## **Featured Nurse Leader**

## Janie Heath PhD, APRN-BC, ANP, ACNP

Janie Heath is an Assistant Professor and Director of the Acute Care Nurse Practitioner and Critical-Care Clinical Nurse Specialist at the School of Nursing & Health Studies at Georgetown University. Heath received her Masters Degree (clinical nurse specialist focus) from the University of Oklahoma and her Post-Masters (adult nurse practitioner with acute care focus) from the University of South Carolina. She will be completing her PhD in Nursing from George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia in 2004. She has authored several data-based papers that focus on tobacco education in nursing and tobacco control policy papers. Currently she is the Director of the Tobacco Cessation Program for the Georgetown University Medical Center where she does clinical practice, research and community initiatives. In addition, she serves on the Board of Directors for the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses.

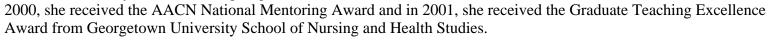


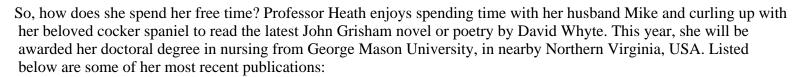
Professor Heath's passion is tobacco cessation. A nurse for over twenty-five years, she has seen the deadly health effects caused by tobacco use. "You can't give up on people who smoke. Whether they quit 5 or 50 times, smokers have to know that health professionals care about their health and educating other faculty and students on how to intervene is the first step", says Heath. In an effort to reach students and community members who smoke, Heath directs the Tobacco Cessation Program, an initiative that assists smokers in reducing or quitting smoking in an informative and supportive environment.

She is also the Director of the <u>Summer Institute for Tobacco Control Practices in Nursing Education</u>. In its second year, the Summer Institute provides nursing faculty from across the country with the tools and skills needed to increase tobacco education in nursing curricula. Heath's research has shown that very little is taught in the area of smoking

cessation in nursing programs. "Nurses are the largest healthcare profession. It is essential that every nurse knows the '3 minute intervention' to help patients quit smoking", says Heath. She hopes to sustain the Summer Institute so that it will eventually become a center and expand the population of trainees to include a broader representation of nursing professionals across the continuum.

Heath has written numerous articles on both tobacco cessation and professional development for critical care nursing. She is a frequent speaker and member of several professional organizations, such as the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculty and the Nursing Organization for Veterans Administration. In





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