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This book is dedicated to my RN to BSN students, who remind me every day how much effort, persistence, and determination it takes to return to school while balancing work, family, and professional responsibilities. Your feedback and willingness to challenge yourselves, despite the many obligations and responsibilities you have in your lives, inspires me. I have watched so many of you arrive in class tired, very unsure, anxious, and stressed about taking statistics, and yet you persevere. You put your best foot forward, tentatively realizing that, though it isn't easy, you have the capacity to master this content and reach your goals. Sometimes you stumble, but you get back up and try again and because of that, I have watched you accomplish so much in all avenues of your lives. It makes me so proud to watch you figure out difficult content, develop understanding of how this really will have an impact on your patient care, and grow as nurses and individuals. Nothing makes me happier than to be part of your success, to watch you walk across the stage at graduation, ready for the next challenge in your educational and professional path. I watch your families, so proud of all that you are and all that you do. I watch your children realize they too can dream big and succeed because they have watched you do just that. It is a joy and privilege to work with each of you, and just like you, I keep trying to grow and improve. So here is my third try at this book, and I hope you find that listening to my students has helped make this edition even better—because you are the reason it exists in the first place.

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When the first edition of *Statistics of Nursing: A Practical Approach* came out, I was very happy to hear from many nurses about how useful it was in making statistics accessible for anyone just beginning to work with these concepts. They also had some very helpful suggestions, much like my own students, who provided the motivation and feedback that helped create the first edition of the book. I also heard from quite a few of you in DNP programs that the book was helpful to get you started as well. Wonderful! I am thrilled to be a part of nursing going on into advanced practice!

In this third edition, I have again acted on the feedback from students, and I have included even more practice questions at the end of each chapter, giving you more opportunities to practice, practice, practice. A whole new test bank provides instructors the opportunity to use the older questions as practice quizzes, which also provides students with additional feedback and practice. I have also provided new research article reviews with practice questions within the analysis chapters of the text. Teaching from the text myself has given me the opportunity to identify areas where students needed additional support, so I have added content like decision trees and tables showing the different tests and how to differentiate which one is appropriate. However, I have stayed true to the original premise of the text, which is that all of this is at an introductory level, without a lot of ancillary information to confuse you.

If you are teaching from this text at an undergraduate level, it is perfectly appropriate to skip the regression chapter; the rest of the content from the book will still work fine. You can also include it if it is appropriate for your students or course. As with the previous edition, the
“From the Statistician” features examine some of the chapter concepts in greater detail. A new “From the Statistician” feature in Chapter 13 provides additional background about confidence intervals. These features are set apart from the rest of the text and are available for students who prefer a more mathematical approach or want to have a better understanding of “why.” Students who want to stick with the clinically applied information can skip these sections without experiencing problems in understanding the essential content.

The third edition of *Statistics of Nursing* also includes updated recorded lectures with closed captioning available and computer application updates. I have started using skeletal notes when I teach this class, and I provide these for my students to use in each chapter; these notes are included for all students as well. They provide an outline for note taking and helpful graphics to fill in, thus promoting student engagement with the content rather than just their passive printing of PowerPoint slides.

I would love to hear from any of you who use the new content and supports in the third edition of this text. What are your thoughts? Did these new resources help you? Do you have any other ideas for useful learning tools? Send me a quick email and help me make this material even better.

I hope you find the third edition of *Statistics of Nursing* helpful and that you continue on your quest to becoming a nurse who understands statistics! You never know where it may take you someday. I certainly didn’t!

All the best,
Beth
This book is the product of the combined effort of many individuals who were gracious enough to contribute their time, knowledge, and effort.

Brendan Heavey is the contributing author for all of the “From the Statistician” features in the text and has developed the computer application content for Excel. Brendan has a statistical knowledge significantly beyond my own and spent many hours writing, rewriting, and explaining concepts to make sure my simplified explanations were technically correct. I am ever grateful not only for his statistical contributions to the text but also for his interest in and support of the project from the early proposal days. He is an incredibly gifted human being. I am proud to call him my brother.

Dr. Renee Biedlingmaier, a former star student and now valued colleague, shares her experience working with small samples in the new Appendix B for this book. Several of the DNP instructors asked for a brief overview of this challenging topic. Her expertise and willingness to share it with our students enhance the book, and her contribution is greatly appreciated.

The RN to BSN faculty members at SUNY Brockport believe this content is essential to the knowledge and future success of nurses, and they have supported the inclusion of the course for all RN to BSN students in our program. My colleagues, Dr. Biedlingmaier and Professor Bingham, have been graciously willing to teach the class with me and have helped solidify student support content and data collection for evaluation of new material.
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Many other undergraduate and graduate students emailed me from afar with feedback and thoughts about the book. I always enjoy hearing how this book has had an impact on your understanding and your career, as well as your suggestions for improvement. Thank you for taking the time to share these ideas with me.

Thank you also to all the instructors who are using the book and letting me know how well it is working in your classrooms. You inspire and encourage me with all of your great ideas and dedication to student learning.

Thank you to the publishing team at Jones & Bartlett Learning, who saw the potential in the first edition before I did and helped make it happen, and then came back for more!

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And to my children, Gabrielle and Nathaniel, you are the reason behind it all, why every day matters and making the most of it counts. Watching you grow into the young people that you are has been a journey that has involved very little sleep :o) but has brought me tremendous joy. You have made me more humble, reflective, forgiving, and determined to have an impact on the world you will inherit from our generation. Being your mother puts the meaning in everything that I do. I love you to the moon and the stars, to infinity and beyond and back again, forever and ever.

Thank you all.

Beth