



EMORY

NELL HODGSON  
WOODRUFF  
SCHOOL OF  
NURSING

Office of  
Nursing Research

July 12, 2022

Media Contact:

**Jessica Abrams**

[Jessica.abrams@emory.edu](mailto:Jessica.abrams@emory.edu)

**Emory School of Nursing Associate Professor, Dr. Ursula Kelly, Receives Grant for Identifying Gaps in Data regarding Suicide by Registered Nurses in Georgia**

The Georgia Clinical & Translational Science Alliance (GA CTSA) has awarded its pilot grant for **Identifying Gaps in Data regarding Suicide by Registered Nurses in Georgia** to Ursula Kelly, PhD, MSN, and an Associate Professor with Emory University's Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing. The GA CTSA pilot grant provides funding for one year of \$40,000 to describe the demographics, risks and contextual factors among registered nurses (RN) suicide deaths.

Suicide is epidemic and is a growing public health problem. Suicide rates in the US increased by 30% from 2000 to 2020. Among helping professions, suicide rates among first responders, physicians, and veterinarians are higher than among the general population. Nurses are the largest healthcare workforce in the country, yet there is a gaping disparity in research and knowledge related to nurse suicide.

The GA CTSA pilot grant program gives Dr. Kelly, Co-Investigator Rana Bayakly of the Georgia Department of Public Health, and their team the opportunity to examine state-level data from 2015-2021 of suicide and unintentional drug overdose deaths of registered nurses (RNs). They will also conduct primary data collection with coroners and medical examiners (CMEs) using a CBPR approach. Participants will be CMEs in Georgia.

Dr. Ursula Kelly is an Associate Professor, tenured, and her research and clinical expertise are the impact of interpersonal violence on women's mental and physical health. The central foci of her research have been on posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and depression in women who experienced intimate partner violence and military sexual trauma (MST), particularly exploring barriers to care and developing and evaluating innovative treatment models. She has conducted research with immigrant Latino women and women Veterans utilizing both qualitative and quantitative methods and integrating intersectionality and biomedical frameworks. Her research with Veterans with PTSD lead to her inquiry into suicidality in various populations. She received NIH National Institute of Nursing Research pre- and

post-doctoral fellowships and private foundation funding for her research with Latinas. She is principal investigator of two VA-funded studies of trauma sensitive yoga for women veterans with PTSD. Kelly maintains clinical practices as an adult and psychiatric/mental health nurse practitioner. Dr. Kelly received the 2011 Atlanta Business Chronicle Health Care Heroes Award and the 2012 Emory University Center for Women Unsung Heroine Award for her work with women veterans with PTSD.

For more information on Dr. Ursula Kelly, visit her [faculty profile](#). To learn more about the GA CTSA Pilot Grant Program, visit the GA CTSA [website](#).