

Nursing Alumni Magazine Story  
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**Combining Nursing and Econometrics to Solve the Nursing Crisis  
NYU Professors to Study Nurses' Work Decisions in  
Five-Year Nationwide Study**

What are the factors that lead some nurses to remain in, and others to leave, their first jobs after graduation? The answers to this question may be important clues to addressing the ongoing shortage of nurses in our health care system, according to Dr. Christine Kovner RN, PhD, FAAN, of the College of Nursing.

In September 2005, New York University was awarded a \$1.96 million grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to launch a five-year study to track the careers of newly licensed nurses. With Dr. Kovner serving as principal investigator and Dr. William Greene, PhD from Stern School of Business as a co-principal investigator, a team of researchers will periodically survey some 3,000 recent graduates of nursing programs over the first four years of their careers. They hope their findings will inform health care organizations and policy makers' efforts to retain qualified RNs and improve the environments in which they work.

"New graduates of nursing programs who become registered nurses are essential to balancing the supply and demand for these professionals," says Dr. Kovner. "Although enrollments in nursing programs have recently begun to rise again, there is some concern that newly licensed RNs leave hospital positions more frequently than RNs with more experience." The study will look particularly at whether nurses who leave their first positions are leaving for other health care settings or are going to work in other fields.

Dr. Kovner is a public health nurse whose past research has addressed the costs and usage of health care personnel. She is the author of numerous articles on the nursing workforce and patient safety. Dr. Greene, an expert in econometrics and professor in the economics department of NYU Stern School of Business, will bring his econometrics expertise to this project as a co-investigator on the grant.

Terry Fulmer, PhD, RN, FAAN, dean of the NYU College of Nursing says, "The findings of this study will help leaders in the field make informed decisions about where in the system we need to make greater investments in educating, hiring, and retaining excellent nurses." She adds, "We deeply appreciate the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's strong support for this important study on an issue that is so critical to the health of our nation."