

A participatory approach to developing an HIV Nursing Research Strategy

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Background

The HIV nursing workforce has a key role in enabling HIV services to deliver high quality care in the context of substantial financial pressures [1]. A core aim of the National HIV Nursing Association (NHIVNA) is to support evidence-based practice through promotion of high quality research. NHIVNA have adopted a strategic approach to increasing research activity and supporting research capacity and capability development.

Aim

To develop a National Research and Development strategy for HIV Nursing.

Methods

Two-stage project involving:

- ▶ A consensus workshop involving a purposive sample of 14 to outline scope of the strategy and identify research priority areas. Nominal Group Technique (NGT) using three rounds of structured activities to generate qualitative information and aggregate judgements to achieve consensus [2].
- ▶ An online survey of NHIVNA membership to: a) canvass opinions on the outcomes of the workshop, b) establish individual levels of research experience and engagement.

Results

Workshop outcomes

Round 1 – The nominal question ‘What direction does HIV nursing research needs to be moving in?’ generated 60 responses which were organised into 12 broad categories.

Round 2 – Deliberation and debate produced consensus agreement of three priority areas and coverage of those areas.

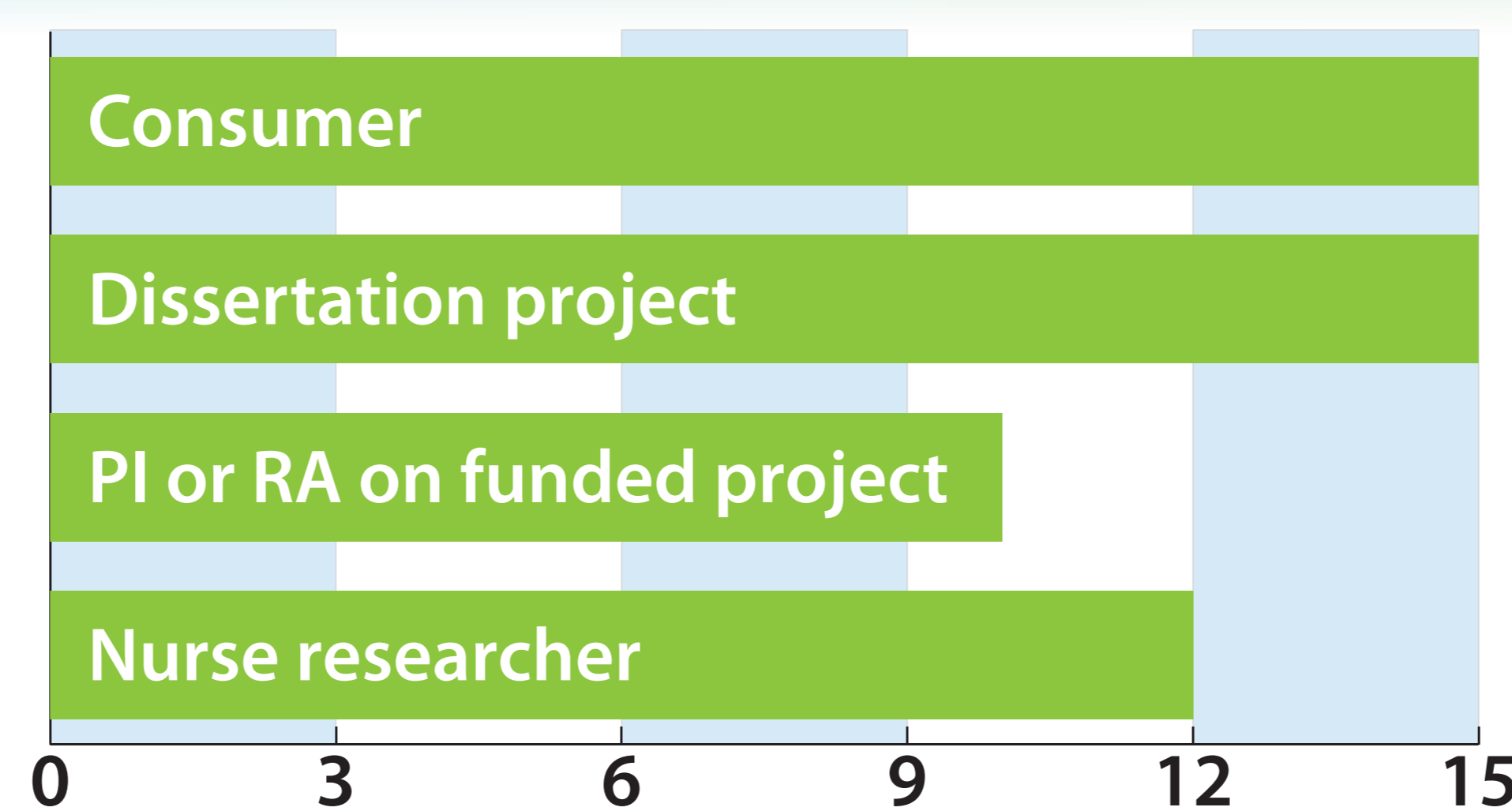
Round 3 – Refinement of the priority areas and consensus agreement of three research themes:

- ▶ Health care delivery
- ▶ Patient experience
- ▶ Developing a workforce

Survey results

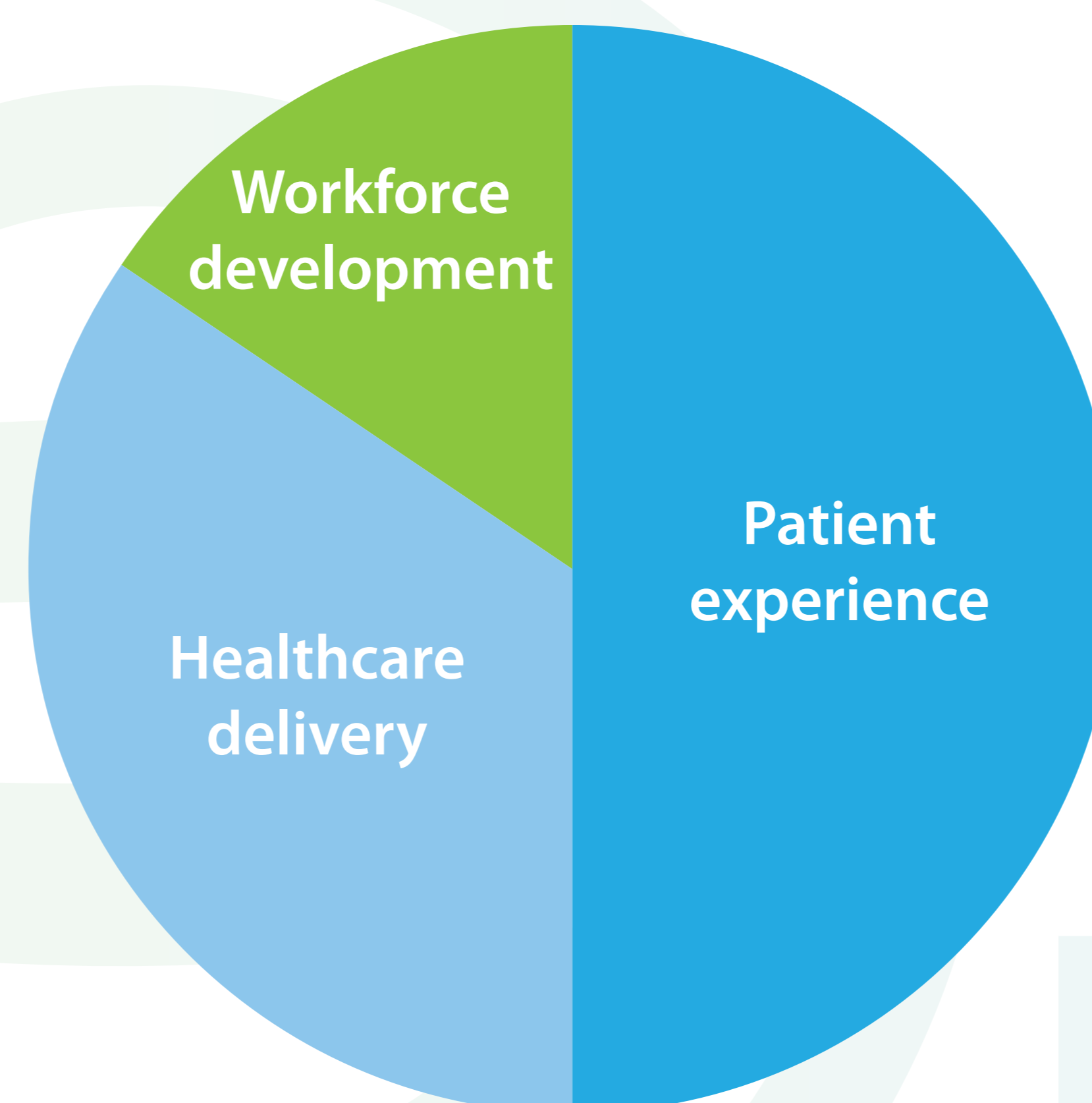
29 nurses completed the survey (8.7% of NHIVNA membership). The majority had clinical roles (79%, n=23).

Fig 1: Research experience of respondents



All respondents supported developing a research strategy. The majority agreed the proposed themes captured research priorities. 54% (n=15) reported being already involved in research that would sit under these themes. 50% (n=13) expressed a preference for being involved in a specific theme.

Fig 2: Proportion interested to be involved in each research theme



In free text responses, respondents suggested some benefits of having a strategy:

“I think this is a very exciting development. A research strategy can help us to develop strong research networks and use these networks to a) undertake high-quality research projects that address current priorities and can make a significant contribution to HIV treatment and care and b) increase HIV research nursing capacity and capability.”

Female, 55–64 years, working in research

“...to embed nurse-led research on the agenda for HIV nurses.”

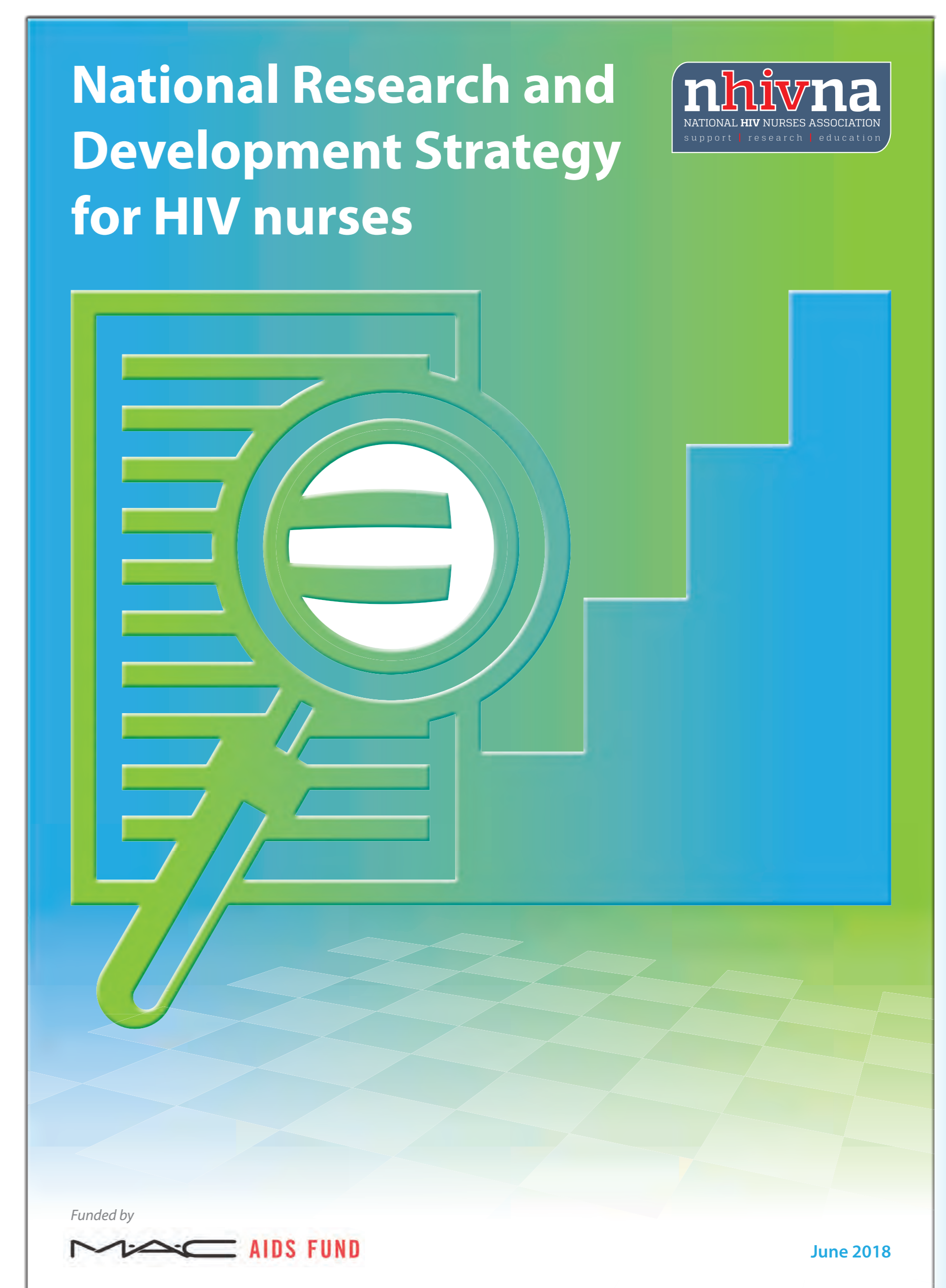
Female, 35–44 years, working in clinical/education

“Nurses are in unique position to liaise between disciplines and with patient to undertake research. Having a national strategy would be great to develop nurses’ potential to become researchers.”

Female, 45–54 years, working in clinical/education/research

Discussion

Developing the research strategy with full stakeholder involvement enabled NHIVNA to establish a shared focus around agreed research priorities. The strategy document provides a five year vision for HIV nursing research including an operational plan [3].



Conclusion

This initiative is a milestone for HIV nursing in the UK. Efforts are now directed towards the five-year implementation plan.

References

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- [2] Foth T, Efstathiou N, Vanderspank-Wright B et al. The use of Delphi and Nominal Group Technique in nursing education: a review. Int J Nurs Stud 2016; 60: 112120
- [3] Piercy H. National Research and Development Strategy for HIV Nurses. London: EQE Health. Available at: www.nhivna.org/National-Research-and-Development-Strategy-for-HIV-nurses

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