First Annual
Nursing Research and Scholarship
Highlights
2004-2005

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Collated and edited by:
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Research Coordinator
INTRODUCTION

Welcome to our first annual Nursing Research and Scholarship Highlights. This newsletter is intended to present some of the most significant research related achievements of our Faculty. Despite its relatively small size, the Faculty of Nursing at the University of Windsor is a vibrant one that strives to reach “greater heights” in nursing education and research. Several recent and current developments demonstrate that the achievement of this ambitious goal is underway. For example, the Dean sees research as a top priority and she is dedicated to provide substantial logistic support to research within the Faculty. In fact, she created the role of the Research Coordinator to better enhance our research efforts. Further, more Faculty members are becoming involved in intra and inter-disciplinary research, more funding is being sought, more Faculty members are completing their PhD studies, and more graduate students are involved in research. Have an enjoyable read.

Respectfully,

Maher M. El-Masri, PhD
Associate Professor and Research Coordinator
Welcome to the Faculty of Nursing first annual research newsletter. This newsletter is intended to showcase the many exciting research developments that are taking place within our faculty. As a faculty, we adopt Boyer’s model of scholarship, which views research broadly as a method of systematic inquiry to generate new knowledge, and validate and refine existing knowledge. Thus, we highly value and support all nursing and health related research endeavors of faculty members and students. Although research has historically been an integral part of our collective scholarly portfolio, it is increasingly becoming a defining aspect of our faculty. This shift in our increased focus on research has been driven by our strong belief in evidence-based practice and the many initiatives that were taken to increase our research engagement. Over the last few years, we were able to engage a number of our faculty at various PhD programs in Canada and the U.S., many of whom have already completed their course of study and are now actively contributing to our research endeavors. In addition, we were able to attract some young faculty members who came with established and active research programs. In addition, we have established the role of the research coordinator to further enhance the research culture within our faculty and create a formal research support system. In fact, more of our faculty members are becoming involved in intra- and interdisciplinary collaborative research projects. Research outputs, evidenced through peer reviewed publications and conference presentations over the last few years have witnessed a significant increase too. This is a truly exciting time with regard to our research endeavors and we are expecting that our research agenda will continue to grow with the growth of our faculty. Once again, I welcome you to this newsletter and thank you for your interest in our research activities.

Elaine Duffy, PhD
Dean and Professor
Faculty of Nursing
Dr. Sheila Cameron is the former Dean of Graduate Studies and Research (1996-2005) at the University of Windsor, Windsor, Ontario, Canada. She has been designated as a Professor Emerita, since her retirement in the summer of 2005. She completed her early nursing education in Scotland and England before coming to Canada in 1964. Her education continued at McMaster University (BA), the University of Detroit (MA) and Wayne State University (EdD). Dr Cameron is the former director of the School of Nursing at the University of Windsor (1985-1995) and was the Canadian Project Director of two Canadian Government Funded Projects in Jordan that supported the development of Nursing Education in the Middle-east between 1990 and 2001. She was the first woman scholar to receive the title of University professor on 1997. During the past 15 years Dr. Cameron’s research with Dr Marjorie Armstrong-Stassen Professor of Business Administration and Dr. Beth Horsburgh, current Dean of Nursing at the University of Alberta, has focused on issues of nursing worklife that affect recruitment and retention of nurses. In addition, she is currently examining quality of life issues experienced by men receiving treatment for Prostate Cancer. Dr. Cameron has been a contributing member of Sigma Theta Tau for over 15 years. Her research has been funded by a range of external agencies in Canada and she has Stassen, Professor of Business Administration and Dr Beth Horsburgh, current Dean of Nursing at the University of Alberta, has focused on issues of nursing worklife that affect recruitment and retention of nurses. Published in National and International Nursing Journals for over 20 years. Dr Cameron continues to serve on the University of Windsor Strategic Planning Academic Review Committee at the University of Windsor and is continuing her research on nursing work life issues looking specifically at issues faced by older nurses as well as nurses working in community settings. During her long service at the University of Windsor, Dr. Cameron left a significant impact in many people’s professional and personal growth. She continues to contribute to the University community in many different ways and continues her active research program.

We offer a hearty THANK YOU to Dr. Cameron for all of your contributions to the Faculty of Nursing and to your exemplary dedication to the Nursing profession.
Publications


perceptions of nurses’ roles toward family members of critically ill patients: A descriptive study, Heart and Lung, 34(5), 335-344.


Grants and Funding Obtained


Cameron, S. Co-Investigator (2004-2009). Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, Ontario. Nursing Health Services Research Unit. $10,000,000.

El-Masri, M., & Fox-Wasylyshyn, S. (2005). An unconditional research support grant. Examining the effectiveness of pre-filled Chlorhexidine Gluconate 0.12%) oral swabs in reducing the rate of ventilator associated pneumonia in ICU patients: A controlled, Randomized, double-blind study. US $20,000.


Thrasher, C. (2004). Integration of NPs in EDs Facilitators & Barriers from the perspective of RNs NHSRU $25,000.00.


Presentations


Patrick, L. J., Ciliska, D., Crooks, D., & Black, M. (April, 2004). The Meaning of Type 2 Diabetes for Women with Previous Gestational Diabetes, Canadian Nursing Research Conference, IOTA Omicron Chapter Sigma Theta Tau, International Honor Society of Nursing, University of Western Ontario, Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing.


Lan, G., McMahon, S., Rieger, F., King, N. Moral Reasoning of Canadian Accountants and Senior Accounting


**Carty, L. (2005).** Research Utilization: Evidence-based Health Promotion with Healthy Adolescents. First annual open house celebrating the establishment of the CIHR. University of Windsor, Windsor, Ontario.


**El-Masri, M. & Fox-Wasylyshyn, S.** (May, 2005). The 18th Annual Research Conference, University of Western Ontario, London, ON, Using structural equation modeling to examine the higher level dimensions of the predictors of nosocomial bloodstream infections.


Foley, D. (March, 2004). Assumption University, University of Windsor: Institute of Pastoral & Educational Ministry. Pastoral Ministry to Elderly Program: Number 5: Education for Older Adults.”(Workshop)

Recent Events

The Safer Tomorrows Project
In co-sponsorship with Michigan State University, the University of Windsor, Honour Society of Nursing hosted a one day conference entitled “The Safer Tomorrows Project: Ending Violence at Home, at School and in the Community”. Dr. Clarissa Agee Shaver, the principal researcher, shared the podium with Dr. Cynthia Archer-Gift and their research team. Kelly Wisbiski, a graduate of the University of Windsor (Family Studies) and a BScN candidate presented her paper “The Impact of Violence Through the Life Cycle: Towards a Journey of Hope”. Other student presenters (University of Phoenix graduate students) included Laura Conklin: “Domestic Violence Seen Through the Eyes of a Child, Why is Mommy Crying?”, and Brenda Estefia: “Rape: the Tragedy of Youth”.

In the afternoon, Dr. Archer – Gift monitored a panel of local caregivers. Donna Miller, Hiatus House, and Ruth Knight, Windsor-Essex County Health Unit, defined for the attendees Domestic Violence from the perspective of their organizations.

Dr. Jean Watson Visits the Faculty of Nursing
Noted Nursing Theorist, Dr. Jean Watson was the keynote at the Returning to the Heart of Nursing conference held at the University of Windsor on January 24, 2005.

Hold the Date
The Faculty of Nursing is pleased to welcome back to the University of Windsor campus, Dr. Jean Watson for another one day conference on June 13, 2006.

For more contact Katherine Simon at 519-253-3000 ext 4814 or via e-mail at kasimon@uwindsor.ca
First Collaborative Research Workshop
On behalf of the Faculty of Nursing, Dr. Maher M. El-Masri and Dr. Anne Snowdon moderated a research workshop entitled “Scholarship Through Research: An Outlook to the Future.” The one day workshop was held at the University of Windsor, Faculty of Nursing on April 25, 2005. Attending the workshop were nursing faculty members from the collaborative nursing program that includes University of Windsor, Faculty of Nursing, St. Clair College, and Lambton College.

Top Researcher Visits Faculty of Nursing
Visiting scholar Dr. Nancy Edwards presented two public lectures to the Faculty of Nursing November 1 and 2, 2004. In addition, Edwards was the guest lecture in two classes and met with faculty members about specific research projects. Dr. Edwards is a professor at the University of Ottawa, a community health nurse and epidemiologist. Since 1992, she has secured over 37.5 million dollars in external funding, and is considered one of Canada’s top researchers. She is also a University of Windsor alumna, having graduated with her B.Sc.N. in 1974.

Ms. Sue Baxter, President of the Honour Society of Nursing and Prof. Patricia McKay, chairperson, Eligibility Committee, attended the 38th Convention of Sigma Theta Tau International to present the petition for chapter status on behalf of the members of the University of Windsor, Honour Society of Nursing. The petition was fully endorsed by our membership and was presented to the President of Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI), Dr. Daniel Pesut during the ceremony.

The petition was voted on by the 600 member of the House of Delegates. Then, Dr. Pesut announced the acceptance of the Honour Society of Nursing, University of Windsor as a chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International. Our Chapter name will be received at the Chartering Ceremony in the spring of 2006. STTI is a scholarship and research intensive community of scholars and thus we hope that this significant development will further boost our scholarly endeavors. It is worthy to mention that this achievement makes the Faculty of Nursing as one of only eight Canadian Nursing Programs to have such a status.
Building Blocks for Better Babies is a Prenatal Nutrition programme started in 1996 by Dr. Mary Louise Drake, RN, in conjunction with the then Windsor Essex County Prenatal Nutrition Committee. Dr. Drake was Associate professor of the faculty of Nursing until her early retirement in 2000. Her area of expertise is Maternal Child Health. Presently she is an adjunct professor in the Faculty of Nursing. Since its beginning the program has received over one million dollars in funding. Major funding partners have included the Federal Government, Ministry of Health) the Provincial Early Years Challenge Fund, City of Windsor Social Services and the United Way.

Windsor-Essex County has an increased rate of low birth weight babies greater than other cities in Ontario. Ontario has a higher low birth weight rate than other provinces in Canada. Windsor-Essex County's rate of low birth weights is 5.9% and Ontario's is 5.3%. A low birth weight baby is one born at or below 2500 grams (5lbs8ozs). Any pregnant woman can have a low birth weight baby. Risk factors that contribute to low birth weight include such things as age of the pregnant woman, level of education, number of pregnancies, lifestyle (drugs, alcohol, smoking), socio-economic status, housing, new immigration, and diseases such as diabetes, high blood pressure and lupus.

BBBB operates on a part-time basis three days per week from four sites seeing about 120 to 150 women per week. Two sites are in the city of Windsor and two in Essex County. These sites are located in areas identified through a survey on the health of Essex County residents as being areas of high risk.

Women are welcome to enter the programme at any time during their pregnancy and can stay until four months after the baby is born. They can self refer, or be referred through a doctor or through an agency. Most of the women are self referred having heard about the programme through a friend or relative. Sixty-two percent of our women are new immigrants. The average age is twenty-four. Women represent the following groups: Chinese, Middle Eastern, low-German speaking Mennonite, Pakistani, Ethiopian and Canadian.

The programme consists of a health component about pregnancy taught by the nurses from the Windsor and Essex County Health Unit and a nutrition programme taught by registered dietitians. Class content consists of budgeting, how to shop, cooking classes, physical changes, expectations of a normal pregnancy, complications, seat car safety and other topics. The women receive a $10 food voucher each time they come and must be present for the classes in order to receive the voucher. During the programme, a nutritious snack is provided to the pregnant women and anyone who comes with them. Bus fare is given to the women so that they can get home and return again. For the children who come with the women there is an educational programme (crafts, story time, songs) run by a licensed Early Childhood Educator.

Shortly after entry into the programme the women receive a bag with the BBBB logo in which there are measuring spoons, cups, oven mitts, apron and a Basic Shelf cook book. A combination birthday-graduation party is held at the
fourth month postpartum for all the women and babies who have reached that level. Referrals are made to appropriate agencies as needed and required by the women. Field trips to Early Years Centres and other groups that will be beneficial to the women while they are in the programme and after they have graduated are also included.

**NEWs**

Dr. Linda Patrick, Dr. Susan Fox-Wasylyshyn, Dr. Christine Thrasher, Dr. Anne Snowdon, and Dr. Maher El-Masri were each presented with the University of Windsor “Research Excellence Award” in recognitions of their research and scholarship achievements.

**Dr. Christine Thrasher**, an assistant professor at the Faculty of Nursing, successfully defended her doctoral dissertation at McMaster University (Fall, 2005). Her dissertation explored the facilitators and barriers to the integration of Nurse Practitioners into Ontario Emergency Departments and measured satisfaction of health care providers, and patients with the NP role.

**Dr. Linda Patrick**, an assistant professor at the Faculty of Nursing, successfully defended her doctoral dissertation at Wayne State University (Fall, 2005). Her dissertation examined delay in seeking treatment for acute myocardial infarction.

**Prof. Lisa High** successfully defended her Masters thesis that was entitled “The effectiveness of an intervention to improve vehicle safety for children”. Professor High joined our Faculty as a limited term lecturer immediately after completing her graduate studies.

**Ms. Peggy (Margaret) Oldfield**, a graduate student and clinical instructor at the Faculty of Nursing has successfully defended her Masters thesis entitled “The Impact of the Presence of Chest Tubes on the Development of Nosocomial Blood Stream Infections among Critically Ill Patients in a Community Intensive Care Unit”.

**Dr. Laurie Carty** and **Prof. Lucia Yiu** visited Nepal to be part of an International and Development, Education, Research, and Training Program (IDRET). During their visit, Dr. Carty and Prof Yiu made several presentations and ran several workshops to health officials, and students and faculty members at the School of Nursing in Chitwan, Nepal.

**Prof. Dale Rajacich**, an associate professor at the Faculty of Nursing, successfully defended her doctoral dissertation proposal at McMaster University. Her proposed project is entitled “The Meaning of Waiting for Women with Breast Cancer from Time of Diagnosis to Completion of Treatment.” Professor Rajacich’s study is a hermeneutic phenomenology approach and she is currently in the data analysis phase.
Prof. Heather Krohn, Prof. Kathy Edmunds, and Prof. Jamie Crawley, three of our limited term Faculty members, has joined PhD studies. Prof. Krohn joined McMaster University, Prof. Edmunds joined the University of Western Ontario and Prof. Crawley joined Wayne State University.

Prof. Karen Williamson, an assistant professor at the Faculty of Nursing, successfully defended her doctoral dissertation proposal at University of Toronto. Her proposed project is entitled “An Individualized Telephone Educational Intervention for Patients Following Coronary Artery Bypass Graft Surgery.” Prof. Williamson is currently analysing her data.