

## BRENDA S. LESSEN

### EDUCATION

Ph.D. University of Illinois at Chicago  
2008 Maternal Child Nursing  
Neonatal Science

M.S. University of Illinois at Chicago  
1995 Community Nurse Specialist  
Maternal/Child Emphasis

B.S.N. Illinois Wesleyan University  
1989 Bloomington, Illinois

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

8/09 – Assistant Professor of Nursing  
present School of Nursing, Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington, Illinois

8/08 – Visiting Instructor in Nursing  
5/09 School of Nursing, Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington, Illinois

8/05 – Adjunct Instructor in Nursing  
5/08 Methodist College of Nursing, Peoria, Illinois

8/05 – Adjunct Instructor in Nursing  
5/08 School of Nursing, Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington, Illinois

8/02 – Visiting Instructor in Nursing  
8/05 School of Nursing, Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington, Illinois

8/06 – Temporary Full Time Faculty  
12/06 Richland Community College, Decatur, Illinois

8/99 – Instructional Assistant Professor  
7/02 Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University, Normal, Illinois

4/99 – Pediatric/Mother-Baby RN – Registry  
3/03 BroMenn Home Health, Normal, Illinois

1/95 – Clinical Instructor/Lecturer  
5/99 Mennonite College of Nursing, Bloomington, Illinois

3/94 – Education Coordinator, Nursing Division  
6/95 Proctor Hospital, Peoria, Illinois

4/92 – Registry RN, Level II Nursery/Pediatrics  
6/95 BroMenn Regional Medical Center, Bloomington, Illinois

12/91 – Clinical Educator, Maternal/Child, Med/Surg  
3/94 Proctor Hospital, Peoria, Illinois

10/90 – Nurse Manager, Pediatrics  
11/91 Proctor Hospital, Peoria, Illinois

5/89 – Staff RN, Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit  
10/90 OSF Saint Francis Medical Center, Peoria, Illinois

**LICENSURE**

Registered Professional Nurse, State of Illinois

**CERTIFICATIONS**

Neonatal Resuscitation Program Instructor  
Department of Children & Family Services: Certified Mandated Reporter

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing, Theta Pi Chapter  
(Faculty Counselor/Governance Committee)  
National Association of Neonatal Nurses  
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses

**PUBLICATIONS**

Lessen, B. (2010). Effect of the Premature Infant Oral Motor Intervention (PIOMI) on Feeding Progression and Length of Stay in Preterm Infants, *Advances in Neonatal Care*. 11(2), 129-139.

Lessen, B. (2009) Effect of oral stimulation on feeding progression in preterm infants. [Abstract]. *Advances in Neonatal Care*, 9(4), 187.

White-Traut, R., Lessen, B. et al. (2005) The relationship of feeding readiness behaviors and behavioral state to feeding efficiency. *MCN*, 30(1), 52-59.

**RESEARCH**

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 2011        | Invited Expert Research Consultant (with honorarium) Maternal and Infant Studies<br>J. Reckner Associates, Inc., Montgomery, PA  |
| 2010        | Reliability of the Premature Infant Oral Motor Intervention (PIOMI)<br>IRB#154207-1  |
| 2008        | Effect of oral stimulation on feeding progression in preterm infants.<br>Doctoral Dissertation Research  |
| 2005        | Neurobehavioral responses of preterm infants to ATVV intervention.<br>NIH/NRSA Pre-doctoral Grant Submission (Scored)  |
| 1995 – 1996 | Research Assistant to Dr. Eileen Fowles in her published work: Fowles, E. (1999). The Brazelton neonatal behavioral assessment scale and maternal identity. <i>The American Journal of Maternal/ Child Nursing</i> , 24(6), 287-293. |
| 1995        | Postpartum Mother's Perceptions of Competence for Newborn Care<br>Master's degree original qualitative research across five centers  |

**TEACHING EXPERTISE**

• **ILLINOIS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY**

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| 2011 – present | N430 Maternal and Newborn Nursing<br>Course Coordinator: theory and clinical   |
| 2008 – 2011    | N410 High Risk Obstetrical Nursing<br>Clinical                                 |
| 2009 – 2010    | N260 Health Assessment and Communication<br>Course Coordinator: theory and lab |
| 2009 – 2010    | H370 Women's Health<br>Theory  |
| 2010 – 2011    | N460 Epidemiology and Community Health Science                                 |
| 2006 – 2008    | Clinical   |
| 2002 – 2005    | N460 Epidemiology and Community Health Science                                 |
| 2009           | Course Coordinator: Theory and Clinical  |

2008 – 2009	N219 Interactive Processes in Nursing Course Coordinator: theory and lab
2002 – 2005	N219 Interactive Processes in Nursing Lab
2008 – 2010	N250 Well Elderly Nursing Clinical
2002 – 2005	N220 Health Assessment Across the Lifespan Lab
2002 – 2003	H330 Human Sexuality Theory
2002 – present	N497 Pediatric Nursing Internship

• **METHODIST COLLEGE OF NURSING**

2005 – 2008	N310 Health Assessment Across the Lifespan Lab
2005 – 2008	N420 Pediatrics in the Community: Accelerated Program Clinical

• **RICHMOND COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

2006	N150 Maternal Child Nursing Clinical (temporary full time position)
------	--

• **MENNONITE COLLEGE OF NURSING AT ISU**

2010 – present	N316 Maternal Infant Nursing Clinical
1999 – 2002	N316 Maternal Infant Nursing Clinical
1995 – 1999	N316 Maternal Infant Nursing Theory and clinical
1999 – 2002	N329 Community Health Nursing Clinical
1999 – 2002	N225 Health Assessment Lab

**PROFESSIONAL  
PRESENTATIONS**

3/10	“ High Risk Obstetrical Simulation for Undergraduate Students” Drexel Simulation Conference, Orlando, Florida
11/09	“Two-Pound Preemies: Can We Change Their Brains?” Non-Org, Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington, Illinois
9/09	“A New Oral Stimulation Program for Preterm Neonates: Effect on Feeding and Length of Stay” National Association of Neonatal Nurses (NANN) National Conference, Austin, Texas
9/09	“A New Oral Stimulation Program for Preterm Neonates: Effect on Feeding and Length of Stay” Neonatal Grand Rounds, Children’s Hospital of Illinois, OSF Saint Francis Medical Center, Peoria, Illinois
4/09	“When to Implement Evidence in Practice: Oral Stimulation on Feeding Progression in Preterm Neonates.” STTI Theta Pi Induction Ceremony Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington, Illinois
4/09	“Effect of Oral Stimulation on Feeding Progression in Preterm Neonates” (Poster Presentation) STTI Evidence Based Practice Conference Illinois State University, Normal, Illinois
3/09	“Effect of Oral Stimulation on Feeding Progression in Preterm Neonates” National Association of Neonatal Nurses (NANN) National Summit, Scottsdale, Arizona

4/08	“Body Mass Index in Low Income School-Age Population” District 150 Administration, Peoria, Illinois
9/07	“Reflective Journaling in Community Health Clinical” Methodist College of Nursing, Peoria, Illinois
9/07	“TWU Alumni-Research and Practice” Annual Nursing Open House Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington, Illinois
11/05	“An Academic-Community Partnership for Service-Learning in Community Health” Sigma Theta Tau International Biennial Convention, Indianapolis, Indiana
10/03	“The Oxford, UK Experience” Illinois Wesleyan University Nursing Convocation Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington, Illinois
9/03	“TWU Alumni Perspectives” Annual Nursing Open House-Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington, Illinois
9/02	“TWU Alumni-Professional Journey” Annual Nursing Open House-Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington, Illinois
3/95	"Postpartum Mother's Perceptions of Competence for Newborn Care" Research Convocation-Mennonite College of Nursing, Bloomington, Illinois
10/93	"Pediatric Medication Administration" School of Nursing Seminar, Illinois Central College, Peoria, Illinois
10/92	"The Hospitalized Child" Child Development Seminar Richwoods High School, Peoria, Illinois

**SERVICE**

▪ **UNIVERSITY**

2004	Honors Research Committee: Sociology Department “Contraceptive Education within Families-Issues with Abstinence and Other Perspectives”
------	---

▪ **SON**

2010 – 2011	Student Affairs Committee – Faculty Representative Neonatal Resuscitation Provider Course: 10 students Faculty Supervisor: Student Internship – Pediatrics Nurse Faculty Organization – Vice Chair Open Rank Faculty Search Committee Faculty Mentor: Freshman Faculty Advisor: Juniors
2009 – 2010	Curriculum Revision Committee-Sophomore Work Group/Senior Work Group Student Affairs Committee Senior Honors Research Chairperson Neonatal Resuscitation Provider Course: 13 students
2008 – 2009	Curriculum Revision Committee: Senior Work Group Student Affairs Committee – Chair Faculty Supervisor: Student Internship – NICU Neonatal Resuscitation Provider Course: 7 students
2002 – 2009	Faculty Supervisor: Student Internships – NICU

- 2002 – 2003 Nursing Open House Alumni Panel Presentation
- 2002 – 2009 Neonatal Resuscitation Provider Course: 2 Faculty/6 Students
- 2002 – 2004 Curriculum Committee
- 2002 – 2006 Guest Lecturer for Nursing/Health Courses
- **COMMUNITY INVOLVMENT**
  - 2002 – 2005 Advancing Public Health Nursing Education (APHNE) State Advisory Board Member
  - 2002 – 2005 APHNE Regional Consortia Member (Urbana and Peoria)
  - 2002 – 2005 Community Health Assessment Committee – McLean County Health Department
  - 2002 – 2005 Head Start Health Advisory Committee - McLean County
  - 2003 – 2007 American Public Health Association (APHA) National Mentoring Program: Public Health Mentor

**CONTINUING EDUCATION**

- Sept. 2011 Facilitation of Simulation-based Learning, American Academy of Pediatrics (on-line)
- Jan. 2011 Quality and Safety Education for Nurses (QSEN) Faculty Development Institute, Phoenix, Arizona
- Sept. 2009 The Neonatal Resuscitation Program (NRP) Changes Course: The Move to Simulation and Debriefing, National Association of Neonatal Nurses (NANN) Annual Continuing Education Conference, Austin, Texas
- Sept. 2009 The Little Ones: Intrauterine Growth Retardation NANN Annual Continuing Education Conference, Austin, Texas
- Sept. 2009 Breast Milk for Infants Under 1,500 Grams Birth Weight. NANN Annual Continuing Education Conference, Austin, Texas
- Sept. 2009 Touch and Handling in the NICU: Does It Have to Be Stressful for Babies? NANN Annual Continuing Education Conference, Austin, Texas
- Sept. 2009 Initiation of an Evidence-Based Feeding Bundle. NANN Annual Continuing Education Conference, Austin, Texas
- Sept. 2009 After 25 Years of Ethical Conflicts in Neonatal Nursing-Have We Reached Any Conclusions? NANN Annual Continuing Education Conference, Austin, Texas
- April 2009 Evidence Based Practice Conference, STTI Illinois State University, Normal, Illinois
- March 2009 National Association of Neonatal Nurses (NANN) 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual National Summit, Scottsdale, Arizona
- Feb. 2008 Collaborative IRB Training Initiative (CITI) University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, Illinois
- March 2008 HIPPA Research Training, University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, Illinois

## BRENDA S. LESSEN

- April 2008 Research Colloquium, Methodist College of Nursing, Peoria, Illinois
- April 2008 Poverty Simulation, University of Illinois Extension, Peoria County, Peoria, Illinois
- May 2006 Take This Job...And Love IT! Methodist Medical Center of Illinois, Peoria, Illinois
- May 2004 Emerging Issues in Epidemiology, Lake Mary, Florida
- Jan. 2004 Influenza and Beyond; Responding to Vaccine-Preventable Diseases, Atlanta, Georgia
- Sept. 2003 Nurse Your Patient, Nurse Yourself, Springfield, Illinois
- Sept. 2003 Health Literacy and Public Health Nursing Workshop, Chicago, Illinois
- April 2003 Making Change Happen: Translating Research into MCH Public Health Practice: Eliminating Health Disparities, Chicago, Illinois
- Jan. 2003 Wired Communities: Putting the e in Public Health, Atlanta, Georgia Webcast
- Jan. 2003 KRON Nutritive Sucking Apparatus University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia (Resident Researcher)
- Nov. 2002 6th Annual Midwest Neonatology Critical Care Symposium, Cincinnati, Ohio
- Sept 2002 Rewards, Recognition, and Imagination: Celebrate Nursing, Heartland Community College, Bloomington, Illinois
- July 2003 Summer School on Connectionist Modeling (Competitive admission) Oxford University, United Kingdom
- May 2003 Health Information Privacy Protection: Crisis or Common Sense? ANA On-line Study Module
- Aug. 2003 Human Participant Protection Education for Research Teams, NIH National Cancer Institute On-Line Course
- Feb. 2003 Disaster Preparedness and Response for Nurses STTI Online Case Study