

**Research Society
Annual Report 2006/2007**

The Research Society has continued to take forward a portfolio of work addressing three key issues. The key achievements in relation to each of these issues are detailed below.

Issue 1 Developing research in practice

1 *Enhance communication between national Steering Committee and regional networks*

- a) The annual workshop for Regional Co-ordinators and national Steering Committee members has continued in order to facilitate networking and to enable greater collaboration between the regional groups and the national Steering Committee. The workshop in September 2006 evaluated well and will be repeated in June 2007.
- b) Regional groups have been invited to submit proposals, to the Steering Committee, for small amounts of funding to support local initiatives. The funds for this initiative are derived from income generation arising from the very successful Annual International Nursing Research Conferences.

2 *Building capacity*

- a) Support for new researchers has been provided through fringe events at the Society's Annual International Nursing Research Conference in Dundee (May 2007). Further workshops are planned for doctoral students through the Society's PhD Network.
- b) Sponsorship from Blackwell Publishing has enabled the continuation of the Marjorie Simpson New Researcher Awards. This enabled 3 members to attend the Annual International Nursing Research Conference in Dundee.
- c) Sponsorship from Elsevier publishing enabled a poster prize to be offered at the Society's Annual International Nursing Research Conference.
- d) The Justus Akinsanya Award for Innovation in a Doctoral Thesis was launched at the Annual International Research Conference in York 2006. The annual award will be supported through a mixed portfolio of funding with the first award made at the Society's Annual International Nursing Research Conference in Dundee (May 2007)
- e) The 12 regional Research Society groups have been active to varying degrees with several organising local conferences and seminars for local members.
- f) The RCN position statement 'Promoting Excellence in Care through Research and Development' has been marketed at key conferences.

3 *Dissemination*

- a) The Society's Annual International Nursing Research Conference in Dundee attracted 500+delegates including a record number of international delegates Keynote papers were given by internationally renowned nurse researchers including Patricia Benner and Juliet Corbin from the USA. The 2008 conference will be held in Liverpool.
- b) The Research Society has continued to produces a twice yearly newsletter for members.
- c) Publishers/editors have run fringe events at the Annual Conference on writing for publication which proved very popular with delegates. NB: none to be held in Dundee 2007

Issue 2 Nursing Research Policy

1 *Strategic development*

- a) Following the RCN's review of the RCN Institute, the Steering Committee has worked closely with the R&D Co-ordinating Centre to co-ordinate the development of an R&D strategy for the RCN. Three Task and Finish groups have been established which are chaired by steering group members and provide the opportunity to bring RCN staff and members together to plan for the future. It is anticipated that the report of the first stage of this work will be available in summer 2007.
- b) A database of RCN representation on external Research Committees is well established and a reporting mechanism is in place.
- c) A rolling programme of review of Research Society Guidance and Position Statements has been instigated. A review of the guidance on research ethics has been completed.
- d) Guidance on User Involvement in Research has been developed and launched at RCN Congress 2007 and the Society's Annual International Nursing Research Conference in Dundee (May 2007)

2 *Alliances with other organisations*

- a) A research collaborative involving representatives from the RCN Research Society, Royal College of Midwives and Community Practitioners & Health Visitors Association which was established to develop and take forward a common research policy agenda has continued. A joint colloquium on research capacity building was held in October 2006 which brought together key stakeholders from across the UK, including the 4 government leads for nursing research. A report of the colloquium has been prepared for the websites and a paper for publication.
- b) Collaboration has continued with the Institute for Clinical Research (ICR) and Clinical Research Nurses Association (CRNA) with reciprocal attendance at conferences.
- c) The collaboration with the Research Committee of the Royal Collage of General Practitioners has continued.
- d) Representation on the Joint Liaison Committee has continued with work progressing on the implications of the introduction of Agenda for Change for research nurses.
- e) The Research Society continues to represent the RCN on the Workgroup of European Nurse Researchers (WENR) and Professor Lorraine Smith, a co-opted member of the Society's Steering Committee was appointed the first Chair of WENR in 2006.

Issue 3 Increasing the influence of nurses and nursing

1 *Extending the scope of influence*

- a) One member has completed the Political Leadership Programme championing Research Society Policy issues – User Involvement in Research which has led to national guidance being issued.
- b) The RCN R&D Advisor disseminates regular policy updates to Steering Committee members and Regional Chairs. The RCN R&D Co-ordinating Centre raises awareness of all consultations. The Steering Committee has provided a response to a number of consultation documents over the past year.
- c) Members of the national Steering Committee and regional groups have been able to exert influence outside the RCN through multiple routes, including: journal editorships and editorial boards; research ethics committees; review panels for funding organisations; membership of other research groups; and others.

2 *Influencing through Congress, Research Information and Quality and Regional Boards*

- a) A number of Research Society activists continue to work as elected members of the National and Regional Boards, e.g.: Jackie Griffith (South West); Claire Hale (Yorkshire & Humber); and Charles Hendry (Scotland).
- b) The Research Society hosted the Winifred Raphael Memorial Lecture at Congress 2006. A decision was made to invite regional groups to host the lecture, and the 2007 lecture will be hosted by the Eastern regional group in Cambridge in October 2007.
- c) The Research Society submitted 3 resolutions for Congress 2007 but unfortunately none were selected.
- d) The Research Society continues to collaborate with other forums and at Congress 2007. They supported the Education Forum's resolution and held a joint fringe event.
- e) RIQ Advisory Panel held their final meeting this year.
- f) Research Society members have actively contributed to discussions on the Professional Development Framework and will continue to be involved in future developments of the Professional Membership Structure.

Kate Gerrish
Chair, Research Society Steering Committee
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