# POST DOCTORAL CAREER PATHWAY THROUGH COLLABORATION ACROSS CONTINENTS



### NEED FOR NURSING EXPERTS

Since the latter part of 20th century, doctoral programs began in nursing in different parts of the world. It has been stated that innovative doctoral programs should be connected to units' research programs and must involve international collaboration and multidisciplinary expertise (AACN 2010, Kim et al. 2015). Doctorally prepared nursing experts are crucial to the development of societies and health services as well as to the advancement of the discipline of Nursing.

Systematic, well-organized post-doctoral training programs have been missing in many countries in Europe, including Finland. This has been noted by many professional organizations such as European Academy of Nursing Science (EANS), Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI) and the International Network for Doctoral Education in Nursing (INDEN).

In 2013, an urgent need was recognized in Finland to develop a post-doctoral education program by strong collaboration between Finnish and US nursing experts in academia.

European and Finnish higher education and research strategies called for more systematic researcher's career development after doctoral degree (Research Careers 2010, Report on Mapping Exercise 2011).

# AIM OF PROGRAM

The goal was to develop a two-year post-doctoral training program in Nursing Science at the University of Eastern Finland (UEF) to expand the research skills and have guided experiences related to the research programs of the department.

The post doctoral program was designed to be an individualized experience, meaning it takes into consideration the interests, background, and competencies of the fellow and the aims and objectives of the research program.

# The aims of the program were

- 1) to expand knowledge and skills relevant to the trainee's research interests,
- 2) conduct preliminary studies and prepare a research proposal to be submitted for extramural funding,
- 3) produce manuscripts for submission,
- 4) expand skills relevant to interdisciplinary and international collaboration in research and scholarship,
- 5) be knowledgeable about the tenure track positions at the department as well as, various other future employment opportunities and
- 6) promote skills to lead a research project.

# INEXCA PROJECT

A preliminary plan was completed in 2013 by favorable funding from the university (UEF) and support from a US colleague. Preliminary post doctoral program planning was fruitful and opened possibilities for funding from the European Union.

A four year project INEXCA (see www.uef.fi/inexca) funded by the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation Horizon 2020 includes partners from Europe and the University of Pittsburgh, USA.

# LITERATURE

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