

Facilitating an Increase in the Number of Nurse Practitioner Preceptors by Improving Preceptor Preparedness

Sonja Albright, MSN, FNP-BC, Doctor of Nursing Practice Student
Cheryl Giefer, PhD, FNP-C, University Professor & Associate Director
Jan Schiefelbein, PhD, RN, Professor

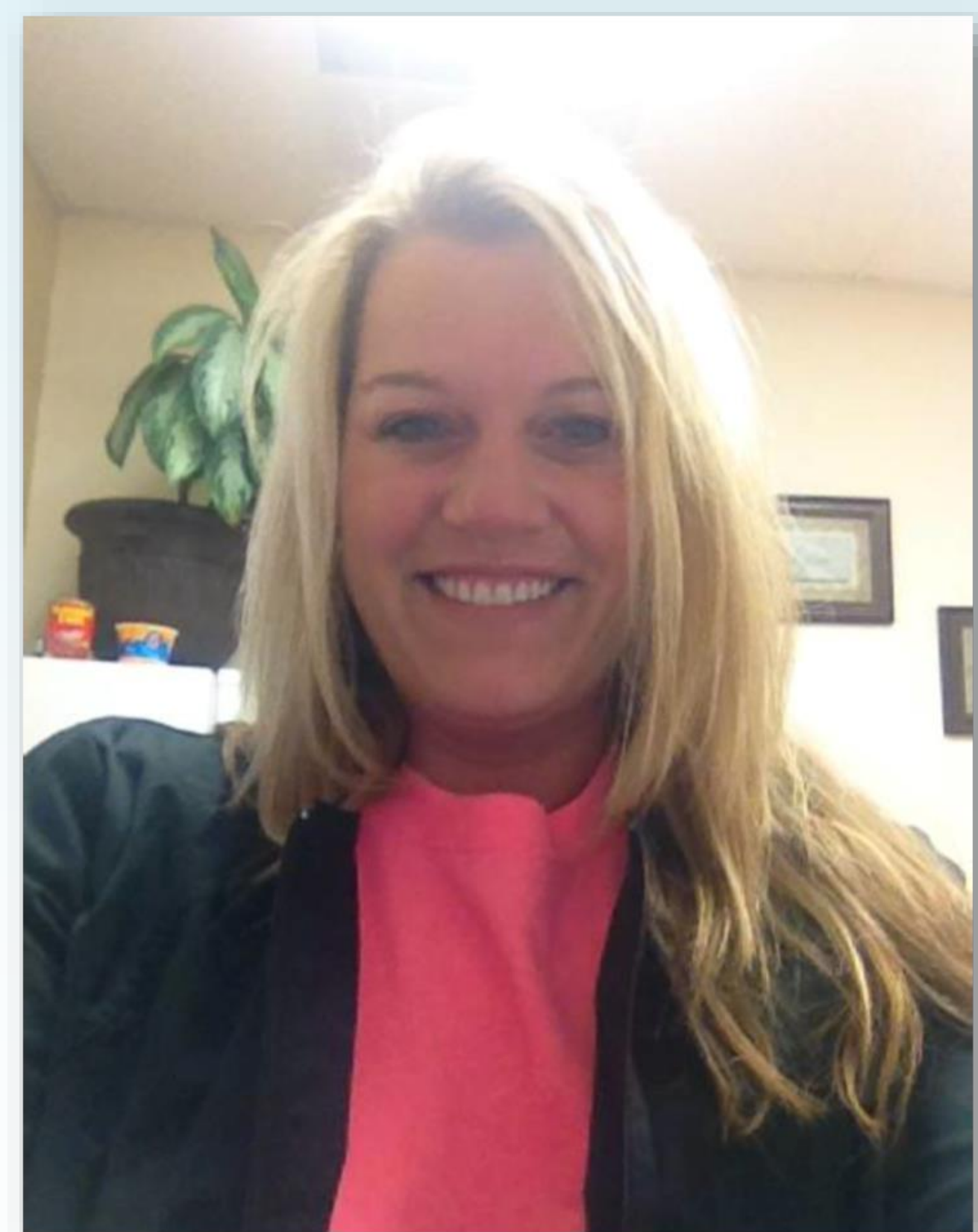
Irene Ransom Bradley School of Nursing, Pittsburg State University

Introduction

- The healthcare provider shortage has resulted in increased enrollments in nurse practitioner programs throughout the U.S.
- Traditionally, the clinical education of these students has occurred primarily in clinical settings with the guidance of a practicing nurse practitioner. There is currently a shortage of these preceptors.
- Research indicates part of the shortage may be attributed to hesitancy to precept due to feeling ill-prepared as a preceptor.

Purpose

- It was proposed that a focus group would verify concepts found in the literature.
- The creation of a webinar to better prepare preceptors will result in an increase in preceptors preparedness.



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Significance

- The shortage of nurse practitioner preceptors impacts the student's ability to obtain quality clinical education.
- Enrollment in nurse practitioner programs will decrease as available preceptors decrease.



Methods

- A focus group was held to confirm concepts found in the literature.
- Concepts gleaned from the literature and the focus group will guide development of a preparation webinar for preceptors.

Results

- The focus group did confirm the barriers found in the literature; nurse practitioners are hesitant to precept students because they feel ill-prepared.
- The focus group also expanded upon this known barrier. Participants described a need for education regarding adult learning theory and increased interaction and connection with the faculty of the university.

Discussion

- The shortage of preceptors for nurse practitioner students impacts completion of the nurse practitioner program.
- Creating a webinar using data from the focus group and literature will better prepare nurse practitioners to precept, thereby, resulting in an increase in the number of available preceptors.



Cheryl Giefer, Ph.D., APRN, FNP-C

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