

Biography

Elizabeth A. Kostas-Polston, PhD, APRN, WHNP-BC is an Assistant Professor in the Daniel K. Inouye Graduate School of Nursing.



Elizabeth A. Kostas-Polston, PhD, APRN, WHNP-BC, FAANP is a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Nurse Faculty Scholar and nationally board certified Women's Health Nurse Practitioner (WHNP-BC) who holds a dual appointment as Assistant Professor in the Daniel K. Inouye Graduate School of Nursing at the

University of Florida, and a Doctor of Philosophy from Loyola University Chicago. Dr. Kostas-Polston's national and international leadership in policy, research, and practice occur at the intersection of her roles as scholar, scientist, and Women's Health Nurse Practitioner. Throughout her Nursing career, Dr. Kostas-Polston has served in many leadership positions at the national, regional, state, and local levels. Early in her career, she served as a United States Air Force commissioned officer-nurse and was awarded the *National Defense Service Medal* in support of Operation Desert Shield/Storm. Dr. Kostas-Polston was competitively selected as one of only few named RWJF Nurse Faculty Scholars from across the U.S., and currently serves as a RWJF Nurse Faculty Scholar In-Residence on the American Academy of Nursing's (AAN) Women's Health Expert Panel. She was competitively selected as a Fellow of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners (FAANP of the AANP) and serves as an invited member of the AANP Nurse Research (AANPNR) Advisory Group. Dr. Kostas-Polston is serving a three year term as Primary Grant Reviewer for the American Nurses Foundation (ANF); the research arm for the American Nurses Association (ANA). As a Women's Health Subject Matter Expert Reviewer, Dr. Kostas-Polston served on the TriService Nursing Research Program Grant Review Committee. Always interested in quality and safety,

Dr. Kostas-Polston serves as a member of the Quality and Safety Education for Nurses (QSEN) National Conference Planning Committee and is a Teaching Strategy Reviewer for the QSEN Institute. Over a period of six years, Dr. Kostas-Polston dedicated her service and leadership to the National Association of Nurse

Practitioners in Women's Health (NPWH). During this time, she served as: 1) a member of the

Board of Directors; 2) Chair of the Health Policy, Education, Research, and Long-Range Planning Committees; 3) member of the Executive Board of Directors; and 4) was elected and served as Chair of the National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health (NPWH). Committed to reducing HPV-related cancer morbidity and mortality, Dr. Kostas-Polston served as Invited Scientific Delegate on three American Society for Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology (ASCCP) task forces; two of which were co-sponsored by the United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSF) and American Cancer Society (ACS). Each task force produced recommendations for significant national and international clinical practice changes for cervical cancer screening, treatment, and management. Her leadership contributions in this effort are exemplified by her co-authorship of the *2012 US Cervical Cancer Management Consensus Guidelines*. Dr. Kostas-Polston is Co-Editor for women's health textbook, *Women's Health Care in Advanced Practice Nursing* (Alexander, I., Johnson-Mallard, V., Kostas-Polston, E. A., Fogel, C. I., & Woods, N. F. [Eds.], New York: Springer Publishing Company, LLC), and works closely mentoring contributors. At the regional, state, and local levels, she served two terms as the Chair of the Midwest Nursing Research Society (MNRS) Women's Health Research Section and Executive Secretary/Treasurer of Sigma Theta Tau International, Delta Lambda Chapter. An advocate for the delivery of family planning services to uninsured and underserved women and communities, Dr. Kostas-Polston served as member of the Board of Directors of the Missouri Family Health Council (MFHC). In this capacity, she was involved in critical health policy and financial decision-making regarding the distribution and use of federal family planning funding issued to the State of Missouri. Always focused locally as well as nationally, Dr. Kostas-Polston secured federal funding for rural and underserved Howell County, Missouri to improve comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services where no such funding had ever existed. As RWJF Nurse Faculty Scholar and leader of the Florida Action Coalition Leadership Action Team, Dr. Kostas-Polston drives the implementation of the *IOM/RWJF Future of Nursing Report* recommendations to assist with preparing nurse leaders to address our nation's health care challenges—access, quality, and cost.

As nurse scientist, Dr. Kostas-Polston's scholarship is focused on assuring the effective translation of knowledge for new approaches related to health promotion, disease prevention, and the diagnosis, treatment, and management of Human Papillomavirus (HPV)-related cancers. Her research goals include developing tools for the detection of persistent HPV infection of the oropharynx as well as identifying strategies which may be used to inhibit the oncogenic activity of high risk HPV genotypes. Advancing genomics science to improve practice led to Dr. Kostas-Polston's selection as a National Institutes of Health/National Institute of Nursing Research

(NIH/NINR) Fellow with post-doctoral studies in Genetics, Genomics and Molecular Biology. Translating genetic and genomic advances into client care has been on Dr. Kostas-Polston's agenda and she has led efforts to integrate genomics into health care while addressing ethical challenges associated with genetic information and technology. Her expertise led to her leadership in developing the AANCs publication, *Essential Genetic and Genomic Competencies for Nurses with Graduate Degrees*. These essentials incorporate genetics and genomics into all clinical and non-clinical advanced practice nursing roles. Her research has been consistently funded by the National Institutes of Nursing Research (NINR) and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation; to name but a few. Further, acknowledging her contributions in support of nursing research in the critical areas of women's health, oncology, and pediatrics, Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI) awarded Dr. Kostas-Polston the *Rosemary Berkel Crisp Research Award*; and the Delta Lambda Chapter awarded her the *STTI International Research Award*. She has twice received the *NPWH Women's Health Research Award*. Dr. Kostas-Polston reviews for multiple scholarly and high impact nursing and interprofessional journals.

Dr. Kostas-Polston's sustained commitment to improving women and men's sexual and reproductive health led to the creation of an innovative body of knowledge regarding Human Papillomavirus (HPV) oropharyngeal (OP) cancer screening, detection, and prevention; leading to improved clinical practice outcomes. An expert clinician, Dr. Kostas-Polston has practiced as a Women's Health Nurse Practitioner for over 18 years while caring for the obstetric, gynecological, and primary care needs of those whom she serves (beneficiaries of the military health system; and rural and underserved, and urban and health despaired civilian women across the lifespan). Towards this end, Dr. Kostas-Polston maintains a clinical practice caring for and educating women and healthcare providers about cervical cancer prevention, screening, and treatment and management nationally and internationally. What's more, she works with Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences', national, and international colleagues and students interested in the development of health promotion and disease prevention strategies, evidence-based clinical guidelines, and policy focused on sexual and reproductive health and HPV-related cancer prevention.