



Ashley Z. Ritter, Ph.D., APRN

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Dr. Ashley Z. Ritter is the chief executive officer and a co-founder of *Those Nerdy Girls*, which has over 200,000 followers and more than 1,500 posts. In March of 2020, she and a group of scientists and clinicians took their research and communication skills to social media and formed *Dear Pandemic* to share science and sanity during the COVID-19 pandemic and parallel infodemic. Ritter is a nurse with more than 15 years of practice and brings extensive health services research and therapeutic communication skills to *Those Nerdy Girls*. Ritter is an embedded nurse scientist and director of clinical care research at NewCourtland, a nonprofit organization that accelerates access to coordinated health, housing and social services for underserved populations. In this role, Ritter works with researchers, service providers and policy makers to critically appraise programming and integrate best practices into the standard of care. She is also an adjunct assistant professor at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing. She specializes in care coordination for adults with complex health and social needs, which includes guiding people and their support systems through difficult transitions in health as well as health system evaluation and design to improve policy and practice. She led the implementation of a national health system initiative, Nurses Improving Care for Health System Elders (NICHE), training more than 60 health professionals in age-friendly care and opening an Acute Care of the Elderly specialty inpatient unit. She has received funding from Veterans Affairs to examine postacute care use among older people who experience opioid use disorder and a novel model of rapid housing for veterans who experience homelessness. She has led the implementation and evaluation of a COVID-19 vaccination condition of employment. Her work has been featured in *Nursing Outlook*, *the Journal of the American Medical Directors Association*, and JAMA Health Forum. She completed her B.S.N. degree at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing and received her M.S.N. and Ph.D. degrees at the University of Pennsylvania was awarded the Young Alumni Award of Merit.