Abstract:

Each year, more than 22,000 women are told they have ovarian cancer. Many of these women take chemotherapy treatment that includes drugs called taxanes. Taxanes can cause side effects. These side effects include muscle and joint pain. This musculoskeletal pain can affect a lot of women with ovarian cancer after their chemotherapy. They pain can be bothersome and might interfere with women’s daily lives. Health care providers know very little about this symptom. We don’t know how many women get the symptom, what it is caused by, or all the ways it can affect women’s lives. We need to better understand this symptom to be able to treat it better. Decreasing this symptom would help to improve women’s quality of life. In my research, I will study this symptom in detail. What I learn will help me to create a way to help health care providers measure this symptom. It will also help me to find new treatments in the future. My research will help decrease the impact of this symptom on women’s quality of life. This American Cancer Society scholarship will help me reach my goals of becoming a cancer nursing researcher. I hope to dedicate my career to helping women with ovarian cancer.