Defining the Role of Doctor of Nursing Practice in Symptom Science Research: Opportunity for Collaboration

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Purpose: According to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), the Doctor of Nursing practice (DNP) programs have grown exponentially for the last 10 years (2010-2019)[1]. With this growing number of advanced clinicians, there is considerable ambiguity in the nursing community and the general public on the role of the DNP. The purposes of this paper are to: (1) address the question, "Is there room for DNP nurses in symptom science?" and (2) describe proposed opportunities in the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) to cultivate the PhD-DNP collaboration to strengthen the translation of discoveries from nursing research, to facilitate implementation of discoveries, and to improve clinical practice of nurses.

Methods: A targeted review of the literature was conducted to identify, (1) the role of the DNP, (2) examples of PhD-DNP collaborations, (3) training models that support collaborations, and (4) the outcomes of these intra-professional collaborations.

Results: A major gap was found in the reporting of PhD-DNP collaborations and the outcomes of their partnership. Only one article reported on PhD-DNP collaboration within a university setting[2]. No training models were found. The NINR has established the Symptom Science Center (SSC) with an interest in training the next generation of symptoms scientists. By developing a training curriculum through the NINR SSC, DNP students and practitioners would have the opportunity to rotate and be exposed to the research enterprise. The goal of this training opportunity would be to forge stronger relationships between PhD- and DNP-prepared nurses that would facilitate the translation of findings from symptom science research to clinical practice. It is anticipated that this DNP rotation would be individualized, based on training goals of the trainee.

Conclusion: The NINR is dedicated to promoting the development of an innovative, multidisciplinary, and diverse nursing science workforce and building stronger ties between PhD- and DNP-prepared scientists. The SSC can serve as an optimal platform to promote the collaboration of PhD and DNP nurses to advance symptom science. Developing training opportunities through the NINR SSC, to cultivate the PhD-DNP collaboration has significant relevance for expediting the translation of nursing science

to nursing practice for improved health outcomes for individuals and health care systems. Further, this model of intra-professional collaboration could strengthen the global nursing influence on healthcare delivery and policy development.

Title:
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Abstract Summary:
Developing training opportunities to cultivate the PhD-DNP collaboration has significant relevance for expediting the translation of nursing science to nursing practice for improved health outcomes for individuals and health care systems.

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