

ALTOP
ALTERNATIVES TO
OPIOIDS



Alternatives to Opioids for Pain (ALTOP) is a HRSA, Advance Nursing Education Workforce funded project to help combat the opioid epidemic in Connecticut. Through the creation and support of academic clinical practice partnerships, family nurse practitioner students are gaining clinical training and experience in the appropriate use of opioids and alternative pain modalities, in primary care settings. This project directly benefits the medically underserved areas in Bridgeport.

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New Solutions Pain Management Preceptor



I enjoyed precepting students so much!

It is always a good thing to be able to pass on what you know to another incoming colleagues, and give them a good grasp of what the pain management field is like. Our wonderful staff has given students a candid look at the field. The students were receptive and engaged, and I greatly appreciated their enthusiasm!

Emily Mihailescu, New Solutions Pain Management Clinic Preceptor



Other Clinical Preceptors

Tiffany Teixeira

Petra Wilson

Southwest Community Health Center Preceptors



Dr. Gerard Abidor

Dr. Susan DeNisco

Joseane Cardoso

Emily T. Carter

LaChanna Evans

Carmichael John

Monika MacLean

LaToya Smith



1 - Family Nurse Practitioner/Doctor of Nursing Practice Program Faculty

HRSA Grantees 2021 Graduates



2 - Dr. Marie-Reine Byron

My mother has always been the primary influence on my motivation to learn. She had always taken a real interest in my education. My love of learning geared me toward coming to Sacred Heart University, pursuing my dream, ensuring that I keep a promise I made to my mom, even though things were very difficult for me. I am a wife, a mother of 2 wonderful girls, working full time to raise my family. However, my mother's most cherished desire for me was to become a Doctor in Nursing Practice. She would always tell me that "what the brain can do depends on whether or not it is used"

Therefore, courageously, I chose SHU to further my studies. Throughout the past 4 years here at SHU, I have to say that I am extremely grateful for the instruction and the guidance I received. The faculty was very supportive and understanding. I could have not made a better choice! Most importantly, I was fortunate enough to win many scholarships, especially the HRSA grant which has helped me tremendously. Without that grant, I don't think I would have been able to finish the program. I am forever grateful to have been blessed by such a wonderful act of kindness. I make it an obligation for me to use this gift and honor my mom, by being at the service of others, especially the underserved. That is why the day I was offered a position at Southwest Community Health Center, was one of the greatest days of my life. Even though my mother is no longer physically present in my my life, I know for sure that she is smiling down on me and that I made her proud.



3 - Dr. Todd Clark and Dr. Susan DeNisco

I spent the last three and a half years pursuing my dream and it finally came true. Last weekend, I graduated from Sacred Heart University (SHU) with my Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) and Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) degree. I'm currently married and have two beautiful daughters. As a parent, I really try to get involved in as much extracurricular activities for my children as possible. My family was behind me through this endeavor 100% and I have persevered through this critical time in my life. Working full time in the nursing profession and attending school required a lot of dedication, focus and hard work. However, I want to mention how grateful I am for the opportunity and really couldn't have done this without the amazing faculty and staff that has been behind me every step of the way.

One of my passions is to help the underserved population that suffers from mental health and chronic pain and unfortunately today, there seems to be a lot more focus on mental health due to the critical year that we have just experienced with COVID. One highlight during my education was working at New Solutions Pain Clinic for my final clinical rotation as it provided me with a good base and knowledge. I'm really interested and am an advocate for health promotion and feel that now having a doctoral nursing degree from SHU combined with my business expertise and previous career experience, I will be able to help the low socio-economic population even more with this advanced degree.

The process of furthering my education has already impacted my life as a nurse as well as made a significant contribution to my patients, family, the community, and to this amazing profession. I am fortunate to have a solid foundation from which to build upon and a promising future doing something that I truly love. I am forever grateful for my relationship with nursing and the opportunity to grow within it.



Dr. Rosemond Ankrah

Dr. Amber Brown

Dr. Sonia Dias-Jones

Dr. Chelcia Foster

Dr. Tonimarie O'Neil

Dr. Mirlene Polycarpe

Dr. Barbara Scarpa

Dr. Rebecca Schwarz

Dr. Brittany Zarrella

**2021 National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties 47th
Annual Conference:**



New Frontiers for NP Education April 21st – April 25th, 2021

Based on the implementation and evaluation of our pain management didactic modules & pain management clinical rotation the ANEW/ALTOP HRSA grant team submitted and had accepted for a podium presentation to the NONPF conference:

“Responding to the Opioid Crisis: Implementation of Pain Management Education and Clinical Experiences for Family Nurse Practitioner Students”.

Dr. Susan DeNisco, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, FAANP, Sylvie Rosenbloom, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, CDCES, CME, Kerry Milner, DNSc, RN, EBP-C, Constance Glenn, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, CNE



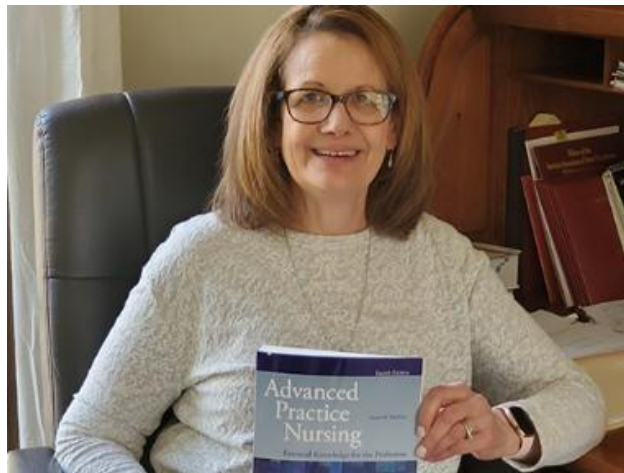
13th YNHHS Janet Parkosewich Nursing Research and EBP Conference: The Influential Role of Nurses on Practice, Leadership and Policy Here and Beyond. Sponsors: Yale School of Nursing and the YNHHS Nursing Research and Scientific Review Committees April 16, 2021

Doctoral student, Brittney Zarrella submitted an abstract, which is accepted for a podium presentation on the QI project conducted at SWCHC on the following:

“The Oregon Pain Guidance Conversation Pocket Cards and Chronic Pain Prescription Pad: A Quality Improvement Project to Increase Use of Alternative Treatments in a Federally Qualified Health Center.”



NBC CT Morning News ALTOP Interview¹



4 - Dr. Sue DeNisco was interviewed live on the Lisa Wexler show on the opioid crisis in America and how the Alternatives to Opioids for Pain Program was making an impact in Connecticut.

¹<https://www.nbcconnecticut.com/news/coronavirus/pandemic-is-fueling-opioid-crisis/2429077/>



5 - WICC Radio, Bridgeport, CT March 8, 2021

[Click here to be Directed to the Interview²](#)

WFOV Tom Sumner Radio Program, Flint, MI - March 9, 2021

Dr. Susan DeNisco and Dr. Kerry Milner (co-PIs) were interviewed live on the Tom Sumner show on the opioid crisis in and how the Alternatives to Opioids for Pain Program was making an impact in rural and urban America.



²<https://soundcloud.com/the-lisa-wexler-show/1st-hour-030821>

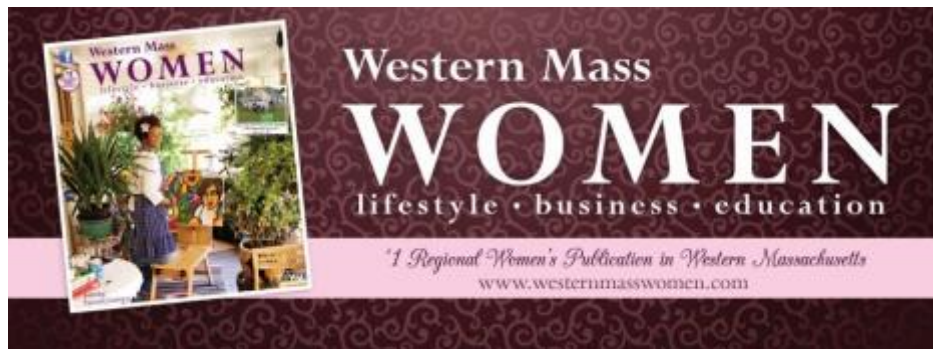


The Tom Summer Program

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Tuesday 3/9/21 9am to Noon (Eastern) Housing trends during the pandemic with Real Estate Economist Polina Ryshakov, experts Kerry Milner and Susan DeNisco on the rising number of fatal drug overdoses, plus refreshing your beauty cabinet with Lifestyle Expert Milly Almodovar, snow thrower and other outdoor equipment tips from OPEI President Kris Kiser streaming live at www.tomsummerprogram.com repeating on-line all day and night.



7 - *Western Mass Women Magazine Feature Writer Kayleigh Thomas interviewed Dr. Susan DeNisco and Dr. Kerry Milner for an article she is publishing on the Opioid Crisis and Drug Overdoses (completed February 26, 2021)*

November 5, 2021 8th Annual DNP Colloquium



Contact Us



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