PATRICIA BURBANK, PhD, Nursing

Dr. Patricia Burbank is a Professor and Director of Graduate Studies at the University of Rhode Island, College of Nursing, and a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing. She is also a faculty member in the RI Geriatric Education Center and Coordinates the Doctor of Nursing Practice Program. Her three books and many articles span the areas of health behavior change; improving the health of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) elders; changing attitudes toward older adults; and theory development. As a nurse scientist, she worked with an interdisciplinary team headed by Phil Clark to test the Transtheoretical Model to improve exercise and nutrition behaviors of older adults. Her book, *Promoting Exercise among Older Adults: Interventions with the Transtheoretical Model*, co-edited with Deb Riebe, was inspired by this project and has been translated into Japanese. Dr. Burbank’s further efforts to increase physical activity among older adults resulted in the invention of the AAGILE, a small wearable electronic device that senses activity and inactivity and provides individualized recorded instructions for increasing activity. Collaborating with a bioengineering professor Ying Sun, the device was patented by URI. She and her son founded Burbank Industries in collaboration with URI Research Foundation to coordinate research and development, and eventually manufacturing and marketing of the AAGILE. Current research is underway testing the prototype with students. Proposals are in progress to study the effectiveness of the AAGILE in multiple applications to improve the health and functional status of older adults.

Dr. Burbank’s research with LGBT older adults has included a state-wide needs assessment. Her award winning book, *Vulnerable Older Adults: Issues and Strategies*, includes two chapters on LGBT elders. Her efforts have resulted in the integration of gerontology and LGBT content into nursing curricula, development of a stand-alone gerontological nursing course, and a new doctor of nursing practice program, supported by three J.A. Hartford Foundation grants and a HRSA grant.