**Professional Development Grant from National Library of Medicine garnered by Miami Dade College- Benjamin Leon School of Nursing**

Dr. Kelly Hernandez

Dr. Deborah Robinson

The Benjamin Leon School of Nursing RN to BSN Program at the Medical Campus of Miami Dade College (MDC), located in Miami, Florida, has entered into a partnership with the National Library of Medicine (NLM) Region 2 whereby bachelor-level nursing students from the Advanced Concepts Leadership Practicum course (NUR4945C) have the possibility to receive a monetary award for excellence in writing and to be published online detailing the quality of their clinically directed scholarly assignment.

As a part of the NUR 4945C course, BSN students are required to meet with a Nurse Leader on the clinical unit and with MDC faculty to discuss a unit concern. Together, the concern is addressed, and a process is developed, resulting in the creation of a practice improvement process paper developed during their clinical experience. As a result, the students demonstrate competency that bridges the gap between education and practice. As a result, the students’ unique vision on process improvement can impact patient care during this phase of their clinical experience and beyond.

The top written papers from this NUR4945C clinical project are selected by the course MDC faculty and then submitted to a panel of writing support assistants from the Medical Campus. After the anonymized papers are scored using a common rubric, the first and second place winners are selected. Two student writers per term receive the Undergraduate Nursing Scholarship Award. The NLM grant covers four awards-- two awards in Fall 2022 and two again in Spring 2023.The winners are announced during their Pinning Ceremony and also featured on the [Repository of Undergraduate Nursing Scholarship (RUNS).](https://libraryguides.mdc.edu/c.php?g=1271841&p=9330159)

The award winners then become RUNS mentors for the cohort which follows. Their mentorship consists of a minimum of six hours dedicated to attending the practicum orientation and assisting students with the research and writing aspects of NUR4945C. Mentoring can take place in person or virtually during the course. The RUNS mentors will be trained by MDC Learning Resources staff on research and writing. NUR 4945C faculty will be surveyed on their perception of the quality of writing before and after the introduction of this RUNS awards program. The mentors will also report on their experience in an exit interview upon completing their mentoring requirements. The students who were mentored will be invited to a focus group to assess their experience with the RUNS mentor(s) and their usage of the NLM website.

In the Fall 2022 term, two assignments were tied for first place. The winners were **M. Claudia Moran** and **Mariana Sanchez.** Both students are students of the Baptist Health Scholars cohort and were taught by Drs. Mary C. Granoff and Samira G. Siriani. Claudia and Mariana were also recognized at the Nursing Pinning Ceremony on December 12, which took place at the Kendall Campus. (See photo; Mariana Sanchez is the third from the left.) They both received a check for $450 for their scholarly work. These monetary awards were sponsored by the [National Library of Medicine Region 2](https://www.nnlm.gov/about/regions/region2).

Both Dr. Robinson and Dr. Kelly Hernandez are very pleased with the support given to our MDC students by the NLM Region 2, and are delighted to work with Sarah Fischer and DeAnn Brame on this endeavor.