



Name: Peninnah Kako, PhD, MSN, RN, FNP-BC

Current Title: Professor

Affiliation: University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee

Candidate for: MNRS Nominating Committee Member

Personal Statement:

I am a tenured Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM), College of Health Professions and Sciences, School of Nursing. Before joining UWM, I held multiple staff nursing and Family Nurse Practitioner positions in various healthcare facilities in Southeastern Wisconsin. I was also the coordinator for community partnerships for a major healthcare system in Southeastern Wisconsin, where I developed a consortium model to increase healthcare access for underserved populations through school-based health clinics.

My program of research and scholarship advances health equity for vulnerable populations by improving health outcomes for women living with HIV, those experiencing HIV risk, and gender-based violence in sub-Saharan Africa and United States (WI). Since starting my research in sub-Saharan Africa, I have in recent years expanded my work to United States (WI) applying lessons learned in community engagement and cultural sensitivity from my work in Sub-Saharan Africa to engage in vulnerable populations in Wisconsin to address health needs of women at risk of and experiencing gender-based violence.

I have disseminated my publications and funded research projects widely with multidisciplinary teams. I continue to advance nursing science and policy through my work to address the health needs of marginalized, vulnerable populations who experience grave healthcare disparities. My recent work focused on gender-based violence in the lives of Black and American Indian women in Wisconsin, which is filling a critical gap in addressing health access disparities. I am currently the program director and principal investigator for the recently funded sexual assault nurse examiner training program at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, which is funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

My leadership experience includes being the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Director from 2016-2019.

As the DNP Director, I led the faculty and staff through a curriculum redesign that saw a

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strengthened curriculum to meet the needs of the students. I am a purpose-driven transformational leader. I aspire to empower others through meaningful mentoring. I have successfully mentored junior faculty to attain tenure and students to complete impactful research studies nationally and internationally. Some of my PhD students have advanced to tenure track and clinical research positions. I continue seeking opportunities to advance my leadership and networking skills. I am a 2024-2025 American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) Elevating Leaders in Academic Nursing (ELAN) program. This program has expanded my network nationally.

As a potential Member of the Board of Directors, my vision is to support and advocate for mentoring junior faculty and students to conduct socially impactful and meaningful research. I believe that this aligns with the board's mission to promote excellence in nursing research and scholarship. Furthermore, as a member of the MNRS board, I aspire to use my expanding network to advance MNRS's vision and mission, particularly in the areas of health equity and the advancement of nursing science.

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