

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

**Office Address:**

6901 Bertner Avenue  
Room 791  
Houston, Texas, 77030  
Office: 713-500-2058  
Fax: 713-500-2073  
[rebecca.l.tsusaki@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:rebecca.l.tsusaki@uth.tmc.edu)

**EDUCATION**

**FELLOWSHIP**

**UTHSC-Houston Health Educators Fellowship Program** 2015-2017

**Project:** *Piloting Experiential Skills Lab Set in a Didactic Undergraduate Reproductive Health Course.* Houston, Texas

**Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing.** University of Texas Health Science Center 2009-2013  
Cizik School of Nursing. Houston, Texas. **Dissertation:** *Late Preterm Breastfeeding Patterns and Cardiac Activity during Breastfeeding using Surface Electromyography.*

**Post-Masters Women's Healthcare Nurse Practitioner.** University of 2013  
Texas Health Science Center Cizik School of Nursing. Houston, Texas

**Master of Science in Nursing.** University of Texas Health Science Center 2006-2008  
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 2005  
Center at Houston Cizik School of Nursing. Magna Cum Laude

Lakeland Community College, Kirtland, Ohio 1991  
**Associate of Science Degree in Nursing**

**LISCENCES & 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**

2013-present University of Texas Health Science Center Houston Cizik School of Nursing  
Houston, Texas  
*Assistant Professor of Clinical Nursing*  
*Department of Graduate Studies*

- 2008-2013 University of Texas Health Science Center Houston Cizik School of Nursing  
Houston, Texas. *Teaching Associate and Clinical Coordinator, Reproductive Healthcare,  
Department of Family Health*
- 2007-2008 University of Texas Health Science Center Houston Cizik School of Nursing  
Houston, Texas  
*Teaching Assistant/Graduate Student, Reproductive Healthcare*

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

- 2016- Current: **Women's Home, Houston, Texas**
- Women's Health Nurse Practitioner. **Faculty Practice.**
- 2015 **OB GYN Medical Center Associates. Houston, Texas**
- Women's Health Nurse Practitioner. **Faculty Practice.**
- 2005-2014 **Memorial Hermann Hospital, Texas Medical Center, Houston, Texas**
- Registered Nurse-Women's Health Services
  - Lactation Consultant
  - Triage
  - Transitional Nursery
  - Postpartum care
  - Antepartum care
- 1999-2005 **Advanced Temporaries, Houston, Texas**
- Registered Nurse. Worked per diem assignments in Houston area Neonatal ICUs- levels II and III, transitional and low-risk nurseries and postpartum care units.
- 1997-1999 **University of Texas Medical Branch Hospital, Galveston, Texas**
- Registered Nurse in the Endoscopy Department
  - Certified to administer conscious sedation
  - Biopsy collection and other endoscopic procedures
- 1993-1997 **Cleveland Clinic Foundation, Cleveland, Ohio,**
- Registered Nurse in the Post Anesthesia Care Unit: Pediatric and Adult
  - Pediatric Services Development Committee: Assisted with the development of a new pediatric PACU and pediatric orientation program for nursing staff
  - Served as a Charge Nurse and participated in the development of a pediatric orientation program for nursing staff
  - Provided post-anesthesia care to pediatric and adult patients after procedure
  - Provided post-anesthesia care to SICU, MICU, and PICU patients
- 1986-1993 **University Hospitals and Rainbow Babies Hospital of Cleveland, Cleveland, Ohio**
- 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
- 2018 Zeta Pi Research Award.

## GRANTS

Sigma Theta Tau-Zeta Pi Research Award 2011 - \$1500

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

Sigma Theta Tau International Zeta Pi Chapter Research Award 2018: \$2500

## PUBLICATIONS

- 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***. Podium presentation and published conference proceedings, 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, R.L., in Littleton, L. & Engebretson, J. (Eds.) (2013), ***Maternity Nursing Care*** (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.) ISBN10: 1-111-54312-7

## PRESENTATIONS

- Tsusaki, R.L., (2020). ***Spirituality: Meaning, Concept, and Significance in Nursing***. Presentation. International Webinar on Spirituality in Nursing. Lisie College of Nursing, Ernakulam, India.
- 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 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.
- Tsusaki, R.L.,(2019). ***Overcoming the Challenges of Breastfeeding after Postpartum Discharge***. Texas Nurse-Family Partnership Conference. Galveston, Texas. Podium presentation.
- 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.
- Birch-Tsusaki, R.L., (2014). ***Late Preterm Breastfeeding Patterns and Cardiac Activity during feeding***. Council for Advancement of Nursing State of the Science Conference, Washington, D.C., 2014.
- Birch-Tsusaki, R.L., (2014). Workshop: ***Helping the Breastfeeding Late Preterm Family: Research Findings and Strategies***. March of Dimes Gravens Conference, Tampa, Florida. February, 2014.

- Birch-Tsusaki, R.L., (2013). **Feeding the Late Preterm Infant**. March of Dimes Visiting Professorship, October 2013
- Birch-Tsusaki, R.L. (2011). **Low-Risk Maternal Care**. Memorial Hermann Hospital, Nurse Fellowship Program. September, 2012
- Hurst, N. & Birch-Tsusaki, R.L. (2011) **Providing Breastmilk for the Preterm NICU Infant**. Podium presentation: Sigma Theta Tau International Biennium, Grapevine, Texas. October 2011
- Birch-Tsusaki, R.L. (2011). **Low-Risk Maternal Care**. Memorial Hermann Hospital, Nurse Fellowship Program. September, 2011.
- Birch-Tsusaki, R.L. (2009) **Late Preterm Feeding Methods and Cumulative Incidence of Rehospitization**. Sigma Theta Tau Zeta Pi Chapter Research Day, April 2009.
- Birch-Tsusaki, R.L. (2009). **Late Preterm Feeding Methods and Cumulative Incidence of Rehospitization**. Poster presentation at the *Kaleidoscope Challenge Your Mind* Conference, Galveston, Texas.
- Birch-Tsusaki, R.L. (2008). **Breastfeeding Late-Preterm Infants and Cumulative Incidence of Rehospitization in the Neonatal Period**. Master's Thesis.
- Birch-Tsusaki, R.L. (2007). **Preterm Labor**, 2007-University of Texas School of Nursing
- Birch-Tsusaki, R.L. (2007, 2008). **Women's Health Care-Gynecology**. Presented at the University of Texas Health Science Center Houston School of Nursing
- Birch-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**. Presented at Twelve Oaks Hospital, Houston, Texas
- Birch. R.L, Kawolics, B. (1996). **Care of the Pediatric Post-Anesthesia Patient**. Presented at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation, Cleveland, Ohio.

## **RESEARCH**

- 2018-2019 **Primary Investigator:** HSC-SN-18-0062- *An Evaluation of Stress, Grit, Belonging, and Effect of Remediation in a Cohort of Undergraduate Reproductive Health Students*. Grant #00131733 STTI \$2500
- 2017 **Primary Investigator:** HSN-SN-17-0374: *Piloting Experiential Skills Lab Set in a Didactic Undergraduate Reproductive Health Course*. HEFP Project.
- 2014-2017 **Co-I & Consultant**. *Preventing Childhood Obesity through Early Feeding and Parenting Guidance* NIH. 5R01DK096488-02, \$995,000. Elizabeth Reifsnider (PI).
- 2012-2013 **Primary Investigator:** HSN-SN-12-0299. *Late preterm Breastfeeding Patterns and Cardiac Activity during Feeding using Surface Electromyography*.
- 2011-2012 **Primary Investigator:** HSN-SN-10-0523. *Pilot Study: Breastfeeding Patterns of Late Preterm and Term infants*.
- 2007-2008 **Primary Investigator:** HSC-GEN-07-0566. *Breastfeeding Late preterm Infants and the Cumulative Incidence of Rehospitization in the Neonatal Period*.

## **SERVICE COMMITTEES**

- UT Health Interfaculty Council (IFC)  
UT Health Administrative Affairs IFC Subcommittee, UT Health Governance, and Academic Affairs IFC Subcommittee
- T.F. Burks Scholarship Committee
- UT School of Nursing Faculty Assembly Committee – Parliamentarian
- Faculty Assembly Bylaws Committee- Chair
- MSN and DNP Councils
- Proctor Management Committee
- Research Day Planning Committee
- NONPF abstract reviewer 2020

### **COMMUNITY SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS**

- 2009-present: Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education, Houston, Volunteer
- 2014 – present: March of Dimes Professional Education Committee

### **PROFESISONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

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

### **COURSES TAUGHT**

N6820 Data Analysis & Evaluation - DNP  
N6803 Clinical Scholarship Portfolio Development – DNP  
N6851 The Business of Healthcare - DNP  
N6807 Evidence Based Practice Principles – DNP – Course Lead  
N6105 Evaluation & Application of Research - MSN  
N5529W Pharmacology for the Advanced Practice Nurse – MSN  
N5530 Women's Health Care I – Graduate WHC-NP program  
N6195B Family Nurse Practitioner -Clinical  
N6195B Family Nurse Practitioner – Clinical  
N6752 Advanced Clinical Practice FNP Preceptorship  
N6152 Advanced Physical Examination & Differential Diagnosis  
N3532 Reproductive Health Care - Undergraduate BSN  
N3532B Clinical Course Coordinator – 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