

**Curriculum Vitae**  
**Rebecca Birch Tsusaki, PhD, APRN-CNP, WHNP-BC, IBCLC**

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**EDUCATION**

- Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing.*** University of Texas Health Science Center 12/2013  
Cizik School of Nursing. Houston, Texas. ***Dissertation:*** *Late Preterm Breastfeeding Patterns and Cardiac Activity during Breastfeeding using Surface Electromyography.*
- Post-master's Women's Healthcare Nurse Practitioner.*** University of 05/2013  
Texas Health Science Center Cizik School of Nursing. Houston, Texas
- Master of Science in Nursing.*** University of Texas Health Science Center 05/2008  
Cizik School of Nursing. Houston, Texas. **Emphasis:** Women's Health Care & Education.  
***Thesis:*** *Breastfeeding Late Preterm Infants and Cumulative Incidence of Rehospitalization in the Neonatal Period*
- Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing.*** University of Texas Health Science 05/2005  
Center at Houston Cizik School of Nursing. Magna Cum Laude
- Lakeland Community College, Kirtland, Ohio 06/1991  
***Associate of Science Degree in Nursing***

**EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP**

**Community of Medical Education Scholars (CoMES) Program** 09/2021 – 02/2022  
Educational scholarship program with an emphasis on active, hands-on learning. Protocol for the *Respecting Individual Sexuality in Nursing and Health Care* developed.

**FELLOWSHIP**

**UTHSC-Houston Health Educators Fellowship Program** 01/2015 - 06/2017  
**Project:** *Piloting Experiential Skills Lab Set in a Didactic Undergraduate Reproductive Health Course.*  
Houston, Texas.

**Advanced Quality Improvement Certificate.** Texas Children's Hospital 08/2018  
**Project:** *Promoting Scholarly Writing.*

**LICENSES & CERTIFICATIONS**

Advanced practice nurse #AP123693 – WHNP-BC- Texas	Active	2013-present
Texas RN License #637506	Active	1997-present
International Board-Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC)	Active	2010-present
Breastfeeding Educator: Texas Department of Health	Active	2007-present
Ohio RN license	Inactive	1991-1997
Ohio Paramedic certificate	Inactive	1986-1997

## **ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS**

University of Texas Health Science Center Houston Cizik School of Nursing Houston, Texas <i>Assistant Professor of Clinical Nursing. Department of Graduate Studies</i>	04/2014-Current
<i>Clinical Placement Liaison for Nurse Practitioner Programs Department of Graduate Studies</i>	01/2018- 03/2019
University of Texas Health Science Center Houston Cizik School of Nursing Houston, Texas. <i>Teaching Associate and Clinical Coordinator, Reproductive Healthcare, Department of Family Health</i>	04/2008 – 04/2014
University of Texas Health Science Center Houston Cizik School of Nursing Houston, Texas. <i>Teaching Assistant/Graduate Student, Reproductive Healthcare</i>	05/2007- 05/2008

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

<b>UT Health Services, Houston, Texas.</b> Woman's Health Nurse Practitioner <b>Faculty Practice.</b>	01/2023 - Current
<b>Women's Home, Houston, Texas.</b> A residential treatment program that serves homeless women struggling with addiction and mental illness. Women's Health Nurse Practitioner. <b>Faculty Practice.</b>	02/2015- 01/2021 01/2021- Current (PRN)
<b>OB GYN Medical Center Associates. Houston, Texas</b> Women's Health Nurse Practitioner and Breastfeeding Consultant. <b>Faculty Practice</b>	01/2015 – 06/2015
<b>Memorial Hermann Hospital, Texas Medical Center, Houston, Texas</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• RN/APRN-Women's Health Services</li><li>• International Board-Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC)</li><li>• Patient Triage</li><li>• Transitional Nursery</li><li>• Postpartum Family care</li><li>• Antepartum care</li></ul>	06/2005 - 04/2014
<b>Advanced Temporaries, Houston, Texas</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Registered Nurse. Per diem assignments in Houston area</li><li>• Neonatal ICUs- levels II and III, transitional and low-risk nurseries and postpartum care units.</li></ul>	05/1999 - 06/2005
<b>University of Texas Medical Branch Hospital, Galveston, Texas</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Registered Nurse - Endoscopy Department</li><li>• Conscious sedation certified.</li><li>• Biopsy collection and other endoscopic procedures</li></ul>	05/1997 - 05/1999
<b>Cleveland Clinic Foundation, Cleveland, Ohio,</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Registered Nurse - Post Anesthesia Care Unit: Pediatric and Adult</li><li>• Pediatric Services Development Committee: Assisted with the development. of a new pediatric PACU.</li><li>• Served as a Charge Nurse and participated in the development of a pediatric orientation program for nursing staff</li><li>• Provided post-anesthesia care to pediatric and adult patients after procedure.</li><li>• Provided post-anesthesia care to SICU, MICU, and PICU patients.</li></ul>	04/1993 - 02/1997

**University Hospitals and Rainbow Babies Hospital of Cleveland.  
Cleveland, Ohio**

06/1986-04/1993

- Flight Dispatcher and Paramedic from 1986-1991, Emergency Department
- Registered Nurse in a Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit from 1991-1993.  
Cared for premature infants in critical condition, also assisted with ECMO.

**HONORS & AWARDS**

- Induction into Sigma Theta Tau International, Zeta Pi Chapter, 2006
- Magna Cum Laude, May 2006
- Harris County Medical Society Auxiliary Clinical Excellence Award, 2008
- Who's Who Among Colleges and Universities, 2006, 2008
- 2013 The UTHealth School of Nursing Faculty Award of Excellence
- 2011 & 2018 Zeta Pi Research Award.

**GRANTS**

University of Texas Kenneth I. Shine Academy of Health Science Education 2022, "Respecting Individuality and Sexuality in Nursing and Healthcare (RISINg-H) Curriculum Development for Sexual & Gender Minority Education: A Feasibility Study" (\$5,000)

Sigma Theta Tau-Zeta Pi Research Award 2011 - \$1500. Dissertation research: *A Pilot Study of Early Postnatal Late Preterm and Term Breastfeeding Patterns using Surface Electromyography.*

*Preventing Childhood Obesity through Early Feeding and Parenting Guidance.* Grant# NIH/NIDDK 1 R01DK096488-01A1 2014-2017: Co-investigator/Breastfeeding Consultant with Elizabeth Reifsnider (PI) ASU.

Sigma Theta Tau International Zeta Pi Chapter Research Award 2018: \$2500. *Student Steps to Success: An Evaluation of Stress, Grit, Belonging and Effect of Early Remediation in a Cohort of Undergraduate Students.*

**PUBLICATIONS**

- Tsusaki R., Mullassery, D., & Ramaswamy, P., (2024). Respecting Individuality and Sexuality in Nursing and Healthcare (RISINg-H) Curriculum Development for Sexual & Gender Minority Education: A Feasibility Study. *Journal of Advanced Nursing*.  
Doi: 10.1111/jan16051 Epub ahead of print. PMID: 38186086.
- Tsusaki, R., Mullassery, D., & Ramaswamy, P. (2024). Stress, Grit, Satisfaction with Life, and Remediation of Prelicensure Nursing Students. *Nurse Educator*, 49(1), 19–24.  
<https://doi.org/10.1097/NNE.0000000000001481>
- Mullassery, D., Tsusaki, R., & Ramaswamy, P. (2023). Neuroendocrine Approach to Treat Menopausal Vasomotor Symptoms: A Clinical Overview. *The Journal for Nurse Practitioners*, 19(10). doi: [10.1016/j.nurpra.2023.104801](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.nurpra.2023.104801)
- Eapen, D., Tsusaki, R., Mullassery, D., Goolsby, C., Lee, K., & Wardell, D. (2023). Women's Experience of Inter-personal Violence During the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Systematic Review. *Nursing for Women's Health*, 27(6), p435-44.  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.nwh.2023.07.003>
- Mullassery, D., & Tsusaki, R., (2023). Acute Genital Ulcers: When the Etiology Is Beyond the Obvious. *Journal for Nurse Practitioners* 19(5). doi.org.10.1016/j.nurpra.2022.09.009

- Tsusaki, R. Ethington, M., Helmreich, R., Mullassery, D. & Ramaswamy, P. (2022). Experiential Labs Embedded in a Didactic Course. *Journal of Nursing Education* 61(6), p.326-329. doi:10.3928/01484834-20220404-11
- Tsusaki, R.L., Wardell, D.W., Mancias, P., Kang, D., Padhye, N., (2016). **A Pilot Study of Early Postnatal Late Preterm and Term Breastfeeding Patterns using Surface Electromyography**. 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Worldwide Nursing Conference, Singapore. Print ISSN: 2315-4330, E-Periodical ISSN: 2315-4349.
- Tsusaki, R.L., Wardell, D., Mullassery, D. & Helmreich, R., Primary Care Nurse Practitioner in E.R. Giardino, R.G. Hanks, & A.P. Giardino (Eds.) 2014, **Collaboration with the Advanced Practice Nurse Role, Teamwork and Outcomes**. Hauppauge, NY. Nova Science Publishers. ISBN-10: 1633213110.
- Tsusaki, Rebecca Birth. student; Wardell, Diane advisor (2013), [Early postnatal breastfeeding patterns and cardiac activity during feeding in late preterm and term infants](#) *Dissertation*. John McGovern Historical Research Center.
- Tsusaki, R.L., in Littleton, L. & Engebretson, J. (Eds.) (2013), **Maternity Nursing Care** (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.) Chapter 18, **Nursing Care of the Low-Risk Postpartum Family**. ISBN10: 1-111-54312-7
- Tsusaki, Rebecca Birch.; University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. School of Nursing. (2008). [Breastfeeding late-preterm infants and cumulative incidence of rehospitalization in the neonatal period](#) *Thesis*. John McGovern Historical Research Center; WY 4B T882b 2008

## **PRESENTATIONS**

- Tsusaki, R., Mullassery, D., & Ramaswamy, P., **A Feasibility Study of Sexual and Gender Minority Education in Advanced Practice Nursing**. Sigma Theta Tau International 34<sup>th</sup> International Nursing Research Congress 2023
- Tsusaki, R. & Mullassery, D. **Hormonal Contraception Use for Non-contraceptive Medical Issues**. American Association of Nurse Practitioners National Conference 2023, New Orleans.
- Tsusaki, R. & Ramaswamy, P. **Healthcare for Lesbian, Bisexual, Queer, Transmasculine and Nonbinary Women**. American Association of Nurse Practitioners National Conference 2023, New Orleans.
- Ramaswamy, P. & Tsusaki, R. **Caring for the Transgender Patient**. American Association of Nurse Practitioners National Conference 2023, New Orleans.
- Mullassery, D., & Tsusaki, R. **Perimenopause, Menopause, & Sexual Health: Are You Ready for Your Patients?** American Association of Nurse Practitioners National Conference 2023, New Orleans.
- Tsusaki, R. **Respecting Individuality and Sexuality in Nursing and Healthcare (RISIng-H) Feasibility of E-Learning Curriculum Development for Sexual & Gender Minority Education for Nurse Practitioners**. Podium presentation: 2023 NONPF 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference. Orlando, Florida.
- Mullassery, D., Tsusaki, R. **Faculty Education CEU Initiative SGM Healthcare**. Podium presentation. American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) Transform 2022 Conference. Dallas, TX
- Ramaswamy, P. Tsusaki, R.L., Mullassery, D., **Sexual and Gender Minority Education in Healthcare: State of the Science**. Poster. 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Transcultural Nursing Society, 2022, Albuquerque, NM.

- Tsusaki, R.L., **Carla Diaz-Lewis Domestic Violence Lecture Series. (2021).** Expert panelist.
- Ramaswamy, P., Mullassery, D., Helmreich, R., & Tsusaki, R.L. (2021) **Sexual and Gender Minorities: State of the Science and Education.** Faculty Development Webinar.
- Tsusaki, R.L., Ramaswamy, P., (2021) **Sexual and Gender Minorities: Social Determinants of Health and Health Disparities in the Sexual and Gender Minority Community.** Faculty Development Webinar.
- Tsusaki, R.L., & Mullassery, D., (2021). **Sexual and Gender Minorities: An Introduction to common terminology, demographics, intersectionality, and identity.** Cizik School of Nursing. Houston, Texas. Faculty Development Webinar
- Tsusaki, R.L., (2020). **Spirituality: Meaning, Concept, and Significance in Nursing.** Presentation. Podium presentation via International Webinar on Spirituality in Nursing. Lisie College of Nursing, Ernakulam, India.
- Tsusaki, R.L., (2020) **Why Breastmilk is the Best Nutrition.** Intimate Partner Violence. Webinar presentations. Texas Nurse-Family Partnership Conference (Canceled due to Covid 19).
- Tsusaki, R.L., Helmreich, R.J., (2019). **Undergraduate Student Stress, Grit, Belonging and a Mindfulness Intervention** Poster presentation at The UTHealth 8th Annual Research/Evidence-based Practice Day, Houston, TX. October 2019.
- Tsusaki, R.L., Helmreich, R.J., (2019). **Student Steps to Success: An Evaluation of Stress, Grit, Belonging and Effect of Early Remediation in a Cohort of Undergraduate Students.** Poster presentation at the National League for Nursing Education Summit, Washington, D.C., September 2019.
- Helmreich, R.J., Tsusaki, R.L., (2019). **Clinical Curriculum Design for Undergraduate Reproductive Health Students – Care of the Postpartum Family workshop.** March of Dimes. Houston, Texas.
- Tsusaki, R.L., (2019). **Overcoming the Challenges of Breastfeeding after Postpartum Discharge.** Podium presentation. Texas Nurse-Family Partnership Conference. Galveston, Texas.
- Tsusaki, R.L., Helmreich, R.J., Ethington, M.D., Mullassery, D.G., Lyons, M.M. (2017). **Piloting Experiential Skills Lab Set in a Didactic Undergraduate Reproductive Health Course.** Poster presentation at UT Health Advances in Teaching and Learning Conference, Houston Texas.
- Tsusaki, R.L., (2014). **Late Preterm Breastfeeding Patterns and Cardiac Activity during feeding.** Podium presentation. Council for Advancement of Nursing State of the Science Conference, Washington, D.C., 2014.
- Tsusaki, R.L., (2014). **Helping the Breastfeeding Late Preterm Family: Research Findings and Strategies.** Podium presentation. March of Dimes Gravens Conference, Tampa, Florida. February 2014.
- Tsusaki, R.L., (2013). **Feeding the Late Preterm Infant.** Podium presentation. March of Dimes Visiting Professorship, October 2013
- Tsusaki, R.L. (2011). **Low-Risk Maternal Care.** Memorial Hermann Hospital, Nurse Fellowship Program. September 2012
- Hurst, N. & Tsusaki, R.L. (2011) **Providing Breastmilk for the Preterm NICU Infant.** Podium presentation: Sigma Theta Tau International Biennium, Grapevine, Texas. October 2011
- Tsusaki, R.L. (2011). **Low-Risk Maternal Care.** Memorial Hermann Hospital, Nurse Fellowship Program. September 2011.
- Tsusaki, R.L. (2009) **Breastfeeding Late Preterm Infants, Illness in the Neonatal Period and Rehospitalization.** Podium presentation. Sigma Theta Tau Zeta Pi Chapter Research Day, April 2009.
- Tsusaki, R.L. (2009). **Late Preterm Feeding Methods and Cumulative Incidence of Rehospitalization.** Poster presentation at the *Kaleidoscope Challenge Your Mind* Conference, Galveston, Texas.

- Tsusaki, R.L. (2008). **Breastfeeding Late-Preterm Infants and Cumulative Incidence of Rehospitalization in the Neonatal Period.** *Master's Thesis.*
- Tsusaki, R.L. (2007). **Preterm Labor**, 2007-University of Texas School of Nursing
- Tsusaki, R.L. (2007, 2008). **Women's Health Care-Gynecology.** Presented at the University of Texas Health Science Center Houston School of Nursing
- Tsusaki, R.L. (2007). **Reproductive Freedom.** Presented at University of Texas Health Science Center Houston School of Nursing.
- Birch-Tsusaki, R.L. (2006). **Evidenced-Based Nursing.** Podium presentation. Twelve Oaks Hospital, Houston, Texas
- Birch. R.L, Kawolics, B. (1996). **Care of the Pediatric Post-Anesthesia Patient.** Podium - Cleveland Clinic Foundation, Cleveland, Ohio.

## **RESEARCH**

- 2023 - **Co-Investigator:** Lactation consultant's knowledge, beliefs, and opinions on HIV, breastfeeding, and tele-lactation. Emily Barr (PI).
- 2021-2022 **Primary Investigator:** *Respecting Individuality and Sexuality in Nursing and Healthcare (RISINg-H) Curriculum Development for Sexual & Gender Minority Education: A Feasibility Study.* Kenneth I. Shine Academy Health Science Education. \$5000. IRB HSC-SN-22-0110
- 2018-2019 **Primary Investigator:** *An Evaluation of Stress, Grit, Belonging, and Effect of Remediation in a Cohort of Undergraduate Reproductive Health Students.* Grant #00131733 STTI \$2500. IRB HSC-SN-17-0374
- 2017 **Primary Investigator:** *Piloting Experiential Skills Lab Set in a Didactic Undergraduate Reproductive Health Course. HEFP Project.* IRB HSN-SN-17-0374
- 2014-2017 **Co-Investigator & Breastfeeding Consultant.** *Preventing Childhood Obesity through Early Feeding and Parenting Guidance NIH. 5R01DK096488-02, \$995,000.* Elizabeth Reifsnider (PI).
- 2012-2013 **Primary Investigator:** *Late preterm Breastfeeding Patterns and Cardiac Activity during Feeding using Surface Electromyography.* IRB HSN-SN-12-0299
- 2011-2012 **Primary Investigator:** *Pilot Study: Breastfeeding Patterns of Late Preterm and Term infants.* IRB HSN-SN-10-0523
- 2007-2008 **Primary Investigator:** *Breastfeeding Late preterm Infants and the Cumulative Incidence of Rehospitalization in the Neonatal Period.* IRB HSC-GEN-07-0566

## **SERVICE COMMITTEES**

### **UT HEALTH CIZIK SCHOOL OF NURSING**

- DEI Outreach, Education, and Training Committee 2023
- UT Health Interfaculty Council (IFC) – Six years  
UT Health Administrative Affairs IFC Subcommittee-Chair, UT Health Governance, and Academic Affairs IFC Subcommittee
- Faculty Assembly – Parliamentarian 2019 & 2021
- T.F. Burks Scholarship Committee
- MSN Council Chair-elect 2021
- MSN Council Chair FY 2022 - 2023
- DNP Council
- Proctor Management Committee
- Scholar's Day Planning Committee
- SAO Interview Committee

### **Service – Regional**

- Sigma Theta Tau International Zeta Pi Chapter

### **Service - National**

- NONPF abstract reviewer 2018/2020/2021/2022
- National League of Nursing (NLN) Item Writer 2022/2023

- Manuscript reviewer – Journal of Doctoral Nursing Practice, Clinical Nursing Research, and Nursing Open
- Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Program reviewer. HRSA-24-033: Healthy Start Initiative: Eliminating Disparities in Perinatal Health grant program objective review committee (ORC).

#### **Service Committees International**

- International Lactation Consult Association International Conference (2022, 2023) Program Task Force Member

#### **COMMUNITY SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS**

- 2014 – 2020: March of Dimes Professional Education Committee
- 2001- 2020 Primary Purpose Women – Volunteer: Assist drug addicted and homeless women in finding resources for addiction, homelessness, and domestic violence.

#### **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

- American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
- American Nurses Association
- American Association of Nurse Practitioners
- Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
- Houston Area Nurse Practitioners
- International Lactation Consultant Association (ILCA)
- National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women’s Health
- National League for Nursing (NLN)
- National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties
- Sigma Theta Tau International, Zeta Pi Chapter  
President-elect 2008-2010  
President 2010-2012  
Research Chair 2023- 2025
- Southern Nursing Research Society
- Texas Nurses Association
- Texas Nurse Practitioners
- United States Lactation Consultant Association

#### **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION LEADERSHIP**

- ILCA 2022, 2023 Program Task Force
- Sigma Theta Tau International Zeta Pi Chapter: President 2010-2012

#### **DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE ADVISOR**

- Heidi Mansy. Project: *Standardized Treatment for the Uncomplicated Urinary Tract Infections at Next Level Urgent Care Centers*. May 2020.
- Deitra Brown. Project: *Transitional Care Education for the Adolescent with Congenital Heart Disease*. May 2022.
- Lisa Stark. Project: *Reducing Readmission Rates by Intervening Based on Risk Category*. May 2023.

#### **COURSES TAUGHT**

- N7301 Translational Science I: Evidence Based Practice Foundations for the DNP. Developed evidenced -based practice and literature search curriculum.
- N7302: Translational Science II: Methodology for the DNP
- N7303 Translational Science III: Implementation
- N6808 Translational Science for the DNP
- N6910 FNP Specialty Care for DNP: Curriculum developed for the women’s special topics & LGBTQ health topics.

N6820 Data Analysis & Evaluation – DNP. Curriculum developer &Co-lead  
N6803 Clinical Scholarship Portfolio Development – DNP Mentoring and Advising  
N6807 Evidence Based Practice Principles – DNP – Curriculum developer & Course Lead  
N6851 The Business of Healthcare - DNP  
N6105 Evaluation & Application of Research – MSN  
N5530 Women’s Health Care I – Graduate WHC-NP program  
N6194 Family Nurse Practitioner I -Clinical & Typhon documents coordinator  
Family Nurse Practitioner I Didactic Course Sexual & Gender Minority Education (funded project)  
curriculum development.  
Family Nurse Practitioner II Didactic Course Sexual & Gender Minority Education (funded  
project) curriculum development  
N6195 Family Nurse Practitioner II –Clinical & Typhon documents coordinator  
N6752 Family Nurse Practitioner Preceptorship: Typhon documents coordinator  
N5529 Pharmacology for the Advanced Practice Nurse – MSN & DNP  
Curriculum/lectures developed for course.  
N6152 Advanced Physical Examination/Differential Diagnosis Lab- MSN/DNP  
N3532 Reproductive Health Care - Undergraduate BSN. Curriculum developer and co-lead  
N3532B Clinical Course Lead – Undergraduate Reproductive Health  
N3535 Child and Adolescent Health Care- Undergraduate BSN  
N3521 Gerontology- Undergraduate BSN  
N3816 Community Health Practice- Undergraduate BSN  
N4521 Community Health Practice – Bacc2 program  
N3820 Child and Adolescent Healthcare-Bacc2 program