2025)

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

- 1. *Dove-Medows, E., **Wheeler**, J.M., Esparza, L., Misra, D.P., & Giurgescu, C. (2025). A qualitative exploration of perceptions of the aetiology of preterm birth among pregnant Black women. *Midwifery*, *145*, 104365, 1-6. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.midw.2025.104365
- 2. *Wheeler, J.M., Davis, J.W., Xie, R., LaManna, J., & Giurgescu, C. (2025). Influence of mother-father relationship on perceived stress among Black pregnant women. *Western Journal of Nursing Research*, 47(5), 328-337. https://doi.org/10.1177/01939459251316810
- 3. *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
- 4. *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.000000000000000837

- 5. *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
- 6. 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
- 7. *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
- 8. *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

MANUSCRIPTS SUBMITTED/UNDER REVIEW

RESEARCH GRANTS

Drs. Diane and Thomas Andrews Postdoctoral Research Award

08/2024

Title: Mother-Father Relationship and Mental Health among Black

Expectant Families: A Pilot Study Role: Primary Investigator – \$5000

PRESENTATIONS *data-based

INTERNATIONAL

1. *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. International Normal Labour and Birth (NLNB) Research Conference. Grange-over-Sands, England. [Poster]

NATIONAL

- 1. *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*. Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science (CANS) State of the Science Conference. Washington, D.C. [Podium]
- 2. *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*. American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting. Boston, MA. [Poster]

- 3. *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*. Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science (CANS) State of the Science Conference. Washington, D.C. [Podium]
- 4. *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*. Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science (CANS) State of the Science Conference. Washington, D.C. [Poster]

REGIONAL

- 1. *Wheeler, J.M., Davis, J.W., & Giurgescu, C. (2025, February). *Exploring activity support, motivation, and habit among Black pregnant people*. 38th Annual Southern Nursing Research Society (SNRS) Conference. Memphis, TN. [Podium]
- 2. *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*. 37th Annual Southern Nursing Research Society (SNRS) Conference. Orlando, FL. [Poster]
- 3. *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*. 36th Annual Southern Nursing Research Society (SNRS) Conference. New Orleans, LA. [Poster]
- 4. *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*. 36th Annual Southern Nursing Research Society (SNRS) Conference. New Orleans, LA. [Podium]
- 5. *Wheeler, J.M., Misra, D.P., & Giurgescu, C. (2021, February). *Stress and coping among pregnant Black women during the COVID-19 pandemic*. 35th Annual Southern Nursing Research Society (SNRS) Conference. Virtual. [Poster]

LOCAL

- 1. **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*. Sigma Theta Tau Theta Epsilon Chapter 32nd Annual Scholarship Day. Orlando, FL. [Podium]
- 2. *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*. Sigma Theta Tau Theta Epsilon Chapter 32nd Annual Scholarship Day. Orlando, FL. [Podium]
- 3. *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*. Sigma Theta Tau Theta Epsilon Chapter 31st Annual Scholarship Day. Orlando, FL. [Podium]

- 4. *Wheeler, J.M., Xie, R., Misra, D.P., Giurgescu, C. (2023, April). *Mother-father relationship and perceived stress among Black pregnant women*. Sigma Theta Tau Theta Epsilon Chapter 31st Annual Scholarship Day. Orlando, FL. [Podium]
- 5. *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*. Sigma Theta Tau Theta Epsilon Chapter 31st Annual Scholarship Day. Orlando, FL. [Poster]
- 6. *Wheeler, J.M., Xie, R., Misra, D.P., Giurgescu, C. (2023, April). *Mother-father relationship and perceived stress among Black pregnant women*. Orlando Health APH/WPH Nursing Research and EBP Council. Orlando, FL. [Podium]
- 7. *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*. Orlando Health APH/WPH Nursing Research and EBP Council. Orlando, FL. [Podium]
- 8. *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*. Sigma Theta Tau Theta Epsilon Chapter 30th Annual Scholarship Day. Virtual. [Podium]
- 9. *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*. UCF Student Scholar Symposium. Orlando, FL. [Poster]
- 10. *Wheeler, J.M., Misra, D.P., & Giurgescu, C. (2022, January). Stress and coping among pregnant Black women during the COVID-19 pandemic. Orlando Health APH/WPH Nursing Research and EBP Council. Orlando, FL. [Podium]
- 11. *Wheeler, J.M., Misra, D.P., & Giurgescu, C. (2021, April). *Stress and coping among pregnant Black women during the COVID-19 pandemic*. Sigma Theta Tau Theta Epsilon Chapter 29th Annual Scholarship Day. Virtual. [Podium]
- 12. *Wheeler, J.M., Misra, D.P., & Giurgescu, C. (2021, March). Stress and coping among pregnant Black women during the COVID-19 pandemic. UCF Student Scholar Symposium. Virtual. [Poster]
- 13. **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*. Orlando Health Nursing Excellence Conference. Orlando, FL. [Poster]
- 14. **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*. Magnet Celebration & Nursing Practice Council Poster Fair. Orlando, FL. [Poster]
- 15. **Wheeler**, J.M. (2018, August). *Patient experience: Emma's story*. Orlando Health Nursing Excellence Conference. Orlando, FL. [Podium]

- 16. **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*. 4th Annual Florida Nurses Association Research & EBP Conference. Orlando, FL. [Poster]
- 17. Naylor, C., **Wheeler**, J.M., Bowles, S., & Diaz, A. (2017, November). *The bunker bundle: A best practice to battle the risk of infection*. Magnet Celebration & Nursing Practice Council Poster Fair. Orlando, FL. [Poster]

RESEARCH AND QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Research Assistant 04/2021 – 10/2023

Title: Paternal role in adverse birth outcomes in Black families

(Multiple PIs: Caldwell, Giurgescu & Misra)

Funded by the NIH, National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR),

NIH Grant # R01 NR017626 – \$1,836,960

• Participant recruitment & enrollment; Collection & management of data; Collaboration with Primary Investigators on data analysis & manuscript development

Research Assistant 04/2021 – 10/2023

Title: Social stressors and inflammation: A mixed methods approach to preterm birth (PI Giurgescu)

Funded by the NIH, National Institute on Minority Health & Health Disparities (NIMHD), NIH Grant # R01 MD011575 – \$3,768,947

 Recruitment site manager; Participant recruitment & enrollment; Collection & management of data; Collaboration with Primary Investigator on data analysis & manuscript development

Project Lead 2020

Title: Nursing Medication Management for Preventing Unintended Extubations

- Aim: To examine best practices for pain and agitation medication management in order to reduce and prevent unintended extubations in the NICU.
- Contribution: Review of the literature & hospital policy; Project development & management; PDSA cycle implementation and modification; Unit education
- Outcome: Collaboration with neonatologists; Weekly weight-based adjustments to PRN medication doses; Appropriate use of PRN medications by nurses; Fewer extubations

Project Co-Lead 2020

Title: Two-for-Tubes to Prevent Unintended Extubations

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

• Outcome: Collaboration with respiratory care; Standardization for ETT securement, ETT checks, and retaping practices; Patient mobility with two providers; Fewer extubations

Project Lead 2019

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

- 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.
- Contribution: Review of the literature & hospital policy; Project development & management; Unit education development & dissemination; Poster presentation
- Outcome: Standardization of gastric tube devices, insertion, securement, & assessment

Project Member 2017

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

- Aim: To reduce the risk and number of infections by creating an evidence-based bundle for infection prevention in the NICU.
- Contribution: Review of literature & hospital policy; Project development; Unit education; Poster presentation
- Outcome: Standardized management of patient bedspace & hygiene; Fewer CLABSI

Primary Investigator

2017

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

- Aim: To evaluate the outcomes of current caffeine therapy practices in the NICU and establish a baseline standard of care.
- Contribution: Review of the literature & hospital policy; Proposal development & defense; Approval received from hospital Institutional Review Board, Nursing Research Council, & Physician Committee; Poster presentation
- Outcome: Project not completed due to change in clinical role & staffing hours

TEACHING-RELATED ACTIVITIES

Preparing Tomorrow's Faculty

Spring 2025

Postdoctoral course at UCF

• 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 provided.

Teaching Assistant Fall 2024

Instructor of record: 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 provided feedback.
- **NUR4970H** Honors Undergraduate Thesis: Mentored one undergraduate student on literature search strategies and thesis structure.

NICU Education Projects

2017 - 2020

Clinical ladder activity

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

NICU Preceptor

2016 – Present

Clinical ladder activity

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

INVITED SPEAKER

University of Central Florida PhD Intensive Panelist Topic: Mock Review of Research Proposal	10/2025
University of Central Florida PhD Intensive Panelist Topic: Interdisciplinary Collaboration	02/2025
University of Central Florida PhD Intensive Panelist Topic: Mock Review of Research Proposal	10/2024
University of Central Florida PhD Intensive Panelist Topic: Doctoral Fellowship Opportunities	10/2023
Florida Career College Guest Lecturer Topic: Importance of Timely/Accurate Vital Signs & Phlebotomy	06/2021

CONTINUING EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

SNRS Webinar 08/2025

Topic: Qualitative Research Interviews vs. Therapeutic Interviews –

Addressing T	Therapeutic .	Issues	during	Oualitative .	Interviews
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SNRS Webinar Topic: Accelerating Biobehavioral Nursing Research to Achieve Health Equity Using Secondary Data Analysis	09/2024
CANS Webinar Topic: Which Pathway? Navigating Your Trajectory in Early Career and Beyond	02/2024
NPA SmartSkills Monthly Webinars Sample Topics: Hidden curriculum; Collaborative partnerships; Interpersonal communication; Effective feedback; Public policy	01/2024 — 12/2024
UCF Faculty Writing Accountability Group (WAG) Member	10/2023 – Present
PhD Student WAG Leader	01/2023 - 06/2023
Systematic Review Workshop The Ohio State University: Helene Fuld Health Trust National Institute for Evidence-Based Practice in Nursing and Healthcare	02/2022
EDITORIAL-RELATED SERVICE	
EDITORIAL-RELATED SERVICE Infant Mental Health Journal Peer Review	03/2025 – Present
Infant Mental Health Journal	03/2025 – Present
Infant Mental Health Journal Peer Review	03/2025 – Present 01/2024 – Present
Infant Mental Health Journal Peer Review PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS	01/2024 – Present
Infant Mental Health Journal Peer Review PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS National Postdoctoral Association (NPA)	01/2024 – Present
Infant Mental Health Journal Peer Review PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS National Postdoctoral Association (NPA) Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science (CANS), #22788 Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing (STTI)	01/2024 – Present 07/2022 – Present
Infant Mental Health Journal Peer Review PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS National Postdoctoral Association (NPA) Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science (CANS), #22788 Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing (STTI) Theta Epsilon Chapter, #2474714 Association of Women's Health, Obstetric, and Neonatal Nurses	01/2024 – Present 07/2022 – Present 12/2021 – Present

SERVICE TO PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

 Central Florida Association of Neonatal Nurses (CFANN) President, 01/2018 – 12/2019 President Elect, 01/2016 – 12/2017 	01/2013 – 12/2020
Winnie Palmer Hospital NICU Level III Unit Nursing Practice Council (NPC) • Chair, 01/2018 – 12/2018 • Vice Chair, 01/2017 – 12/2017	01/2014 - 01/2021
 Arnold Palmer & Winnie Palmer Hospital NPC Chair, 01/2019 – 08/2020 Vice Chair, 01/2017 – 12/2018 	01/2017 - 01/2021
Arnold Palmer & Winnie Palmer Hospital Evidence-Based Practice & Research Council (member)	01/2021 - 12/2023
 Arnold Palmer & Winnie Palmer Hospital Magnet Champion Magnet Redesignation Leader, 2018 	10/2015 — 12/2020
Orlando Health Nursing Research Council (member)	01/2017 - 12/2023
Orlando Health Corporate NPC (member)	01/2018 - 12/2020
UCF Student Nurses AssociationAccelerated BSN Program Liaison	05/2010 – 08/2011

COMMUNITY-RELATED SERVICE

Central Florida Association of Neonatal Nurses (CFANN)

11/2018

Conference Organizer & Master of Ceremonies

CFANN Presents: WILD ABOUT BABIES! Caring for the Late-Preterm Infant

 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

07/2017 & 03/2018

NICU Nurse Volunteer

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

ANCC National Magnet Conference

10/2016 & 10/2019

NICU Nurse Volunteer

• Provided volunteer support for conference operations.

Give Kids the World 2011

UCF Student Nurse Volunteer

• Provided volunteer support for activities with terminally-ill kids and their families.