

Gail L. Towsley  
1424 Horsham Rd.  
North Wales, PA 19454

**Present Position**

Post-doctoral Fellow, Polisher Research Institute, Madlyn and Leonard Abramson Center for Jewish Life

**Education**

1991, B.S. (Exercise Science). Portland State University, Portland, OR  
2001, M.S. (Gerontology) University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT  
2007, Ph.D. (Nursing: Aging & Health Services Research focus) University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT.

**License**

1995-present Nursing Home Administrator, licensed in State of Oregon #2028

**Professional and Research Positions**

1991-1995 Admissions/Client Satisfaction Coordinator/Activity Director, Cascade Terrace Nursing Center (Prestige Care Inc.), Portland OR  
1995 Nursing Home Administrator, West Linn Care Center (Prestige Care Inc.), West Linn, OR  
1995-1998 Nursing Home Administrator, Nehalem Valley Care Center (Prestige Care Inc.), Wheeler, OR  
1999-2001 Co-Project Coordinator: Energy Conservation and Cancer Treatment-Related Fatigue, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT  
2000 Research Assistant: Social Interaction in Adult Day Centers, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT  
2001-2002 Project Director: Experiences of Rural and Urban Older Adult Cancer Survivors, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT  
2003 Research Assistant: Caregiver stress and Alzheimer's disease, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY  
2003-2006 Research Assistant: Pharmacologic Mechanisms of Falls and Sway in Elderly, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT  
2005 Co-Instructor: Applications of Research on Aging (online course), University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT  
2005 National Institute of Senior Centers Research Award  
2006 Instructor: Applications of Research on Aging (online course), University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT  
2006-2007 Project Facilitator: Pain and Nursing Care Quality, University of Utah College of Nursing, Salt Lake City, UT.  
2007-2008 Assistant Professor. University of Utah College of Nursing, Salt Lake City, UT.

**Honors and Awards**

2000 Merry Juretech Outstanding Gerontology Student Award  
2001 Josephine Kasteler Outstanding Gerontology Student Award

2002-2003	Gheens Endowed Research Fellowship, University of Kentucky
2003-2005	Doctoral Fellowship/Scholarship, University of Utah
2003	University of Utah Travel Award Recipient
2004-2005	University Teaching Assistant Scholar
2005	National Institute of Senior Centers Research Award (2002 KY cohort)
2005	University of Utah College of Nursing scholarship
2006	University of Utah Travel Award Recipient
2006	University of Utah College of Nursing scholarship
2007	University of Utah College of Nursing Outstanding Doctoral Student

## **Publications and Presentations**

### Peer reviewed journal articles

- Pepper, G.A. & **Towsley, G.L.** (2007). Medication errors in nursing homes: Incidence and reduction strategies. *Journal of Pharmaceutical Finance, Economics, & Policy*, 16, 5-133.
- Towsley, G.L.**, Beck, S.L., & Watkins, J.F. (2007). "Learning to Live with it": Coping with the transition to Cancer Survivorship in Older Adults. *Journal of Aging Studies*, 21, 93-106.
- Towsley, G.L.** Dudley, W.N. & Beck, S.L. (2006). Quality care in Utah nursing homes: urban vs. rural. *Utah's Health: An Annual Review*, XI, 16-23.
- Beck, S.L., Schwartz, A.L., **Towsley, G.**, Dudley, W., and Barsevick, A. (2004). Psychometric evaluation of the Pittsburgh sleep quality index in cancer patients. *Journal of Pain and Symptom Management*, 27, 140-148.
- Anderson, K.A., **Towsley, G.L.**, and Gaugler, J.E. (2004). The genetic connections of Alzheimer's disease: An emerging source of caregiver stress. *Journal of Aging Studies*, 18, 429-443.

### Presentations

- 2002 Poster Presentation: Urban and rural cancer survivors. NCI/ACS 1<sup>st</sup> National Conference on Cancer Survivorship. Washington DC.
- 2003 Poster Presentation: Coping strategies among older adults during early cancer survivorship. Nursing Research Conference, Park City, UT.
- 2004 Invited Speaker: Coding observational and text data: Data Madness Seminar, Veterans Administration Hospital, Salt Lake City, UT.
- 2005 Invited Speaker: The Successful Use of TA's Panel. College of Nursing Fall Retreat, Salt Lake City, UT.
- 2005 Invited Speaker: Teaching and Grading Creativity. Campus-Wide TA Orientation and Workshop. University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT.
- 2006 Platform Presentation (Primary Author): Quality Care in Rural Nursing Homes. Utah Health Services Research Conference, Salt Lake City, UT.
- 2006 Poster Presentation (Primary Author): Quality Care in Rural Nursing Homes. National Rural Health Association Annual Conference, Reno, NV.
- 2006 Podium Presentation (Primary Author): Quality Care in Rural Nursing Homes. Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Dallas, TX.
- 2007 Poster Presentation (Co-author): Content Validity of the Pain and Nursing Care Quality (PaNCQ) Survey. Oncology Nursing Society, 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Congress, Las Vegas, NV.
- 2007 Podium Presentation (Presenter): Ascertain Financial Viability and Quality Care in Rural Nursing Homes: A Mixed Methods Approach. Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, San Francisco, CA.
- 2008 Poster Presentation: Content Validity of the Pain and Nursing Care Quality (PaNCQ) Survey. Huntsman Cancer Institute, Oncology Nursing Conference, March 8, 2008.

- 2008 Podium Presentation (Co-Author): Development of the Pain & Nursing Care Quality (PaNCQ) Survey: Phase 3. Western Institute of Nursing, Garden Grove, CA.
- 2008 Podium Presentation (Presenter): Using Qualitative and Quantitative Methods in Instrument Development. Multi-Method Workshop. 25<sup>th</sup> AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting.

### **Funded Research Projects Ongoing or Completed**

Grant #: 3 P30 CA42014-15 Prescott (PI)

Dates: 2001-2003

Funding Agency: NIH/NCI

Role: Co-Investigator

Title: Experiences of Urban and Rural Elderly Cancer Survivors

This study was a supplemental core grant to the Huntsman Cancer Institute, and examined the experiences of rural and urban older adult cancer survivors. One and three months following cancer treatment for cure or local control mailed questionnaires and telephone interviews were conducted to document the symptom experience, social, community, and health care resources, and to examine the unmet needs of elderly cancer survivors.

Grant #: Unknown

Dates: 09/01/06-08/30/08

Funding Agency: Robert Wood Johnson

Role: Study Coordinator

Title: Measuring Nursing Care Quality Related to Pain Management

Aims: The overall aim of this study is to develop and test a robust and parsimonious measure of the quality of nursing care related to pain management that effectively predicts pain outcomes in individuals with cancer in the acute-care setting.

Grant #: 1 R21 CA120896-01A1

Dates: 06/01/07-05/31/09

Funding Agency: NIH, NCI

Role: Co-Investigator

Title: Targeted, Tailored and Timely (T3) Symptom Management for Prostate Cancer

Aims: The long term goal of this research is to develop the most effective ways of improving quality of life for the increasing number of cancer survivors. The overall aims of this pilot study are (1) to test the feasibility and (2) to establish the initial efficacy and estimate the effect size of providing a systematic, structured, evidence-based symptom management intervention for older adult men with prostate cancer.

Grant #: Unknown

Dates: 1/01/08-12/31/08

Funding Agency: ONS-ONCC

Role: Co-Investigator

Title: Pain and Nursing Care Quality: Does certification make a difference?

Aims: The purpose of this study is to examine the effect of oncology nursing certification on nurses' pain knowledge and beliefs, quality of pain management, and pain outcomes and will augment an existing project funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Specifically, we will examine: 1) to what extent does oncology nurse certification influence, a) knowledge and attitudes related to pain management, b) the quality of nursing care related to pain management, and c) patient outcomes (i.e., pain intensity and interference with function); and 2) does the quality of nursing care related to pain management mediate the effect of certification on patient pain outcomes?

### Professional Memberships

2001, 2003 Sigma Phi Omega Honor Society

2000-present Member, Gerontology Society of America

2006-present Member, University of Utah Center on Aging