

**Abigail B. Wilpers, Ph.D., WHNP-BC**

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**AREAS OF INTEREST**

- [Reproductive Justice](#)
- Maternal-fetal surgery
- Perinatal loss care
- Perinatal workforce development

**EDUCATION**

2016 – 2019	Yale Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, New Haven, CT Ph.D., Nursing
2013 – 2016	Yale School of Nursing, New Haven, CT MSN, Women’s Health Nurse Practitioner
2007 – 2010	Barnard College, Columbia University, New York, NY B.A., Psychology

**DISSERTATION**

Wilpers, A.B (2019), Developing Nursing Practice and Science in the Emerging Field of Fetal Care. Yale Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Yale School of Nursing. Committee Chair: Holly Kennedy, PhD, CNM, FACNM, FAAN

**LICENSES, CERTIFICATION**

2016 - present	CT APRN License # 12.006701
2014 - present	CT RN License # 10.122051
2015 - 2018	Academy of Lactation Policy and Practice, ALPP – 211597
2004 – present	American Heart Association CPR Certification

**EMPLOYMENT & RESEARCH ACTIVITY**

2022 – present	Assistant Professor, Research Track, University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia Research Institute, Philadelphia, PA
2020 – 2022	Postdoctoral Fellow, National Clinician Scholars Program, Yale School of Medicine, New Haven, C.T. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Principal Investigator: Understanding Sociodemographic Disparities in Maternal-Fetal Surgery Study Participation</li><li>– Principal Investigator: A Qualitative Study of Maternal-Fetal Surgery Counseling Practices</li><li>– Principal Investigator: Development and Validation of a Person-Centered Care Scale for Fetal Care Centers</li></ul>

## Curriculum Vitae

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- 2019 – 2020
- Co-investigator: Resident Comfort with Delivering Bad News in Maternity Care and Their Perception of Perinatal Palliative Care
- Maternal-Fetal Health Postdoctoral Research Associate, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Sciences, Yale School of Medicine, New Haven, CT
- Principal Investigator: The Parental Journey of Fetal Care: A Systematic Review and Metasynthesis
  - Co-investigator: The Chronic Hypertension and Pregnancy Project (NHLBI 2R01HL120338-07A1)
  - Coordinator: Randomized Control Trial of Pessary in Singleton Pregnancies with a Short Cervix (NICHD Maternal-Fetal Units Network, 9585-61051/9585-5000-555)
  - Coordinator: A Randomized Control Trial of Pessary and Progesterone for Preterm Prevention in Twin Gestation with a Short Cervix (NICHD Maternal-Fetal Units Network, 9585-61051/9585-5000-555)
- 2018 – 2020
- Fetal Therapy Nurse, Yale New Haven Hospital Fetal Care Center, New Haven, CT
- Project Manager: Development of Perinatal Palliative & Bereavement Care Program
- 2017 – 2019
- Research & Development Associate, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Sciences, Yale School of Medicine, New Haven, CT
- Co-investigator: Minimally Invasive Fetal Myelomeningocele Correction: A Four-Port Approach (Albert McKern Scholar Award for Perinatal Research Application, PJ000001)
- 2015 – 2016
- Women’s Health Nurse Practitioner Intern, Dr. Yael Fuchs, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, New York-Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital, Brooklyn, NY
- 2010 – 2013
- Clinical Research Coordinator for *The Prenatal Effects of Congenital Heart Disease on Neurodevelopmental Outcome*. The Center for Prenatal Pediatrics & The Pediatric Cardiology Department. Columbia University Medical Center, New York, NY
- 2009 – 2013
- Research Assistant for *The Safe Passage Study-Prenatal Alcohol in Sids and Stillbirth*. New York Psychiatric Institute’s Neurodevelopment Psychology Department, New York, NY
- 2009 – 2011
- Research Assistant for *Congenital Heart Disease Genetic Network Study*. Bench to Bassinet’s Pediatric Cardiac Genomics Consortium. Columbia University Medical Center. New York, NY

## HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2022
- Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric, and Neonatal Nurses (**AWHONN**) **Award of Excellence: Research**, Nominee.
- 2021
- Best of JOGNN Writing Award**, Nominee, for “Integrative Review in Nursing Practices in Fetal Therapy.” Criteria for award include originality of the work; clarity and scholarliness of the writing; potential to significantly affect the care of women, infants and/or childbearing families; and the interdisciplinary importance of the work.
- 2020
- Distinguished Young Alumna Award**, Emma Willard School, Troy, NY. Honors an outstanding alumna who has graduated within the past 20 years, for embodying one or more values core to Emma Willard’s vision, including a love of learning, intellectual curiosity, and the character, moral strength, and qualities of leadership to serve and shape their world.
- 2019
- Nurses’ Award**, International Fetal Medicine and Surgery Society, at 38<sup>th</sup> annual conference, Sils, Switzerland.
- 2018
- Honor Society of Nursing**, Sigma Theta Tau International Delta Mu Chapter.
- 2017
- First Place Peer-Reviewed PhD Paper Award** presentation on Maternal Anxiety Related to Prenatal Diagnoses of Surgical Fetal Anomalies At the 29th Annual Scientific Sessions of the Eastern Nursing Research Society, Philadelphia, PA.

## GRANT HISTORY

### Research Grants

- 2021 **National Clinician Scholars Program Research Grant.** \$2,000 for research on the Development of a Person-Centered Care Scale for Fetal Care Centers.
- 2019 **Fetal Therapy Nurse Network Research Grant.** \$1,000. First recipient of a research grant designed to help nurse scientist in the field of fetal diagnosis and therapy disseminate the findings of their work.
- 2019 **Young Investigator Award,** \$2,500, International Fetal Medicine and Surgery Society. Each year travel awards are given to young investigators who are less than two years beyond the completion of their advanced training based on peer review of submitted abstracts.
- 2018 **Heilbrunn Award,** \$16,698, Rockefeller University Heilbrunn Family Center for Research Nursing. This award provided full funding for my dissertation research. The HFCRN serves as a resource for the development of programs to promote research nursing as a profession on a local, national and international level. Through these efforts this award raises public awareness of nursing as an integral component of clinical and translational science.
- 2018 **Edith M. Pritchard Scholarship,** \$6,000, Nurses Educational Funds Inc. This grant is awarded annually to a nurse scholar whose work is dedicated to advancing nursing education.

### Training Grants

- 2020 – 2022 **National Clinician Scholars Program.** #TL1 TR001864-06, \$107,616. The National Clinician Scholars Program offers 2 years of unparalleled training for clinicians as change agents driving policy-relevant research and partnerships to improve health and health care.
- 2020 – 2022 **Yale New Haven Hospital Women’s Services Sponsorship for the National Clinician Scholars Program,** \$105,000. I was the first nurse scholar to be sponsored by YNHH Women’s Services.
- 2018 - 2019 **Yale Clinical and Translational Science Award** #TL1 TR001864, \$41,324. The National Center for Advancing Translational Science, and the Yale Center for Clinical Investigation. The YCCI Multidisciplinary Pre-doctoral Training Program provides predoctoral students in Engineering, Medicine, Nursing and Public Health with an opportunity to interact with each other and with a multidisciplinary mentoring team early in their research careers.
- 2016 - 2019 **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Future of Nursing Scholarship,** \$75,000. The purpose of this scholarship is to create a diverse cadre of PhD prepared nurses who are committed to a long-term leadership career; advancing science and discovery through research; strengthening nursing education; and furthering transformational change in nursing and health care.

## PUBLICATIONS

### Peer Reviewed (\*data-based)

1. **Wilpers, A.,** Lynn, A. Y., Eichhorn, B., Powne, A. B., Lagueux, M., Batten, J., ... & Gross, C. P. (2022). Understanding Sociodemographic Disparities in Maternal-Fetal Surgery Study Participation. *Fetal Diagnosis and Therapy*, 1-13.

## Curriculum Vitae

2. \***Wilpers, A.**, Bahtiyar, M. O., Wall, D., Kobler, K., Sadler, L., Dixon, J., & Kennedy, H. P. (2021). Narrative Inquiry into Nursing Care of Pregnant Women and Families in Specialized Fetal Diagnosis and Treatment Settings. *Journal of Obstetric, Gynecologic & Neonatal Nursing*.
3. **Wilpers, A.**, Bahtiyar, M. O., Stitleman, D., Batten, J., Calix, R. X., Chase, V., ... & Novick, G. (2021). The Parental Journey of Fetal Care: A Systematic Review and Meta-Synthesis. *American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology MFM*, 100320.
4. Schulman-Green, D., Feder, S. L., Dionne-Odom, J. N., Batten, J., En Long, V. J., Harris, Y., **Wilpers, A.**, Wong, T., & Whittlemore, R. (2020). Family Caregiver Support of Patient Self-Management During Chronic, Life-Limiting Illness: A Qualitative Metasynthesis. *Journal of Family Nursing*.
5. \***Wilpers, A.B.**, Bahtiyar, M.O., Wall, D., Kobler, K., Sadler, L., Dixon, J., Kennedy, H.P., (2020) A Modified Delphi Study on Nursing Practice and Science in Fetal Care. *Journal of Obstetric, Gynecologic, and Neonatal Nursing*.
6. **Wilpers, A.B.**, Eichhorn, B., Vermeersch, L., & Gosnell, K. (2020). Fetal Intervention During the COVID-19 Pandemic. *Journal of Pediatric Surgical Nursing*, 9(3), 111-114.
7. \*Tollenaar, L. S. A., Slaghekke, F., Lewi, L., Ville, Y., Lanna, M., Weingertner, A., **Wilpers, A.B.**,... & Klaritsch, P. (2020). Treatment and outcome in 370 cases with spontaneous or post-laser twin anemia polycythemia sequence managed in 17 different fetal therapy centers. *Ultrasound in Obstetrics & Gynecology*.
8. **Wilpers, A. B.**, Francis, K., Spinner, S.S., Kennedy, H. P. (2020) An Integrative Review of Nursing Practices in Fetal Therapy. *Journal of Obstetric, Gynecologic, and Neonatal Nursing*. doi: 10.1016/j.jogn.2020.01.007
9. \***Wilpers, A. B.**, Kennedy, H. P., Wall, D., Funk, M., & Bahtiyar, M. O. (2017). Maternal Anxiety Related to Prenatal Diagnoses of Fetal Anomalies That Require Surgery. *Journal of Obstetric, Gynecologic & Neonatal Nursing*, 46(3), 456-464. doi: 10.1016/j.jogn.2017.02.001
10. \*Siddiqui S, **Wilpers A**, Myers M, Nugent JD, Fifer WP, Williams IA. (2015) Autonomic regulation in fetuses with congenital heart disease. *Early Hum Dev*, 91(3): p. 195-8.
11. \*Yilmaz B, Narayan HK, **Wilpers A**, Wiess C, Fifer WP, Williams IA. (2015) Electrocardiographic intervals in foetuses with CHD. *Cardiology in the Young*. 1-6.
12. \*Yilmaz, B., Narayan, H., **Wilpers, A.**, Wiess, C. L., Fifer, W. P., & Williams, I. A. (2013). OC08: Fetal Neurosonography II. *Ultrasound in Obstetrics & Gynecology*, 42(1), 1-47.
13. \*Gelb B, Brueckner M, Chung W, Goldmuntz E, Kaltman J, Kaski JP, ... **Wilpers, A.B.**, et al. (2013). The Congenital Heart Disease Genetic Network Study. *Circulation Research*. 112(4):698-706.
14. \*Williams IA, Tarullo AR, Grieve PG, **Wilpers A**, Vignola EF, Myers MM, Fifer WP. (2012). Fetal cerebrovascular resistance and neonatal EEG predict 18-month neurodevelopmental outcome in infants with congenital heart disease. *Ultrasound in Obstetrics and Gynecology*. Sep;40(3):304-9.

## Editorials

1. **Wilpers A.** How Does Dyslexia Define You? *Perspectives on Language and Literacy*. April 2008

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### Invited Podium Presentations

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|------|---|
| 2022 | January 22: Resolve Through Sharing Professional Perspectives (virtual): "The Parental Journey of Fetal Care." Gundersen Medical Foundation, Inc. La Crosse, WI   |
| 2021 | September 9: Fetology Chicago, The Chicago Institute for Fetal Health and Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. Nursing Session <b>Keynote Speaker</b> : "The Parental Journey of Fetal Care." |
| 2020 | November 5: Phoenix Children's Hospital, Fetal Cardiology Symposium, Nursing Session. Podium Presenter: Developing Nursing Practice & Science in Fetal Care   |

## Curriculum Vitae

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- 2019 November 21: Yale School of Nursing, Postdoctoral Panel Discussion, “How to Create Your Own Postdoc.”
- 2019 October 23: 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Nursing Panel at the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual International Fetal Medicine and Surgery Society Meeting, Sils, Switzerland. Podium Presenter: Nursing Research: The Next Frontier in Fetal Therapy.
- 2018 April 24: OB/GYN UMass Memorial Health Care, Symposium on Care of Patients with Fetal Anomaly. Podium Presenter: Developing Nursing Practice & Science in Fetal Care.
- 2016 November 3: Yale New Haven Health Systems Perinatal Nursing Conference, Orange, CT. Breakout Session speaker: Maternal Anxiety Related to Prenatal Diagnoses of Surgically Treatable Fetal Anomalies.

## Podium Presentations

- 2022 November: 39<sup>th</sup> Annual International Fetal Medicine and Surgery Society Meeting, Cabo, Mexico. “Understanding Counseling Practices in Maternal-Fetal Surgery.”
- 2022 April 8: North American Fetal Therapy Network Biannual Conference (virtual). “Understanding Sociodemographic Disparities in Maternal-Fetal Surgery Study Participation.”
- 2021 November 5: National Clinician Scholars Program Annual Conference (virtual). “Understanding Sociodemographic Disparities in Maternal-Fetal Surgery Study Participation.”
- 2021 November 5: North American Fetal Therapy Network Biannual Conference. “Development of a Person-Centered Care Scale for Fetal Care Centers.”
- 2021 September 23: Grand Rounds for the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Sciences at the Yale School of Medicine. “Health Services Research at the Fetal Care Center.”
- 2021 April 16: North American Fetal Therapy Network Biannual Conference. “Active Research Report: Counseling Practices in Maternal-Fetal Surgery - a Qualitative Study.”
- 2021 April 15: Fetal Therapy Nurse Network Biannual Conference (virtual). “Active Research Report: Understanding Sociodemographic Disparities in Maternal-Fetal Surgery Study Participation.”
- 2021 April 9: Yale School of Nursing Scholars Day. Podium presentation. “The Parental Journey of Fetal Care: a Metasynthesis”
- 2020 May 28: Yale School of Medicine, Palliative and Symptom Science (PASS) Research Seminar. “Perinatal Palliative & Bereavement Care Program at Yale New Haven Hospital.”
- 2019 October 25: 38<sup>th</sup> Annual International Fetal Medicine and Surgery Society Meeting, Sils, Switzerland. “Developing Nursing Practice & Science in Fetal Care: a Delphi Study.”
- 2017 April 7: Fetal Therapy Nurse Network Bi-Annual Meeting and the North American Fetal Therapy Network Conference, Chicago, IL. “Proposal to Establish a Model of Care and Research Priorities in Fetal Nursing.”
- 2017 April 6: 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Sessions of the Eastern Nursing Research Society (ENRS), Philadelphia, PA. “Maternal Anxiety Related to Prenatal Diagnoses of Surgically Treatable Fetal Anomalies.”

## Poster Presentations

- 2019 March 14: Robert S. Sherwin Yale Center for Clinical Investigation All Scholar Day. New Haven, CT. Poster Session: Nursing Practice and Science in the Emerging Field of Fetal Care.
- 2018 April 11: 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Sessions of the Eastern Nursing Research Society (ENRS), Newark, NJ. Poster Session: Developing a Model of Nursing Practice in the Emerging Field of Fetal Care: A Delphi Study.
- 2016 April 4: 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Janet Parkosewich Research Conference, Sponsored by the Yale New Haven Health Nursing Research Committee, Orange, CT. Poster Session: Maternal Anxiety Related to Prenatal Diagnoses of Surgically Treatable Fetal Anomalies.

## **PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

### Memberships

## Curriculum Vitae

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2018 – present	Hospice & Palliative Nurses Association
2017 – 2019	The International Marcé Society for Perinatal Mental Health
2017 – present	American Nurses Association
2016 – present	North American Fetal Therapy Network <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Co-Chair Patient Advocacy Committee (2020-present)</li></ul>
2016 – present	<b>Board of Directors</b> , Fetal Therapy Nurse Network <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Research Committee Co-Chair (2021-present)</li><li>• Publications Committee Chair (2018-2021)</li></ul>
2016 – 2019	Eastern Nursing Research Society
2015 – present	American Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric, and Neonatal Nurses

## SERVICE

### Yale and Yale New Haven Hospital Service

2021 – present	Member of the Fetal Care Center Operations Committee, Yale New Haven Hospital
2020 – present	Member of the Marketing and Recruitment Committee, Yale National Clinician Scholars Program
2019 – present	Member of the Perinatal Palliative & Bereavement Care Steering Committee, Yale New Haven Hospital
2017 – 2018	Member of the Executive Committee, Yale School of Nursing
2016 – 2018	Member of the Nursing Research Committee, Yale New Haven Hospital

### Community Service

2021 – present	<b>Board of Directors</b> , Fetal Health Foundation
2018 – present	<b>Board of Directors</b> , Standards of Care Committee Chair, Hope After Loss, New Haven, CT <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Founder of the Board Internship Program which provides nursing students with 501(c)(3) board room experience during their master’s education.</li></ul>
2017 – 2018	Program Volunteer for Hope After Loss, New Haven, CT
2014 – 2015	Family Support Volunteer, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, Yale New Haven Hospital.
2011 – 2013	Volunteer, Carmen & John Thain Center for Prenatal Pediatrics, New York, NY.

### Manuscript Reviewer

#### *Midwifery*

*The Journal of Obstetric, Gynecologic, & Neonatal Nursing*

*The Permanente Journal*

## TEACHING & MENTORING

### Formal Scheduled Classes (past 5 years)

Semester	Course #	Course Title	Teaching Contribution	Class Size
Fall 2021		Yale School of Medicine Women’s & children’s health clerkship <i>Shared Decision Making Workshop</i>	Preceptor	6
Fall 2021	N730a	Childbearing II Seminar <i>Master of Nursing Science Course, Midwifery and Women’s Health Specialties</i>	Lecturer “Perinatal Palliative Care”	37
Fall 2020	N916	Advanced Qualitative Methods Yale School of Nursing PhD Program	Lecturer “Metasynthesis methodology”	9
Spring 2020		OB/GYN Resident Didactics	Lecturer “Perinatal Palliative Care”	23

## Curriculum Vitae

Spring 2020		Yale School of Medicine Women's & children's health clerkship <i>Shared Decision Making Workshop</i>	Preceptor	6
Fall 2019	N730a	Childbearing II Seminar <i>Master of Nursing Science Course, Midwifery and Women's Health Specialties</i>	Lecturer "Providing Perinatal Palliative Care"	40
Fall 2019	N941a	Health Policy <i>Doctorate of Nursing Practice Course</i>	Workshop leader "Policy Brief"	12
Fall 2019		Yale School of Medicine Women's & children's health clerkship <i>Shared Decision Making Workshop</i>	Preceptor	5
Spring 2019	955b	Ethical Analysis in Health Care <i>Doctorate of Nursing Practice Course</i>	Teaching Fellow	19
Fall 2018	N941a	Health Policy <i>Doctorate of Nursing Practice Course</i>	Teaching Fellow	18
Fall 2018	N730a	Childbearing II Seminar <i>Master of Nursing Science Course, Midwifery and Women's Health Specialties</i>	Lecturer "Providing Perinatal Palliative Care"	32

## Mentoring (past 5 years)

Dates	Name	Program or School	Mentor Role	Current Position
2021	Libby Infoss	Canberra University	Dissertation coach	PhD student
2021	Yunzhe Hu	Barnard College	Mentored her virtual internship in health research	Senior at Barnard College
2019-2020	Marian Blawie	Hope After Loss Yale School of Nursing	Board Intern Mentor	Masters Student in Women's Health and Midwifery, Yale School of Nursing
2019-2020	Lauren Kivlen	Hope After Loss Yale School of Nursing	Board Intern Mentor	Masters Student in Women's Health and Midwifery, Yale School of Nursing
2018 – present	Barnard College, Health Care Alumnae Mentor			