



Stephanie Rancich, DNP, RN, C-EFM

Stephanie Rancich recently graduated from the Family Nurse Practitioner program at Rush University. This project was done in conjunction with her doctoral degree. Stephanie has been a Registered Nurse for 6+ years working on both a medical-surgical inpatient unit, as well as an antepartum/postpartum inpatient unit. Stephanie has taken part in several medical mission trips to both Honduras and the Dominican Republic. As she prepares to sit for her board exam and begin working as a nurse practitioner, she is most passionate about serving underserved communities and advocating for the patients she cares for.



Bridget O'Brien, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, AOCNP

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. 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. Dr. O'Brien provided exceptional guidance and served as a second reader throughout this project.



Olanrewaju Abayomi, B.Sc., RN

Olanrewaju is a Registered Professional Nurse with specialized expertise in caring for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). He serves as the Director of Nursing and RN Trainer at a non-profit organization that operates a Community Integrated Living Arrangement (CILA) program—part of a federal waiver initiative supporting individuals with IDD. He is a member of the Developmental Disability Nursing Association (DDNA) at both the Illinois state and national levels. Nurse Olanrewaju provided vital information, insights, and directions during all phases of this project.



Sarah Ailey PhD, RN, PHNA-BC

Dr. Sarah Ailey is a Professor at Rush University College of Nursing, recognized for her extensive work in nursing education, health equity, and disability advocacy. Her career centers on improving healthcare access and outcomes for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), challenging systemic ableism in healthcare, and promoting inclusive education. Dr. Ailey provided creditable knowledge, references, and resources throughout this project and acted as a second reader.