Excellence in Research

Christy C. Tangney, PhD, FACN, CNS

Christy C. Tangney, PhD, FACN, CNS, professor in the Department of Clinical Nutrition and associate dean of Research in the College of Health Sciences, is recognized worldwide for her work on the effects of diet on cognitive health. She is a widely regarded expert in vitamin E, vitamin B12, and the Mediterranean diet, often publishing and presenting on these topics.

When joining the Rush community, Dr. Tangney led much of the research in the department of Clinical Nutrition. She designed the first research methods course for the program and developed a graduate research guide with the help of faculty in the department, which served as a model for many other programs. She has been honored by the College of Health Sciences with the Research Excellence Award.

Dr. Tangney participated as a principal or co-investigator on more than 30 grants, many of them nationally funded. These funded projects resulted in numerous publications and presentations and brought recognition to her and to Rush. Dr. Tangney worked on a clinicopathologic study of diet and brain vitamin E levels among the Rush Memory and Aging Project study participants as a part of the Chicago Health and Aging Project, a National Institutes of Health-funded study on the role of metals in diet and brain pathology. She is also a co-investigator of an ongoing National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) cross-sectional study of the role delay discounting plays in food purchase and dietary behavior.

Dr. Tangney has authored or co-authored more than 100 peer-reviewed publications, six book chapters and lectured at more than 125 conferences. In these arenas, she addresses the use and refinement of dietary indices (HEI, MedDietScores, HEI2005, HEI2010, DASH and MIND) and biomarkers of healthy women and men and those with chronic diseases, particularly Parkinson’s disease, breast cancer, Alzheimer’s disease and cardiovascular diseases. Her work is extensively cited by others; a review of Scopus shows that her publications from 2000-14 have been cited approximately 4,200 times.

In addition to her own research, Dr. Tangney serves as a research mentor for many junior faculty and for many clinical nutrition master’s degree students. Advising more than 100 graduate students for their master’s theses or doctoral dissertations, she plays an important role in the foundation of their careers. “Developing future successful researchers is key to advancing the research field beyond one’s own published work and another reason Dr. Tangney is deserving of this award,” states nominator Heather Rasmussen, PhD, RD, associate professor in the Department of Clinical Nutrition.

Faculty Recognition Reception Honorees

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Rami Doukky, MD
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Rush Medical College

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Dian Wang, MD
Radiation Oncology
Rush Medical College

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### Faculty Recognition Reception Honorees

#### Associate Professors

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Fifth Annual
Faculty Recognition Reception

June 23, 2015
Professional Building
Room 500
Searle Conference Center