

Biographical Sketch

Sandra F. Simmons, PhD, is an Associate Professor of Medicine, Division of General Internal Medicine and Public Health, at Vanderbilt University. Her educational background is in clinical psychology with an emphasis in gerontology. Prior to coming to Vanderbilt, she was on faculty at the University of California, Los Angeles as an Associate Professor of Medicine in the Division of Geriatrics, Borun Center for Gerontological Research (1998-2006). Her current clinical appointments include staff member at the Vanderbilt Center for Quality Aging and the Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Center (GRECC), Veterans Administration.

Active in research as a Principal Investigator or Co-investigator, Dr. Simmons has been the recipient of numerous grants and fellowships to examine issues in gerontology from the National Institutes of Health and Aging, National Alzheimer's Association, the Commonwealth Fund and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, just to name a few. Specifically, her research foci include clinical interventions to improve quality of care and quality of life for older adults in a variety of care settings, in particular long term care. Her most recent work has focused on nutritional care quality and staffing issues in long term care.

Complementing her research endeavors, Dr. Simmons writes for the medical literature and has more than 80 peer-reviewed articles to her credit, as well as numerous review articles, editorials and book chapters. Additionally, Dr. Simmons frequently speaks nationally and internationally on long-term care quality issues at professional and provider-oriented meetings. Dr. Simmons is a guest reviewer for several funding foundations and scientific journals and serves on the Editorial Board for the *Journal of the American Medical Directors Association*, *Journal of Applied Gerontology* and *Journal of Nutrition, Health & Aging*. Dr. Simmons provides training and mentorship in research methods and statistics for geriatric fellows, medical students and junior faculty with interests in aging research. Most recently, Dr. Simmons received an award from the American Medical Directors Association and Pfizer in recognition of her work to translate research into practice to improve nutritional care quality in nursing homes. She currently has three federally-funded projects as Principal Investigator: (1) VA HSR&D Merit Award to implement a staff training and management intervention to improve nutritional care practices for long-term care veterans; (2) Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality (AHRQ) R01 randomized-controlled trial to examine the cost-effectiveness of supplements for weight loss prevention in long-term care; and, (3) National Institute of Aging R01 translational study to improve the cost-effectiveness of nutrition intervention in long-term care. In addition, she was recently awarded two Foundation grants to examine dementia care within assisted-living.