



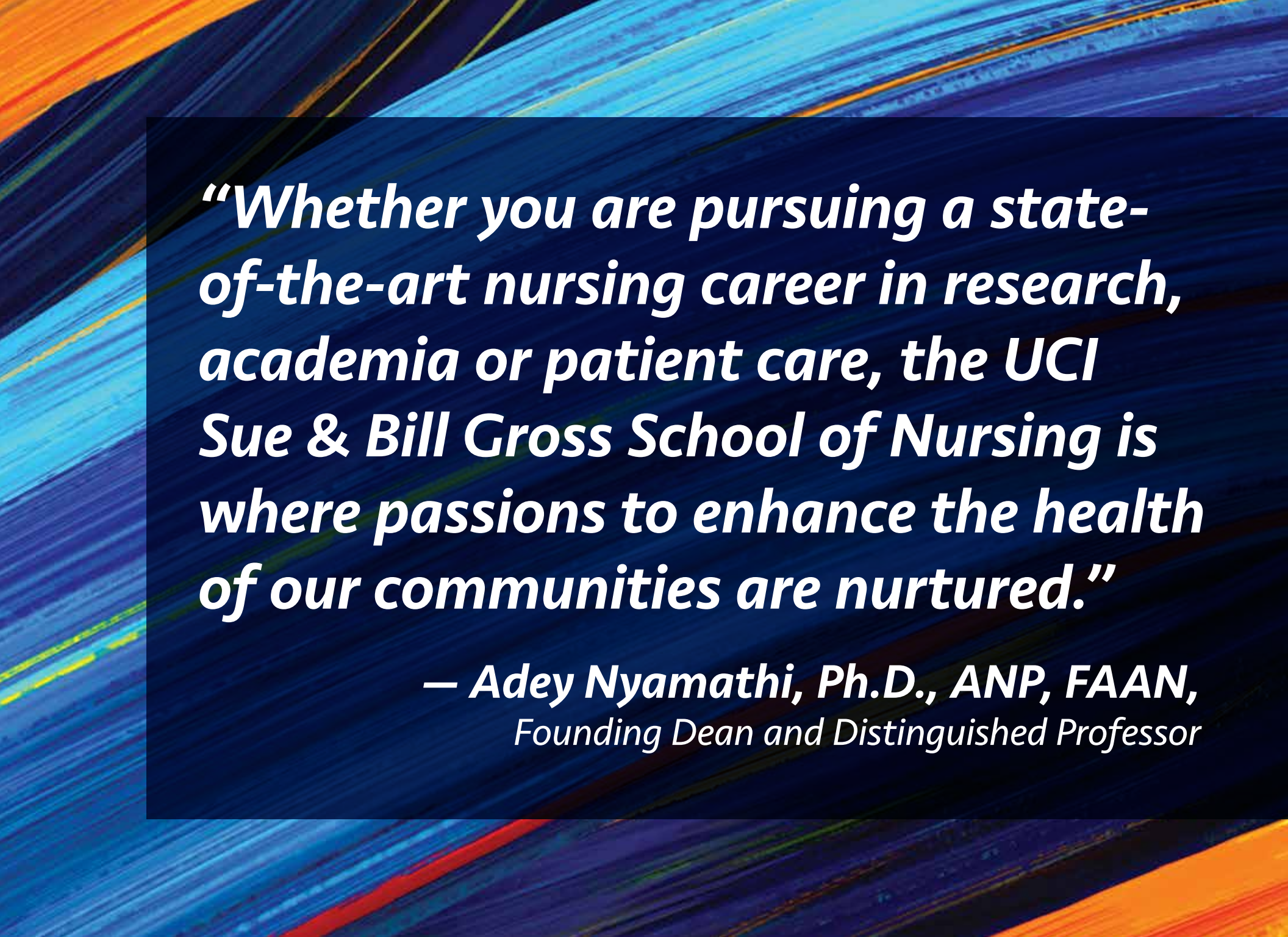
**UCI** Susan and Henry Samueli  
College of Health Sciences

Sue & Bill Gross School of Nursing

**THE CASE FOR SUPPORT**

**BRILLIANT FUTURE**  
THE CAMPAIGN FOR **UCI**





***“Whether you are pursuing a state-of-the-art nursing career in research, academia or patient care, the UCI Sue & Bill Gross School of Nursing is where passions to enhance the health of our communities are nurtured.”***

***— Adey Nyamathi, Ph.D., ANP, FAAN,  
Founding Dean and Distinguished Professor***






## Nursing for the Future

The UCI Sue & Bill Gross School of Nursing is at the forefront of the nursing sciences revolution that is transforming healthcare delivery, education and research. Our stellar faculty and gifted students are dedicated to keeping people healthy in their homes by advancing the science of compassionate integrative healthcare, fostering technological innovations and filling the need for primary care providers in underrepresented communities. Compassion is a vital thread that runs through our curriculum. We are the voices for those in need.

“Whether you are pursuing a state-of-the-art nursing career in research, academia or patient care, the UCI Sue & Bill Gross School of Nursing is where passions to enhance the health of our communities are nurtured,” says Adey Nyamathi, Ph.D., ANP, FAAN, founding dean and Distinguished Professor.

As the most trusted profession in the nation, nursing has a vital role to play in reshaping the healthcare landscape on regional, national and global scales.



The Sue & Bill Gross School of Nursing is leading the way. Firmly committed to inclusive excellence, we are preparing nurse scholars who advance the science that guides practice, and we are preparing future faculty and policy specialists who educate our students to address the growing, aging and increasingly diverse population of California and the nation. Our students also have opportunities to gain expertise in integrative health that treats the whole person.

The strategic alliances that we have forged with our partners in the Susan and Henry Samueli College of Health Sciences magnify our impact. We are building bridges across the health sciences to create a brilliant future for you, our community and people around the world.

With the School of Medicine, the planned School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, the planned School of Population and Public Health, and the UCI Susan Samueli Integrative Health Institute, the Sue & Bill Gross School of Nursing is pioneering a team-based, interprofessional model of research, education and patient-centered care for the 21st century. The strong academic-practice partnerships that

the school has established with UCI Health and its community clinics further strengthen our unique approach.

The academic programs that the Sue & Bill Gross School of Nursing offers educate nursing professionals of tomorrow to excel in clinical or research settings. Undergraduates have the opportunity to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing, while students seeking advanced education currently have their choice of four graduate-level tracks: becoming a new nurse with a master's degree (Masters Entry Program in Nursing – MEPN); the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program, with or without a Family Nurse Practitioner concentration (DNP-FNP); and the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in nursing science program.

The graduate clinical nursing programs develop competencies for advanced clinical and leadership roles in healthcare and train students to thrive on interprofessional healthcare teams. Our primary care-focused family nurse practitioners and future psychiatric mental health nurse practitioners will lead in promoting health and wellness in our communities and help to cover the looming shortage of primary









care physicians, a critical issue in California and nationwide. The FNP Fellowship program will strengthen our efforts to further educate nurse practitioners within an intensive two-year program. Fellows will develop leadership strategies and learn how to manage care for the most complex patients — skills vital for succeeding in culturally, linguistically and economically diverse healthcare environments. Graduates will enter this fellowship in a UCI Federally Qualified Health Center as clinical instructors, thus training the next generation of students.

We invite you to join us as we champion both the large and the small victories that make a difference in people's lives. Your investment in the Sue & Bill Gross School of Nursing will advance our mission to transform the science and practice of nursing.

### **Driving Transformative Nursing Research**

Since attaining "school" status in January 2017, the UCI Sue & Bill Gross School of Nursing — formerly the Program in Nursing Science — has made great strides. With our elevated status, we have been able to compete for a world-class dean and top faculty scholars and educators from highly ranked schools of nursing and other disciplines nationwide. Since 2017, eight faculty members have joined our growing team, contributing significantly to our bold research enterprise.

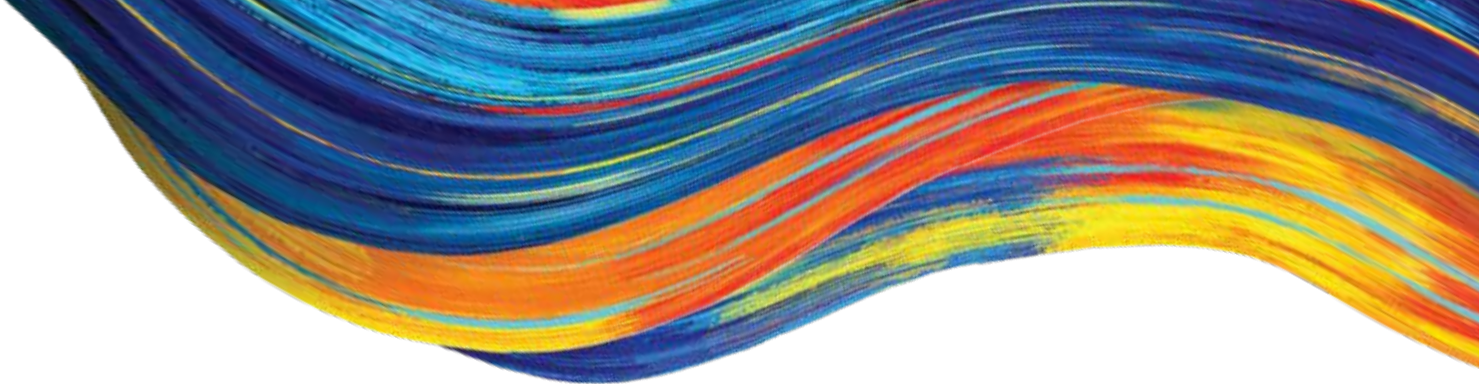
Our faculties' trailblazing discoveries are paving the way for scientific and technological breakthroughs that improve the lives of patients and diminish health disparities in underrepresented and vulnerable populations regionally, nationally and globally.



***“Pain Buddy provides children with an animated guide through their treatment journey to empower them to positively impact pain and thereby reduce suffering and improve quality of life in this vulnerable population.”***

**— Michelle Fortier, Ph.D.**  
Associate professor





The following highlights suggest the far-reaching impact of our research:

#### **Battling Depression with a Virtual Avatar**

Melissa D. Pinto, Ph.D., R.N., FSAHM, FAAN, an associate professor who joined our faculty in 2018, is known for her research on technology-based interventions to improve mental health. She and her multidisciplinary team have created a realistic, first-person virtual medical office visit on a computer, allowing users to talk about depression with virtual avatar healthcare providers. Pinto and her industry partner recently received a small-business grant from the National Institutes of Health.

Pinto was invited to the Pentagon to present her research to Air Force officials interested in learning how the nurse-designed avatar intervention could reduce suicide rates. Pinto and her team have found that some people may feel more comfortable sharing information with an avatar than with a human being.

#### **Improving the Quality of Life for Children with Cancer:**

##### **The Pain Buddy App**

Michelle Fortier, Ph.D., a pediatric psychologist and associate professor, is harnessing the power of technology to improve the quality of life for children with cancer. Fortier was awarded a grant from the National Cancer Institute to test the effectiveness of Pain Buddy, an app that she and her team developed to help children with cancer manage their pain. The app lets children report pain and symptoms to healthcare providers in real time and teaches children helpful cognitive and behavioral skills.

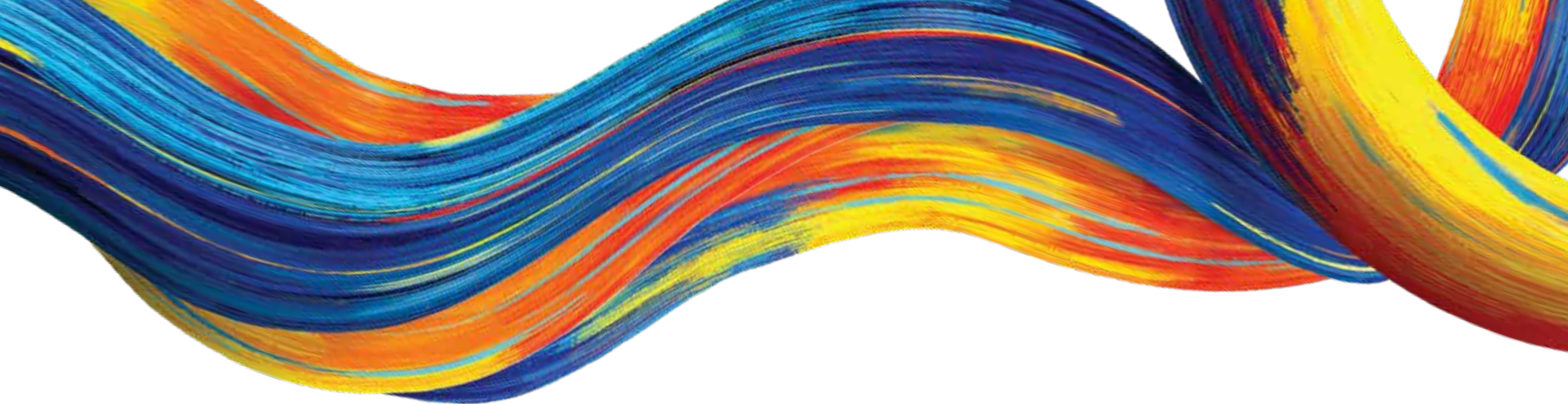
#### **Educating Agents of Change**

At the Sue & Bill Gross School of Nursing, we educate our graduates to be leaders for change in the communities in which they live and work. Their practice is guided both by the outstanding nursing science that our faculty develop and by our belief that clinical excellence is achieved through inclusiveness and a diversity of perspectives among researchers and clinicians.





When students have the opportunity to ***follow their dreams, remarkable things happen.***



For these reasons, we seek to educate a health workforce that includes students from underrepresented backgrounds and underserved communities. In fact, we have proudly become a nursing school that promotes generational change, providing opportunities for students who are often the first in their families to attend college. We share UCI's dedication to providing a world-class education to every qualified student and lead all UCI graduate programs in enrolling the most diverse student body.

The Nursing Camp in Summer (NCIS), one of our most successful outreach programs to date, expands our nursing pipeline nationwide. The annual weeklong event on the

UCI campus attracts high school students from across the country who are interested in nursing careers. These aspiring healthcare professionals participate in hands-on training and active learning with faculty from the Sue & Bill Gross School of Nursing. Many students have confirmed their career paths after attending the camp.

When students have the opportunity to follow their dreams, remarkable things happen. With your support for scholarships and outreach programs, we will continue to ignite the passion, share the knowledge and prompt the ingenuity that drives students to make the impossible possible.





### **Empowering the Nurses of Tomorrow**

We are committed to ensuring that our future nurses are not only excellent practitioners but also good listeners who show compassion and empathy. These skills will empower the nurses of tomorrow to be voices for those in need and to care for vulnerable people in the community.

As the only nursing school in the UC system with faculty in clinical practice, we have a lot to celebrate. Susan M. Tiso, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, FAANP, a clinical professor and the director of the DNP program, provides a glimpse into a typical day at the Same Day Clinic at Gottschalk Medical Plaza, where she integrates teaching into her campus-based faculty practice:

“I bring our UCI nurse practitioner students into the clinic with me, and we provide patient care side by side. It’s a very dynamic learning environment, as we never know what problems will present, and we see a wide spectrum of ages across the life span.”

Our faculty and students treat patients in a variety of community settings. The nurse-run clinic that we plan to set up and staff with philanthropic support will expand access to care in high-need/low-income areas.

### **Advancing New Technologies in Academic Settings**

In combination with compassionate patient care, technological innovations are shaping the future of nursing by allowing practitioners to personalize treatment and share critical health information with patients in real time. The Sue & Bill Gross School of Nursing integrates technology into the curriculum through the use of simulation and electronic medical record playgrounds, thus reflecting the changing technological landscape and leading the way on this important front.

We plan to expand our technological range by using data analytics strategically in healthcare and community settings and designing novel apps and wearable devices. Further, with our partners in the Susan and Henry Samueli College of Health Sciences, we aspire to develop telehealth delivery models focused on improving access to care for targeted populations regionally and globally.

In educational contexts, virtual simulation exercises allow nursing students to make clinical decisions and perform routine tasks in situations that mimic real-world scenarios — an increasingly popular way for students to gain clinical experience that prepares

them to deal with real patients. By investing in a new state-of-the-art simulation suite, the Sue & Bill Gross School of Nursing will be able to increase its use of team-based simulation training for students, practitioners across the Susan and Henry Samueli College of Health Sciences, and practicing nurses in our communities.

## How You Can Help

Nursing professionals are poised to be central players in meeting the healthcare needs of our society. Our faculty and students will be ready to lead by doing what we do best — developing and implementing science-driven, compassionate healthcare for the communities we serve. Your investment in the Sue & Bill Gross School of Nursing will advance our vital mission and empower our dedicated teams to meet the challenges ahead.

## Campaign Funding Priorities

### **Endowed Chairs to Recruit and Retain Exceptional and Diverse Faculty**

The endowed chairs that you establish will provide the prestige and resources necessary to recruit and retain diverse research and clinical faculty who will advance nursing science discoveries and train and model care delivery for upcoming generations of nurses. We will recruit faculty experts in societally important areas, such as healthy aging, infectious diseases, mental health, urgent care and integrative health and wellness.

## Student Highlights

*"I applied to the prestigious Sue & Bill Gross School of Nursing program at UCI with the intent of improving the health and happiness of the most underserved individuals by providing effective health treatment. My perspective changed after being inspired by the amazing UCI professors. I now realize that health and well-being should not be constrained to certain individuals, but should be a guarantee for the whole of society."*

— Calvin Xu '19, recipient of the 2018-19 Nicholas Aeberhard Memorial Award

*"I chose to pursue my Ph.D. at the Sue & Bill Gross School of Nursing in large part because I'm an alumna of the undergraduate nursing program. UCI prepared me well for the workforce and also instilled in me the value of continuing education while working clinically. I am inspired by the faculty who work at UCI for their different research focuses — from working with underserved populations in the local community to interdisciplinary work with departments campuswide."*

— Hillary Russ, R.N., doctoral student



*"The UCI Sue & Bill Gross School of Nursing leadership has engaged in extraordinary collaboration with UCI Health and other health systems in Orange County. Their exceptional programs are preparing nurses nationwide for the emerging needs across our health systems. Further, as healthcare delivery is being reimagined outside of the hospital walls, the school's strong commitment to primary care nursing has designated UCI as the 'go-to' place for educating future generations of nurses for keeping people healthy in communities, locally and globally."*

*— Pat Patton MSN, R.N.,  
Chief nursing officer, UCI Health*





### **Support for New Generations of Diverse Nursing Students**

Gifts for undergraduate scholarships and graduate fellowships will help us diversify our student population and recruit students from low-income and underrepresented communities. Fellowships will attract top candidates to our Masters Entry Program in Nursing and our Doctor of Nursing Practice and Ph.D. programs, which educate nurses at the highest level to solve the complex physical and mental health needs of individuals and families.

### **Discovery Fund for Future Health Research**

Your investment will fund pilot research projects designed to keep people healthy and improve healthcare delivery. In collaboration with multidisciplinary teams, our faculty will explore the intersections of health and technological innovations and advance the science in critical areas, such as

infectious diseases, aging populations, depression in youth, the opioid crisis, pediatric pain management, care for the homeless, and integrative health.

### **State-of-the-Art Simulation Training Suites**

In the planned Sue & Bill Gross Nursing and Health Sciences Hall, our future new home, we will, with your partnership, equip, staff and maintain state-of-the-art simulation suites devoted to neonatal and maternal-child critical health conditions. Nursing and other health sciences students, as well as practicing nurses in the community, will benefit from team-based, high-tech/high-touch simulation training that mimics real-world scenarios. These training suites will replicate healthcare scenarios found in urgent care, maternal-child birthing units and critical care.





*Empower the nurses of tomorrow  
to be **voices for those in need** and  
to **care for vulnerable people** in  
the community.*



### **Outreach Efforts to Create a Healthier Community**

With your support, we will create a technological epicenter in which faculty and students use telehealth, a process that allows UCI patients to speak directly to a nurse practitioner via a monitor from their own home or satellite facility. We will

expand access to care by setting up and staffing a nurse-run clinic where nurse practitioner faculty fill the need for primary care providers in high-need/low-income areas. To cultivate a diverse pipeline of healthcare professionals, we will promote outreach programs for individuals and families regionally and nationally.



## Differentiators

- The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Degree Program is a professional practice-focused doctorate designed to develop competencies for advanced clinical and leadership roles in nursing and healthcare. UCI is the only UC School of Nursing to offer a DNP program with a Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) concentration.
- We are the only University of California School of Nursing with a faculty practice.
- Since 2007, our program has had an astonishing 100 percent pass rate on National Nurse Practitioner Board Certified exams.
- Nursing science was the sixth-most requested major on campus in 2018 and 2019.
- Four nursing science students received the Chancellor's Award of Distinction in 2018 and 2019.







UCI Sue & Bill Gross  
School of Nursing  
**Alumni  
Event**

For more information, please visit:  
[brilliantfuture.uci.edu/sue-and-bill-gross-school-of-nursing](https://brilliantfuture.uci.edu/sue-and-bill-gross-school-of-nursing)





## Ways to Connect

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[brilliantfuture.uci.edu/sue-and-bill-gross-school-of-nursing](https://brilliantfuture.uci.edu/sue-and-bill-gross-school-of-nursing)



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