

Jacqueline M. Fawcett, Nursing

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Jacqueline Fawcett

Jacqueline (Jacqui) M. Fawcett, a professor emerita of nursing in the School of Nursing, died on March 22. She was 87.

Dr. Fawcett received her BS from Boston University, and her MSN and PhD degrees from New York University. She joined Penn Nursing's faculty in 1978 as an assistant professor, then became an associate professor two years later. She became a full professor in 1989. She left Penn in 1999 and joined the faculty of the University of Massachusetts Boston, from which she retired in 2025.

Throughout her career, Dr. Fawcett was internationally recognized as one of the most influential nurse scientists and theorists in the discipline. Her pioneering work on nursing conceptual models, metaparadigm development, and theory guided research and practice. It helped shape the foundation of modern nursing science and continues to influence curricula and professional frameworks around the world. She was best known for her meta-theoretical work, which focused on the nature and structure of knowledge in nursing, and her Roy Adaptation Model-based research, which focused on functional status in normal life transitions and serious illness, women's responses to cesarean birth, and adaptation to motherhood. Her work was supported by the American Cancer Society, the National Institutes of Health, and the Oncology Nursing Foundation, among others.

Dr. Fawcett published many journal articles and book chapters, and several books—including *Applying Conceptual Models of Nursing: Research, Quality Improvement, and Practice* (2017); *The Neuman Systems Model: Celebrating Academic-Practice Partnerships*, with Sarah Beckman (2017); and *Contemporary Nursing Knowledge: Analysis and Evaluation of Nursing Models and Theories*, with Susan DeSanto-Madeya (2013). Dr. Fawcett co-founded nursology.net (<https://nursology.net/>), which went live in September 2018. The website is a repository for academic knowledge in the form of summaries and exemplars of philosophies, conceptual models, and theories. Dr. Fawcett was also a member of nursing theory guided practice expert panel of the American Academy of Nursing, where participated in many activities, most recently a new mission statement and a presentation about conceptual model and theory-guided health policies.

Dr. Fawcett received recognition for her teaching and scholarship from numerous organizations. Her awards include the *American Journal of Nursing* Book of the Year Award for The Relationship of Theory and Research; the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing Teaching Award; the First Annual Faculty Award from the Penn Nursing Doctoral Student Organization; and the Distinguished Scholar in Nursing and Distinguished Alumni Award from New York University.

"Jacqui, as she was known to many of us, was clear in her conviction to nursing and nursing as a discipline," said Penn Nursing in a tribute. "Her work shaped how generations of nurses think about theory, knowledge, and the intellectual foundations of our field. She was generous and deeply committed to collegiality. She believed in interdisciplinary work and contributing through service to students and faculty alike."