

# Nursing Science Transforms

## Featured Researcher



## Global Health Research and the Appropriate Treatment for Drug-resistant Tuberculosis

Brittney van de Water, PhD, RN, CPNP

Post-doctoral fellow, Harvard Medical School, Department of Global Health and Social Medicine;

Director of Pediatric Nursing, Seed Global Health;

Post-doctoral Fellow, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Future of Nursing Scholars Program

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Brittney van de Water, post-doctoral fellow at Harvard Medical School, Department of Global Health and Social Change, focuses her research on global health and improving the lives of individuals in low-resource settings with high disease burdens. Brittney has conducted research in Honduras, Kenya, Uganda, and South Africa, and has taught nursing education as well as practiced clinically in Haiti, Nicaragua, Guatemala, and Malawi.

She serves as the Director of Pediatric Nursing for Seed Global Health, a Boston-based non-profit organization. Seed Global Health sends nurse and physician volunteers to five African countries to build capacity and work alongside local counterparts to train the next generation of health practitioners. Brittney's dissertation research (conducted at Duke University) focused on age-appropriate treatment for drug-resistant tuberculosis in South Africa. This research was supported by Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing, Duke University, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Future of Nursing Scholars Program.

Brittney completed her PhD in three years with the support from RWJF, and she is currently a RWJF post-doctoral fellow. Her research will continue to focus on pediatric drug-resistant tuberculosis. Brittney will conduct research in South Africa and Peru to improve house-hold contact investigations for tuberculosis and will evaluate a novel post-exposure protocol for individuals exposed to drug-resistant tuberculosis.