

**Sofia Kagan, BSN, RN, CVRN-BC**  
Doctor of Nursing Practice Student  
Rush University College of Nursing

Sofia Kagan is a registered nurse and Doctor of Nursing Practice candidate in the Family Nurse Practitioner program at Rush University. Her clinical background includes direct patient care and leadership in cardiac catheterization labs across multiple hospitals in the Chicago area, with experience in diagnostic and interventional cardiovascular procedures, staff supervision, and quality improvement initiatives. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Baylor University and a Bachelor of Science in Biology from the University of Dallas. Sofia has contributed to peer-reviewed research in hepatology and currently engages in community health efforts through nonprofit leadership and outreach. Her academic and professional interests center on health equity, culturally competent care, and reducing disparities in access and outcomes, particularly within underserved communities in Chicago. She is a 2024-2025 Fellow of the Leonine Forum, a national leadership development program focused on ethics, public service, and civic engagement.



**Bridget O'Brien, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, AOCNP**  
Director of Family Nurse Practitioner Program  
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Bridget O'Brien is dual board-certified as a Family Nurse Practitioner and Advanced Oncology Certified Nurse Practitioner, bringing over 25 years of clinical experience in gastrointestinal oncology, where she served as the first nurse practitioner in the Division of Hematology/Oncology at Northwestern Medicine in the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center. She continues her practice at Northwestern in multiple oncology clinics and enjoys bringing her training in primary care to her oncology patients' care. Currently, she is an Associate Professor and Director of the Family Nurse Practitioner Program. She has published and lectured on topics in oncology, primary care, and advanced practice nursing education. She founded and is the Chair of the Advanced Practice Providers (APP)

Committee of the ECOG-ACRIN Cancer Research Group. In addition, she serves as the President and Co-founder of the National Association of Family Nurse Practitioners (NAFNP), the first organization dedicated to advocating for family nurse practitioners.



**Susan M. Walsh DNP, APRN, CPNP-PC, FAAN**

Clinical Professor

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Susan Walsh DNP, APRN, PNP-PC, FAAN is a board-certified Pediatric Nurse Practitioner and Clinical Professor, Director of the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Primary Care program and Co-director of the Pan American Health Organization and World Health Organization programs at University of Illinois Chicago College of Nursing Global Health Leadership Office. She directs and participates with graduate nursing students in local and global community outreach programs for improving health and wellbeing. Bridling her passion to serve diverse and vulnerable pediatric populations and their families, Dr. Walsh is committed to community engagement and project development locally, providing available and free healthcare services in local elementary and secondary schools in the Chicagoland area, and globally in both Haiti and Uganda.



**Lindsey Strieter, MS**

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Lindsey Strieter, MS, is a Clinical Instructor in the Physical Therapy Department at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Her scholarship focuses on The UIC Health and Wellness Academy and effective medical education practices. The HWA is a children's program that focuses on healthy nutrition and physical activity. It is a course offered through the Department of Physical Therapy that brings kinesiology, nutrition, and physical therapy students together in a collaborative, experiential, community outreach setting. She also teaches an elective course on Teaching Approaches and Strategies for Physical Therapists, where the class explores modern pedagogy that focuses on the engagement of the learner and mastery of the content.