

Tuesday, October 22, 2024, 11:30 AM



Engaging a new Nursing Corps of Discovery with Adaptive Leadership

CON 416 or by Zoom: <https://arizona.zoom.us/j/82949902015>

Sheila Gephart, PhD, RN, FAAN

**Professor, University of Arizona College of Nursing
Interim Chair, Advanced Nursing Practice & Science**

Sheila Gephart, PhD, RN, FAAN is a distinguished nurse scientist whose work integrates neonatal clinical practice with groundbreaking research aimed at preventing necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC), a critical complication associated with premature birth. Her innovative contributions have significantly shifted clinician perceptions regarding the preventability of NEC, underscoring the vital role of engaging parents as stakeholders. Dr. Gephart developed GutCheckNEC, the first early warning score for NEC, which has been validated across 284 NICUs and downloaded thousands of times across the globe. This tool aims to facilitate early detection and improve outcomes for fragile neonates. Her initiative, "NEC-Zero," promotes a comprehensive approach to eliminate NEC through an innovative bundle of clinical practices that engages families. In addition to her research on NEC, Dr. Gephart investigates the unintended consequences of electronic health records (EHRs) on clinician workload and patient safety. She co-created the Carrington-Gephart Unintended Consequences Questionnaire, widely used for assessing EHR usability. Her efforts extend to dissemination and implementation science, where she has contributed to projects to optimize clinical decision support systems. With 99 published manuscripts and over 3,300 citations, Dr. Gephart's research has been widely recognized.

In addition to her research accomplishments, Dr. Gephart has completed formal leadership training through various programs, including the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Nurse Faculty Scholars Program and the University of Arizona's Academic Leadership Institute. As interim chair of the Advanced Nursing Practice and Science Division, she collaborated closely with the DNP program director and specialty coordinators to enhance the DNP educational experience, which is currently ranked #19 in the U.S. Dr. Gephart's leadership philosophy emphasizes fostering a positive workplace culture and supporting faculty development, stewarding rich human resources with tools from adaptive leadership. She advocates for a respectful and inclusive environment that values all doctoral pathways in nursing. She emphasizes mentorship in her teaching philosophy, guiding students through collaborative research experiences and promoting their professional development. Her teaching has been recognized with university awards and her students have achieved notable success in scholarship, funding, and academic success. Dr. Gephart actively engages in professional service, contributing to organizations such as the National Association of Neonatal Nursing and the NEC Society. She has received multiple awards for her leadership and innovation in nursing, including the NANN Distinguished Service Award, Fellowship in the American Academy of Nursing, and the Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science Brilliant New Investigator award. Looking ahead, Dr. Gephart is committed to advancing nursing education and research, addressing workforce shortages, and nurturing the next generation of doctorally prepared changemakers in nursing.