

Sigma's 30th International Nursing Research Congress

Jointly Appointed Nurse Scientists: Bridging the Gap Between Academic and Practice Settings

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As described in the 2016 American Association of Colleges of Nursing report, “Advancing Healthcare Transformation: A New Era for Academic Nursing,” integrating nursing research into the practice environment is critical for improving patient care and advancing nursing science. To work towards this goal, our school of nursing began a partnership program with hospitals in our geographic area to hire PhD-prepared nurse scientists who are jointly appointed in the academic and clinical setting.

The program began in 2014 with the hiring of a single nurse scientist who was jointly appointed in the school of nursing and a local healthcare network that includes several acute care hospitals, community hospitals, and a network of outpatient facilities. Two additional nurse scientists were added to that partnership in 2015 and 2016. Beginning in 2017, the program expanded to include a second large hospital network, an independent orthopedic hospital, and an independent cancer hospital, with one new nurse scientist hired in a jointly appointed role for each of these facilities.

The major activities of the partnership programs vary to meet the needs of each hospital. Core functions of the program include providing direct support to clinical nurses who are engaged in research and scholarship, and providing didactic training to foster inquiry and develop skills for conducting research and translating evidence into practice. Supportive activities for research include mentoring nurses through the development of a research question, designing a study, writing a proposal, securing grant funding, obtaining institutional review board approval, collecting and analyzing data, and scholarly writing and dissemination. In addition, as part of the partnership, the school of nursing provides access to biostatisticians and healthcare reference librarians for nurses at the partnering hospitals. Didactic training takes many forms ranging from unit-level presentations to nurses on conducting translational research, or specific topics requested by nurses, to formal nursing research fellowship programs lasting one to two years.

To evaluate the success of the program, we examine a variety of metrics including the numbers of IRB approved research studies, conference abstracts, policy articles, and peer-reviewed research articles written by clinical nurses at the partnering hospitals; the number of research grants submitted and funded through partnerships between the academic and clinical environments; visibility and interest in nursing research among staff and administrators at the partnering hospitals; and impact on patient outcomes after practice changes resulting from translational research.

Title:

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Keywords:

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References:

American Association of Colleges of Nursing. Advancing healthcare transformation: a new era for academic nursing. Published March 1, 2016. Accessed November 20, 2018 from <https://www.manatt.com/getattachment/d58fee3a-2eb1-4490-82d5-94b94d0d5331/attachment.aspx>.

Shepard Battle L. Academic-practice partnerships and patient outcomes. *Nursing Management (Springhouse)* 2018;49:34-40.

Abstract Summary:

This session will discuss the development and implementation of partnerships between a school of nursing and local hospitals through jointly appointed nurse scientists. The discussion will focus on activities to support clinical nurses with translating research into improved patient care.

Content Outline:

1. Overview of academic-practice partnership conceptual model
2. Process and challenges of implementing joint appointment role, including alignment with the strategic goals of each organization
3. Case studies of successful collaborative research projects and resulting translation to nursing care at partnering institutions
4. Impact on outcome metrics (e.g., IRB approved nursing research studies; conference abstracts, policy articles, and peer-reviewed research articles written by clinical nurses at the partnering hospitals; number of research grants submitted and funded through partnerships between the academic and clinical environments; visibility and interest in nursing research among staff and administrators at the partnering hospitals; impact on patient outcomes after practice changes resulting from translational research)

First Primary Presenting Author

Primary Presenting Author

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Author Summary: Bevin Cohen is an epidemiologist and registered nurse. She holds a joint appointment as an associate research scientist at Columbia University School of Nursing and a nurse scientist at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York.

Second Author

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Author Summary: Dr. Sun's research focuses on translational research; she works with nurses both locally and globally to identify and address clinical nursing and midwifery research priorities and has conducted research in the USA, Africa and the Middle East. Carolyn is also part of Columbia School of Nursing's "Linking to Improve Nursing Knowledge" (LINK program) to bridge the gap between academic research and clinical practice at New York Presbyterian Hospital and Columbia University School of Nursing.

Third Author

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Author Summary: Amanda Hessels is an Assistant Professor in the School of Nursing at Columbia University. She holds a joint appointment as a Nurse Scientist at Hackensack Meridian Health.

Fourth Author

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Author Summary: Eileen Carter holds a joint research appointment between New York-Presbyterian Hospital and Columbia University School of Nursing. In this role she advances formal collaborations between service and academia and mentors professional nurses in activities of clinical scholarship.

Fifth Author

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Author Summary: Kenrick Cato, PhD, RN, CPHIMS, is a Nurse Researcher/Assistant Professor for New York-Presbyterian Hospital and Columbia University School of Nursing, respectively. His program of research focuses on utilizing data science approaches to support clinical decision making.

Sixth Author

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Author Summary: Irene Bick holds a joint appointment as an associate research scientist at Columbia University School of Nursing and nurse scientist at Hospital for Special Surgery in New York. Dr. Bick is interested in studying the holistic health needs of older adults with chronic age related conditions as they approach the last phase of life.

Seventh Author

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