

## RCN Research and Development Co-ordinating Centre

### 1. RCN Study of Nursing Care series

This groundbreaking series was commissioned by the then Department of Health and Social Services in England, and produced 12 reports, an introduction and a conclusion. To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the RCN Research Society under the auspices of the RCN, this series has been digitised and is available to download as PDF files. Each week we will highlight one of the series.

*"In 1966 the Royal College of Nursing was invited by the then Ministry of Health to undertake studies to develop measures of the quality of nursing care. The importance of the subject was well recognised, as were the difficulties, but progress is impossible if not start is made. The work began in 1967. The investigation of quality of nursing care is clearly a responsibility of the profession itself, but nurses, trained and experienced in research, are not yet available in sufficient numbers. The College project, therefore, includes provision for training and supervision for nurse research assistants by experienced research workers who give their time generously for the purpose."* Extract from the foreword of the series by Dame Kathleen Raven, Chief Nursing Officer, DHSS

**i) Series 1 Number 5, "Patient anxiety on admission to hospital", Barbara Lane Franklin, RCN, London, 1974.**

[Abstract: This study was designed to explore the problem of anxiety experienced by newly admitted patients. The findings indicate that patients taking part in the study were significantly more anxious than the general population outside hospital. While nurses may not be surprised at this finding they may perhaps feel that they should play a more prominent part in alleviating patients' worries; for the study also shows that 50 per cent of the factual information patients need is provided by printed material and that other patients are at least as important as members of staff in helping patients to settle into the ward environment.]

Website: <http://www.rcn.org.uk/research/rs/pubs/sinc>

## Career Development Opportunities

### 2. Research Practitioner/Team Leader, East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust

Agenda for Change Band 7. 1 year initially, 37.5 hours per week

The Trust is looking to appoint an experienced research trial practitioner to establish further research activity to support the comprehensive research network within the Trust in the field of Gastroenterology and Cardiology initially but will be expected to assist in other clinical areas as required.

Website: <http://www.jobs.nhs.uk> (Job reference 435-Q308-09)

Closing date for applications: 16 September 2009

## Research Funding

### 3. World Health Organisation (WHO) Patient safety small research grants

WHO invites applications for the 2009 Small Grants Research Programme. This project has been set up to stimulate research on patient safety priority areas by providing seed funding for small research projects. In addition, it is envisaged that the initiative will contribute to building local research capacity and will help raise awareness about patient safety. The programme focuses on applied research. Applications that attempt to identify local solutions, or evaluate the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of existing solutions are especially welcomed.

Website: <http://www.who.int/patientsafety/research/grants/en/index.html>

The closing date is 30 September 2009.

## Current Research Commissions

### 4. Department of Health Policy Research Programme - National evaluation of the National Dementia Strategy Demonstrator Sites

The Department of Health (DH) Policy Research Programme (PRP) invites proposals for a national evaluation of the National Dementia Strategy (NDS) Demonstrator Sites which will be operational from the Autumn 2009. This study requires both a formative and summative evaluation to provide an assessment of the implementation of two new service models - dementia advisers and peer support networks - and the extent to which they contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the NDS. Up to 650,000 GBP is available for the work over a period of two and a half years.

Website: <http://www.nihr.ac.uk/proposals/Pages/default.aspx>

The closing date for applications is 12 October 2009

### 5. Medical Research Council (MRC) and National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Methodology Research Programme

The Methodology Research Programme (MRP) is a new funding programme led by the MRC as part of the MRC/NIHR single health research strategy. 16m GBP of funding has been awarded to establish a network of seven new centres dedicated to methodology research. To strengthen the evidence base for health research, the MRP will oversee and implement the evolving MRC/NIHR strategy for high quality methodological research. In addition to the MRC and NIHR funding partners, the MRP will also take account of the needs of other stakeholders including the devolved administrations, industry R&D, and regulatory/advisory agencies and other public bodies. The MRP will fund investigator-led and needs-led research proposals from across the UK.

There are currently four open commissions

- i) Methods to specify the targeted differences in randomised controlled trials
- ii) Methods for the recruitment and retention of under-represented groups into public health and health services research studies
- iii) Methods to assess the impacts of user involvement in health and social care research
- iv) Methods of extrapolating RCT evidence for use in economic evaluation models

Website: <http://www.mrc.ac.uk/Fundingopportunities/Initiatives/MRP/index.htm>

The closing date for applications is 14 October 2009

### 6. Department of Health Policy Research Programme - Mental Capacity Act Best Interests Decisions - Successes and Challenges: Research to Review the Implementation of the Mental Capacity Act

The Department of Health Policy Research Programme (PRP) invites proposal to examine how Best Interests Decisions are being carried out in a wide variety of settings in relation to people with a wide

variety of conditions and who lack capacity. Up to 250,000 GBP inclusive is available for this study. Ideally, the successful application will be able to undertake the study over a maximum of 18 months, commencing early 2010.

Website: <http://www.nihr.ac.uk/proposals/Pages/default.aspx>

The closing date for applications is 19 October 2009

## Research Policy/Strategy

### 7. King's College London National Nursing Research Unit Policy+

Policy+ is a publication from the National Nursing Research Unit which aims to deliver brief overviews of evidence related to current policies affecting the nursing workforce in England, the wider United Kingdom and the rest of the world. Its aim is to make research evidence more readily available in an easily digested format for: policy makers; policy implementers; practitioners; the general public. Recent topics include:

#### **i) Issue No 20: Nurse staffing and patient outcomes. RN+RN = better care. What do we know about the association between Registered Nurse staffing levels and patient outcomes?**

There is considerable evidence of an association between nurse staffing levels and patient outcomes. The evidence has been used to support calls for mandatory nurse patient ratios but the precise significance of the relationship remains unclear. This Policy+ examines the evidence in order to establish what is known, and crucially, what is not known?

Website: <http://www.kcl.ac.uk/schools/nursing/nrru/policy>

## Consultations

### 8. National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) consultations

NICE expects to consult on the following documents. The RCN works very closely with NICE to ensure a robust nursing input for NICE consultations. Please contact Caroline Rapu if you would like to be involved in this work. Contact: Caroline Rapu, email: [caroline.rapu@rcn.org.uk](mailto:caroline.rapu@rcn.org.uk).

#### **Consultations:**

- i) Crohn's disease - infliximab (review) and adalimumab: appraisal consultation document (14 September - 5 October)
- ii) Preventing and reducing HIV transmission among men who have sex with men: consultation on the draft scope (11 September - 9 October 2009)
- iii) Preventing and reducing HIV transmission among African communities: draft scope (11 September - 9 October 2009)
- iv) Cervical cancer (recurrent) – topotecan: final appraisal determination (10 September - 25 September 2009)
- v) Hepatocellular carcinoma (advanced and metastatic) - sorafenib (first line): appraisal consultation document (9 September - 30 September 2009)
- vi) Donor breast milk banks: draft guideline consultation (8 September - 6 October 2009)
- vii) Hypertensive disorders during pregnancy: draft guideline consultation (3 September – 29 October 2009)
- viii) School-based interventions to prevent smoking: draft guideline consultation (3 September - 1 October 2009)
- ix) Male lower urinary tract symptoms (LUTS): guideline consultation (28 August - 23 October 2009)
- x) Neonatal jaundice: draft guideline consultation (27 August - 22 October 2009)
- xi) Endopyelotomy for pelviureteric junction obstruction: interventional procedures consultation (25

August - 23 September 2009)

xii) Laparoscopic augmentation cystoplasty (including clam cystoplasty): interventional procedures consultation (25 August - 23 September 2009)

xiii) Electrocautery cutting balloon treatment for pelviureteric junction obstruction: interventional procedures consultation (25 August - 23 September 2009)

xiv) Total prosthetic replacement of the temporomandibular joint: interventional procedures consultation (25 August - 23 September 2009)

xv) Preventing unintentional injuries among under 15s in the home: evidence consultation (19 August - 17 September 2009)

Website: [http://www.nice.org.uk/getinvolved/currentniceconsultations/current\\_nice\\_consultations.jsp](http://www.nice.org.uk/getinvolved/currentniceconsultations/current_nice_consultations.jsp)

## **9. Survey of training skills of individuals who have part-time or full-time responsibility for training colleagues in-house, Association of Clinical Research Professionals**

You are invited to participate in an important survey of the training skills of ALL individuals involved in training their in-house clinical research colleagues. The survey also looks at attitudes to training within organizations. This survey is not limited to officially designated "trainers". This survey is about anybody whose job involves delivering education, technical skills, or soft skills to clinical research staff through face-to-face contact, online courses, or designing/ developing/ writing training materials. ACRP, as a professional association, promises to make the data collected public so that stakeholders may take steps to address any deficiencies revealed. Confidentiality will be maintained for all responses. Analyses will be conducted only on pooled data and no names will appear in any report or publication.

Website: <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/survey.zgi?p=WEB2297VAY3QT4>

This survey is open until 30 September 2009.

## **User Involvement**

### **10. INVOLVE - Promoting public involvement in NHS, public health and social care research.**

INVOLVE is a programme of the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and was established to promote public involvement in research, in order to improve the way that research is prioritised, commissioned, undertaken, communicated and used. They believe that research which reflects the needs and views of the public is more likely to produce results that can be used to improve practice in health and social care. A quarterly newsletter is produced.

The latest issue of INVOLVE newsletter includes articles on:

- Involving young people in public health research
- Children and young people engaging in their own research
- Involving children and young people in health care settings

Highlighted publications:

- Getting ready for user involvement in a systematic review
- Health researchers' attitudes towards public involvement in health research
- The research dance: university and community research collaborations at Yarrabah, North Queensland, Australia
- Dancing to our own tunes: Reassessing black and minority ethnic mental health service user involvement

Website: <http://www.invo.org.uk/>

## **Completed Research & Development - Open Access**

## 11. NHS Evidence

The principle aim of the NHS Evidence service is to provide easy access to a comprehensive evidence base for everyone in health and social care who takes decisions about treatments or the use of resources - including clinicians, public health professionals, commissioners and service managers - thus improving health and patient care. It provides access to a range of information types, including primary research literature, practical implementation tools, guidelines and policy documents. The NHS Evidence specialist collections filter the huge quantity of published research to ensure that you find only the best available evidence. The majority focus on particular health problems, with others focusing on specific patient groups and aspects of health services.

Spotlight on

### Complementary and alternative medicine

- i) Acupuncture for obesity: a systematic review and meta-analysis
- ii) Effectiveness of probiotics in the treatment of irritable bowel syndrome
- iii) Herbal medicines for the treatment of COPD: a systematic review
- iv) Interventions for alleviating cancer-related dyspnea: a systematic review
- v) Role of acupuncture in the treatment of insomnia: a comprehensive review
- vi) The effect of music therapy on patients' perception and manifestation of pain, anxiety, and patient satisfaction

Website: <http://www.evidence.nhs.uk/>

## Completed Research & Development - Subscription Based

### 12. Royal College of Nursing Library & Information Services e-library

The eRevolution has transformed RCN Library and Information Services. Whether you are at home, at work, or studying, you now have direct access to an exciting range of new and existing services. Use these state-of-the-art services online or in person, by telephone, email, post or fax. Dedicated professional staff are available to help you. Available free to RCN members including:

- \* Online access to content from more than 700 key nursing journals (now in an easy-to-use A-Z list) and over 360 e-books
- \* Reference access to a growing collection of electronic books on topics of interest to nursing staff
- \* Information databases including British Nursing Index, Maternity & Infant Care, ChildData and AgeInfo, as well as Medline and Cinahl
- \* RCN Library Catalogue: details of books and videos held in RCN libraries, online renewals.

#### e-books

Online books available from netlibrary ([www.netlibrary.com/](http://www.netlibrary.com/)) or MyiLibrary ([www.myilibrary.com/browse/open.asp](http://www.myilibrary.com/browse/open.asp)) of particular interest to nurses working in research include:

- i) Allen D (2006) The Reality of Nursing Research: Politics, Practices and Processes. Jumpstart: <http://rcn-library.rcn.org.uk/uhtbin/cgiirsi/0/0/0/5?searchdata1=a303942{001}>
- ii) Cook A et al (2004) Basic Skills in Statistics: A Guide for Healthcare Professionals <http://rcn-library.rcn.org.uk/uhtbin/cgiirsi/0/0/0/5?searchdata1=1859591019{020}>
- iii) Cox CL & Reyes-Hughes A (2001) Clinical Effectiveness in Practice <http://rcn-library.rcn.org.uk/uhtbin/cgiirsi/0/0/0/5?searchdata1=0333804554{020}>
- iv) Crosby RA et al (2006) Research Methods in Health Promotion <http://rcn-library.rcn.org.uk/uhtbin/cgiirsi/0/0/0/5?searchdata1=0787982636{020}>
- v) Dawson J et al (2001) Clinical Effectiveness in Nursing Practice <http://rcn-library.rcn.org.uk/uhtbin/cgiirsi/0/0/0/5?searchdata1=0585485380{020}>
- vi) Etherington K (2004) Becoming a Reflexive Researcher: Using Our Selves in Research <http://rcn-library.rcn.org.uk/uhtbin/cgiirsi/0/0/0/5?searchdata1=1843102595{020}>
- vii) Finlay L & Ballinger C (2006) Qualitative Research for Allied Health Professionals: Challenging Choices <http://rcn-library.rcn.org.uk/uhtbin/cgiirsi/0/0/0/5?searchdata1=0470019638{020}>
- viii) Fitzpatrick JJ & Wallace M (2006) Encyclopedia of Nursing Research

<http://rcn-library.rcn.org.uk/uhtbin/cgiirsi/0/0/0/5?searchdata1=a310273{001}/>

ix) Gillis A & Jackson W (2002) Research for Nurses: Methods and Interpretation

<http://rcn-library.rcn.org.uk/uhtbin/cgiirsi/0/0/0/5?searchdata1=9780803608962{020}>

x) Gray JA Muir (2001) Evidence-based Healthcare

<http://rcn-library.rcn.org.uk/uhtbin/cgiirsi/0/0/0/5?searchdata1=9780443062889{020}>

xi) Greenhalgh T (2006) How to Read a Paper: The Basics of Evidence Based Medicine

<http://rcn-library.rcn.org.uk/uhtbin/cgiirsi/0/0/0/5?searchdata1=a304464{001}>

xii) Hall G M (2003) How to Write a Paper

<http://rcn-library.rcn.org.uk/uhtbin/cgiirsi/0/0/0/5?searchdata1=9780727917287{020}>

xiii) Hignett S (2003) Evidence-based Patient Handling: Tasks, Equipment, and Interventions

<http://rcn-library.rcn.org.uk/uhtbin/cgiirsi/0/0/0/5?searchdata1=9780415246323{020}>

xiv) Johns C & Freshwater D (2005) Transforming Nursing through Reflective Practice (2nd edition)

<http://rcn-library.rcn.org.uk/uhtbin/cgiirsi/0/0/0/5?searchdata1=9781405114578{020}>

xv) Kodish E (2005) Ethics and Research with Children: A case-based Approach

<http://rcn-library.rcn.org.uk/uhtbin/cgiirsi/0/0/0/5?searchdata1=9780195171785{020}>

xvi) McNeill P & Chapman S (2005) Research Methods (3rd edition)

<http://rcn-library.rcn.org.uk/uhtbin/cgiirsi/0/0/0/5?searchdata1=9780415340762{020}>

xvii) Moller A & Pederson T (2006) Evidence-based Anaesthesia and Intensive Care

<http://rcn-library.rcn.org.uk/uhtbin/cgiirsi/0/0/0/5?searchdata1=9780521690256{020}>

xviii) Pope C & Mays N (2006) Qualitative Research in Health Care

<http://rcn-library.rcn.org.uk/uhtbin/cgiirsi/0/0/0/5?searchdata1=9781405135122{020}>

xix) Silagy C & Haines A (2001) Evidence-Based Practice in Primary Care

<http://rcn-library.rcn.org.uk/uhtbin/cgiirsi/0/0/0/5?searchdata1=9780727915689{020}>

xx) Walsh D (2007) Evidence-based Care for Normal Labour and Birth: A Guide for Midwives

<http://rcn-library.rcn.org.uk/uhtbin/cgiirsi/0/0/0/5?searchdata1=9780415418911{020}>

Contact: RCN Library & Information Services

Tel: 0345 337 3368 (local rate number)

Email: [rcn.library@rcn.org.uk](mailto:rcn.library@rcn.org.uk)

Website: <http://www.rcn.org.uk/development/library/elibrary>

### 13. Journal of Research in Nursing

Journal of Research in Nursing publishes research on nursing topics and themes. Original research is published with the aim of encouraging evidence-based practice and improving the quality of patient care. It is a leading journal that underpins good research with current policy. Each issue contains papers on a variety of topics in relation to health care, as well as a Focus section that highlights key up to date issues through papers written by experts in that specific field. The contents of the most recent Journal of Research in Nursing, September 2009, Volume 14, No. 5 includes:

i) Veronica Bishop (Editorial): Clinical governance and nursing power

ii) Janette Bennett, Barbara Davey, and Ruth Harris: Commitment expressions of nurses aged 45 and over: Organisational, professional and personal factors

iii) Melanie Birks, Jane Mills, Karen Francis, and Ysanne Chapman: A thousand words paint a picture: The use of storyline in grounded theory research

iv) Susan Lambert, Wai-Yee Cheung, Shan Davies, Lyn Gardner, and Valerie Thomas: Comparison of two tools developed to assess the needs of older people with complex care needs

v) Rachel Potter, Jeremy Dale, and Isabela Caramlau: A qualitative study exploring practice nurses' experience of participating in a primary care-based randomised controlled trial

vi) Elizabeth Simon and Lois Augustus: Comparative analysis of NLN NCLEX-RN readiness exam performance: BSN versus AND

vii) Majd T Mrayyan: Differences of hospitals' organisational climates and nurses' intent to stay: Nurses' perspectives

Website: <http://jrn.sagepub.com/>

### 14. Nurse Researcher

Nurse Researcher is an international journal of research methodology in nursing and healthcare. Published quarterly, it is focused primarily on the needs of pre- and post-registration students, practitioners and educators, and contains authoritative papers on the appropriate application and relevance of research methods to nursing and healthcare.

The main aim of the journal is to educate readers in how to evaluate and appreciate research work through increasing their understanding of the methods which underlie it. RCN members can access the full text articles of Nurse Researcher via the RCN Library & Information Services:

Website: <http://www.rcn.org.uk/library/>

The contents of the current issue of Nurse Researcher, Volume 16, Number 4, 2009 includes:

- i) Editorial by Leslie Gelling
- ii) Commentary by Gina Higginbottom
- iii) An exploration of intent for narrative methods of inquiry, by Sally Hardy, Sheila Gregory and Janet Ramjeet
- iv) A new critical framework for applying hermeneutic phenomenology, by Mooi Standing
- v) Asking sensitive questions: accessing the 'private' account, by Mary Wilson
- vi) Issues in using methodological triangulation in research, by Dympna Casey and Kathy Murphy
- vii) Involving children and young people in the development of art-based research tools, by Jane Coad, Gill Plumridge and Alison Metcalfe
- viii) Conducting research on acute mental health admission wards, by Pamela Roach, Joy A Duxbury, Karen Wright, Diane Bradley and Neil Harris
- ix) Tips on overlapping confidence intervals and univariate linear models, by Adefowope Oduyungbo, Lehana Thabane and Maureen Markle-Reid
- x) Editorial interview with Tony Butterworth: Academy for future generations

Website: <http://www.nursing-standard.co.uk/nurseresearcher/>

## Knowledge Utilisation

### 15. The Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD)

CRD is part of the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and is a department of the University of York. CRD, which was established in 1994, is one of the largest groups in the world engaged exclusively in evidence synthesis in the health field. CRD undertakes systematic reviews evaluating the research evidence on health and public health questions of national and international importance. We produce the DARE, NHS EED and HTA databases which are used extensively by health professionals, policy makers and researchers around the world. We also undertake methods research and produce internationally accepted guidelines for undertaking systematic reviews.

#### **CRD databases updated**

This week (02/09 to 08/09/2009) 32 new records have been added to the DARE, NHS EED and HTA databases.

Abstract of the week

#### **Combined corticosteroid and antiviral treatment for bell palsy: a systematic review and meta-analysis**

This well-conducted review concluded that corticosteroids are associated with a reduced risk of unsatisfactory recovery in Bell palsy. Also, there may be an additional benefit associated with the use of antiviral agents combined with corticosteroid treatment. These conclusions are likely to be reliable.

Website: <http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/crd/index.htm>

## Disseminating Your Research - Call for papers/Journals

### 16. 2010 International Forum on Quality and Safety in Health Care

20 - 23 April 2010, Nice, France

The International Forum's mission is to support and energise the movement for health and healthcare improvement. It aims to improve outcomes for patients and communities by providing practical ideas that can be implemented in the workplace, promote research into quality and safety improvement, foster effective innovation, and connect health care leaders and practitioners worldwide.

Website: <http://internationalforum.bmj.com/>

Abstract deadline: 21 September 2009

**17.8th European regional conference of the European Nurses' Federation, "Advancing health through nursing: Commonwealth's European region perspectives"**

12 - 13 March 2010, Paphos, Cyprus

Contact: Conference Secretariat

Email: [cy.n.a@cytanet.com.cy](mailto:cy.n.a@cytanet.com.cy)

Abstract deadline: 14 December 2009

**18. Change Champions Toolkit Seminar: "Future proofing the aged and community care workforce"**

25 - 26 May 2010, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia

An increasing number of speakers are being attracted from the UK. The conference organisers encourage potential UK speakers to contact them, as, depending on the quality of the paper, airfares and accommodation may be negotiated.

Contact: Char Weeks Tel: +61 (2) 4963 5150

Email: [change.champions@bigpond.com](mailto:change.champions@bigpond.com)

Website: <http://www.changechampions.com.au/call-for-papers>

Abstract deadline: 15 December 2009

**19. Change Champions Toolkit Seminar: "Climate change, healthcare and carbon footprints"**

05 - 06 August 2010, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia

An increasing number of speakers are being attracted from the UK. The conference organisers encourage potential UK speakers to contact them, as, depending on the quality of the paper, airfares and accommodation may be negotiated.

Contact: Char Weeks Tel: +61 (2) 4963 5150

Email: [change.champions@bigpond.com](mailto:change.champions@bigpond.com)

Website: <http://www.changechampions.com.au/call-for-papers>

Abstract deadline: 15 April 2010

## Events

**20. Clinical Research Nurses Association Autumn study day**

9 October 2009, London, England

10.30am - 04.15pm. Cost: 30GBP for members, 40GBP for non-members

AGENDA

- i) How To Survive an MHRA Inspection (2 sessions)
- ii) The Mental Capacity Act
- iii) The Issue of Consent
- iv) The Declaration of Helsinki updated
- v) The Data Protection Act

Contact: Elizabeth Denver

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Email: [e.denver@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:e.denver@ucl.ac.uk)

Website: <http://www.crna.org.uk/>