Or a l. Strickland
PhD, DSc (Hon), RN, FAAN
The Researcher

“You can be anything in nursing that you want to be.” These are the words that Ora Strickland, a nursing professor and research specialist, has lived by throughout her career.

As a young nurse fresh out of college, Ora imagined she would always be taking care of patients at the bedside. In fact, she enjoyed patient contact so much she was reprimanded for spending too much time with them. Early in her career, she worked as a Neonatal Intensive Care nurse taking care of infants, which motivated her to develop a volunteer program to teach parents of NICU nurses to provide emotional support to parents with high-risk neonates.

Recognizing the need to teach more nurses, Ora decided to take what she learned in the clinical setting and apply it to research. Her research projects explore the communities among patients, particularly African American women, to improve care. Some of her studies have earned national media attention. Her most recent studies have looked at health conditions in premenopausal African American women; the integration of home care for older care; and premenstrual syndrome in women; and hormone replacement therapy as a measure to prevent heart disease and early cancer. She was also selected by the United States to track and document the symptoms of expectant fathers.

“Our patients provide us with so much knowledge,” the Emory University professor said. “We can learn so much about their bodies and their health by observing.”

Ora believes health care must be a collaborative process. The key role for nurses, she said, is to assist patients in making the best decisions by providing health information. “Nurses make a tremendous impact on other people’s lives on a daily basis, whether you are bedside, in the classroom, or in the laboratory,” said the enthusiastic doll collector.

Consistent with her belief that God placed her here because we are unfinished, she is completely devoted to her 13- and 15-year-old sons. Her philosophy as a professional woman and mother is simple: “Careers are important, but if you fail at being a mother, your professional life is unfinished, she is completely devoted to her 13- and 15-year-old sons. Her philosophy as a professional woman and mother is simple: “Careers are important, but if you fail at being a mother, your professional life is unfinished.”

Author of several articles, books, videos and audiotapes, Dr. Bumet Bolton oversawed the National Black Nurses Association Community Collaboration Model, which is utilized in more than 100 communities throughout the United States as a framework for improving community health. In February 2002, she was appointed by Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy G. Thompson to the National Advisory Council on Nursing Education and Practice, Division of Nursing, Bureau of Health Professions.

Dr. Bumet Bolton holds a BS in nursing from Arizona State University, and an MA in mental health and a PhD in public health from the University of California, Los Angeles.

Beani er Butler, MS, RN
Eleanor M. Butler is a district supervising nurse for the New York City Department of Health, where she oversees District 1 in Lower Manhattan. Her career in nursing began in 1985, after she arrived in the United States from her native Bahamas, where she worked as a physiotherapist/chief physiotherapist from 1968 to 1980.

In 1985, Ms. Butler became a staff nurse at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital in Boston, Mass. She later worked as a health care facility inspector for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Department of Public Health, where she monitored the quality of care in long-term facilities in 1991.

In 1991, Ms. Butler entered the school environment as a staff nurse at Public School 146 in Manhattan. In 1991, she furthered her supervisory skills when she became the supervisor for nurses for the New York City Department of Education. There, she managed 100-150 nurses who cared for medically fragile children and students with special needs in Manhattan and the Bronx.

Ms. Butler is a member of the New York State Nurses Association and the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy, England. She is a past president of the Caribbean Health Educators Conference.

Ms. Butler holds an MS in education from Mercy College in New York; an MA in nursing administration from Teachers College at Columbia University; a BS in nursing from Boston University; and a BS in public health from the University of California, Los Angeles.

King Davis, RN, MSN
Marvel King Davis is a board certified nurse specialist in psychiatry. She is service manager for dual diagnosis at Yale-New Haven Psychiatric Hospital. She has been working with Yale-New Haven since 1989. In 1997, she worked as a psychiatric reviewer for Acta. In the early years of her career, she was the head nurse of the Day Hospital at the Connecticut Mental Health Center and staff nurse at the Yale Psychiatric Institute.

A lifelong learner, Ms. Davis received a teaching certificate from the Yale University/New Haven Teachers Institute, enabling her to become a family life educator at Hillhouse High School in New Haven. She served as director of the summer Infant Toddler Program for the New Haven Public School Family Life Program and was a board member of Planned Parenthood of New Haven. She currently serves as president of the board of directors of DREW New Haven Community Mental Health Services.

In 2000, Ms. Davis received a Distinguished Alumna Citation from the Yale School of Nursing. She is an active member of the National Black Nurses Association, and in 2001 was named the organization’s Historian. She is a past president of the Southern Connecticut Black Nurses Association.

Ms. Davis holds an MSN in psychiatric nursing from the Yale School of Nursing and a BS from Seton Hall University. She was appointed by the Yale Council of Matravers to be a fellow of Coolidge College, and she served on the board of governors of the Association of Yale Alumni.

A New Haven resident, she and her husband, Reid Davis, have three sons.

An internationally known specialist and author in nursing research, measurement, evaluation, maternal and child health, and parenting, Mr. Grant is a nursing education clinician for burn outreach at the North Carolina Jaycee Burn Center.

Ernest J. Grant, RN, MSN
Ernest J. Grant holds an MS in nursing education from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He serves as the center’s liaison to prehospital, hospital and burn center patients and families.

Mr. Grant oversees the burn center’s prevention program. Through his efforts, North Carolina became the first state to successfully implement the Learn-Not-To-Burn® curriculum in the preschool version of the class across the state.

In 2002 Ms. Holland was named Midwest Region Nurse of the Year by Nursing Spectrum magazine. She has received the Columbus Black Nurses Association Clinical Excellence Award, the Outstanding Employee Award from the Columbus Burn Center Clinic and the William J. Hicks Excellence Award from the African American Cancer Support Group.

Ms. Holland received her nursing diploma from Ohio’s Grant Hospital School of Nursing in 1966. In 2002, she was selected to participate in an educational program through the Oncology Nursing Society in Miami, Fla. She also established a scholarship fund, named after her sons, for the Columbus Black Nurses Association to encourage the education of minority nurses. Ms. Holland is married to Benjamin Holland, a pharmacist, and has one son, David. Her second son, Jamal, passed away in 1986 at the age of 12.

Marvel King Davis, RN, MSN

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