



**Debora Simmons RN, MSN, CCRN, CCNS
COLLEGE OF NURSING**

This scholarship has been generously underwritten by Cigna Healthcare of Texas

Debora Simmons, a doctoral student in TWU's College of Nursing, is the Associate Director for Healthcare Excellence at The Institute for Healthcare Excellence (IHE) at The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center and The University of Texas Center of Excellence for Patient Safety Research and Practice. She received her master's from the University of Texas Houston Health Science Center with a clinical nurse specialist role in critical care; her bachelor's in nursing from TWU with honors; and an associate degree in nursing from San Jacinto College with honors. She is certified as a critical care nurse (CCRN) and as a clinical nurse specialist in critical care (CCNS).

Honored in 2006 by the Texas Nurses Association as "Emerging Leader in Research," Simmons researches national issues that impact M.D. Anderson. She researches the work environment of healthcare and how it impacts the ability of providers to practice safely. She also works with the FDA and the United States Pharmacopeia to help them understand the national impact of such items. Currently she is also advocating for processes to be in place for all patients to understand their options, the effects of treatment, and what is being done to help them.

Simmons is a Virginia Henderson Fellow; was named Outstanding Nurse 2003 by the Texas Nurses Association; Distinguished Alumnae by the UT Houston Health Science Center School of Nursing 2002; and received the Methodist Hospital Nursing Innovation Award in 2002. She has been an adjunct faculty member at TWU for six years and teaches clinicals at M.D. Anderson. Upon graduation in 2009, she would like to split her time between teaching and continuing with research.

Debora Simmons resides in Houston.