

**Linking to Improve Nursing Care and Knowledge:  
Jointly Appointed Nurse Scientists Advance Collaborative Research Agenda  
Columbia University School of Nursing and New York-Presbyterian Hospital Nursing**

**New Era Report Recommendation #5: Invest in Nursing Research Programs and Better Integrate Research into Clinical Practice**

To better integrate research into clinical practice and harmonize scholarly efforts across settings, the practice and academic nursing leaders of our organizations recognized that a more unified, collaborative approach was essential. In alignment and mapped with AACN's recently published Report, Columbia Nursing and New York-Presbyterian Hospital (NYPH), located in New York City, developed a jointly appointed role spanning across academia and practice to ***invest in nursing research programs and better integrate research into clinical practice.*** Jointly appointed nurse scientists, collectively referred to as **Linking to Improve Nursing Knowledge (LINK)** faculty are characterized by PhD-prepared faculty who work across institutions and have a portion of their effort dedicated to research efforts at NYPH. The LINK faculty role builds on ongoing and growing collaborations between NYPH and Columbia Nursing and leverages the resources from both institutions to invest in nursing research and better integrate research into clinical practice.

In 2014, the LINK faculty position began with one individual jointly appointed between Columbia Nursing and NYPH, in which position costs were equally shared by institutions. The position has since expanded to include three Columbia Nursing faculty in the LINK position as a result of the LINK position in successfully harmonizing research efforts across institutions. Similarly, in 2019, Columbia Nursing initiated the role, Director of Academic-Practice Partnerships, who works intimately with the Director of Nursing Research at NYPH and the Vice Dean of Research at Columbia Nursing, to support, sustain and strategize LINK faculty efforts.

The LINK faculty role has resulted in noteworthy successes spanning across academia and practice. A comprehensive evaluation of the role was recently published in *Nursing Outlook* [1]. Role successes and outcomes include the conduct and dissemination of joint research that has immediate impact in healthcare settings. With mentorship from a LINK faculty member, one NYPH nurse conducted a randomized controlled trial to assess the impact of an educational video on distress among pediatric patients undergoing a magnetic resonance imaging procedure. The video was found to significantly reduce distress, has been implemented into standard clinical practice, and published in the *Journal of Pediatric Nursing*[2]. To date, LINK faculty have co-authored ten manuscripts with NYPH nurses,[1-10] demonstrating the effectiveness of the role in fostering research partnerships across settings.

In summary, the LINK faculty position has a sustained track record of success between Columbia Nursing and NYPH. The LINK faculty role is an innovative mechanism to build research partnerships and positions academic nursing within academic medical centers to make important and timely contributions to science and patient care.

## References

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