Oral Defense Announcement
University of Missouri – St. Louis Graduate School

An oral examination in defense of the dissertation for the degree
Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing

Stacy L. Skelton

Masters of Science in Nursing – Nurse Educator, January, 2002, University of Missouri-St. Louis
Bachelors of Science in Nursing, June, 1993, Barnes College of Nursing-St. Louis

Predictors of Health Literacy and Steps Taken to Pursue Kidney Transplant Among African Americans on Dialysis

Date: April 1, 2019
Time: 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Place: Seton 312

Abstract
Objective: To assess health literacy levels in low income black-Americans living with end-stage renal disease (ESRD) on dialysis and to identify associated predictors of health literacy and the steps the participants have taken to pursue transplantation.

Methods: This study conducted secondary analysis of an existing data obtained from 399 low-income black-American dialysis patients from an NIH-funded multisite study entitled “Explore Transplant at Home”. All participants completed measures on medical distrust, and health literacy and additionally, self-reported social support needed and received, neighborhood safety and steps taken to pursue kidney transplant.

Results: Overall, 25.6% of the black-American dialysis patients had limited health literacy. Results of regression analysis indicated that both neighborhood safety ($\beta = -.79$) and education ($\beta = .40$) predicted health literacy level. Education ($\beta = .29$) predicted numbers of steps taken to pursue transplant.

Conclusions: Adequate health literacy is a key factor in success in accessing and using educational resources regarding kidney transplants. For black-Americans who live below the poverty level, neighborhood safety and education play an important role in the development and use of health literacy skills for informed decision-making and taking steps to pursue kidney transplants. Findings provide directions for future studies on the development of effective interventions for promoting health literacy among patients who live in less safe neighborhoods and are less educated patients about the moving from dialysis to the pursuit of a kidney transplant.

Defense of Dissertation Committee
Dr. Kuei-Hsian Hsueh Chairperson, Ph.D.
Dr. Anne F. Fish Committee Faculty Member, Ph.D.
Dr. Wilma Calvert Committee Faculty Member, Ph.D.
Dr. Rick Zimmerman Committee Faculty Member, Ph.D.