Peter I. Buerhaus, PhD, RN, FAAN

Dr. Peter Buerhaus is a nurse and a healthcare economist, and is well known for his studies and publications focused on the nursing and physician workforces in the United States. He is the Valere Potter Distinguished Professor of Nursing, Director of the Center for Interdisciplinary Health Workforce Studies, and Professor in the Department of Health Policy in the Institute for Medicine and Public Health, at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

Before coming to Vanderbilt University, he was assistant professor of health policy and management at Harvard School of Public Health (1992-2000). During the 1980s he served as assistant to the chief executive officer of The University of Michigan Medical Center’s seven teaching hospitals and assistant to the Vice Provost for Medical Affairs, the chief executive of the medical center. Dr. Buerhaus was inducted into the American Academy of Nursing in 1994 and elected into the National Academy of Sciences Institute of Medicine in 2003. Professor Buerhaus has published more than 110 peer-reviewed articles with five publications designated as “Classics” by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) Patient Safety Network. He is currently an expert advisor for the Bipartisan Policy Center’s health care workforce initiative, an expert faculty for the National Governors Association Policy Academy, and serves on the Board of Directors for AcademyHealth, the nation’s premier association of researchers conducting health services and policy research. On September 30, 2010, Dr. Buerhaus was appointed Chair of the National Health Care Workforce Commission. Created under the Affordable Care Act, the Commission (once funded) will advise Congress and the Administration on health workforce policy.

During the first few months of 2015, Dr. Buerhaus will transition to Montana State University in Bozeman, MT, where he will be a professor of nursing in the College of Nursing.