INNOVATION 2023 WEEK

Panel Discussion: Women Innovators

Join us as three visionary women share their experiences with technology transfer and inventorship at the University of Nebraska. Engage directly with these Nebraska innovators with complimentary coffee and doughnuts while networking with like-minded individuals to forge connections and build a supportive community.

Free and open to all!



Elizabeth Beam, PhD, RN

Associate Professor, HEROES Program Director, UNMC College of Nursing; Education Researcher, Academic Affairs, UNMC; NSRI Fellow & Affiliate Faculty, Global Center for Health Security, UNMC

Dr. Beam has been working on an emergency preparedness grant at the College of Nursing since 2005. In that role, she became involved in the Nebraska Biocontainment Unit and was the educator for the unit in 2014 when Ebola Virus Disease was treated in the United States. She worked with that team to create and publish the personal protective equipment ensemble used by the care team at Nebraska for this Category A illness. Dr. Beam has gone on to do further research on healthcare worker behaviors and respiratory protection including recent intervention studies.



Rebekah L. Gundry, PhD

Stokes-Shackelford Professor and Chair, Cellular & Integrative Physiology, UNMC; Director, Center for Heart and Vascular Research, UNMC; Director, CardiOmics Program, UNMC

Cardiovascular disease is the No. 1 killer worldwide, and Dr. Gundry uses proteomic and glycomic technologies to combat this epidemic. Dr. Gundry leads a dynamic research group that exploits cutting-edge technologies to study the human heart, and discover new molecular insights that fuel our understanding of disease processes while revealing untapped therapeutic targets. A strong believer that the best way to combat cardiovascular disease is by bringing clinicians and scientists together to conduct research into its causes and find new cures, Dr. Gundry is also the Director of the UNMC Center for Heart and Vascular Research.



Breanna Hetland, PhD, RN, CCRN-K

Assistant Professor, UNMC College of Nursing; Nurse Scientist, Nebraska Medicine

Dr. Hetland's novel program of research focuses on merging technology with nonpharmacological healing approaches to positively engage patients and family caregivers during the critical illness experience. Her clinical experiences include a study abroad medical trip to China and Tibet, a summer externship in the medical intensive care unit at the Mayo Clinic, and five years as a critical care nurse at Methodist Medical Center in Peoria, III., and the University of Minnesota Medical Center in Minneapolis. In her most recent study–funded by an Impact Research Grant sponsored the American Association of Critical Care Nurses–Dr. Hetland and her team developed The Family Room mobile app, a digital platform to promote patient and family involvement in care during acute hospitalization. Additionally, she is conducting a clinical trial evaluating the psychophysiological impact of Paro TM, a therapeutic interactive robot, during rehabilitation sessions in the pediatric ICU. She graduated summa cum laude from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville College of Nursing, and earned her doctorate in nursing from the University of Minnesota.



Wednesday, Nov. 1, 9-10 a.m. University of Nebraska Medical Center Michael F. Sorrell Center, Room 2010 University of Nebraska Medical Center | Omaha

