



Empowering Nurses to Partner in the Care of Children with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (ID/DD)

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Background

- One in every six children have one or more developmental disabilities (DD)
- Individuals receiving life-saving medical treatment and individuals living longer amplifies the need for nurses to receive proper training in ID/DD

Disability in U.S. Children Aged 3-17 years	Percent Change between 1997-1999 and 2006-2008
Any Developmental disability	17.1 % ^
Autism	289.5 % ^
Cerebral Palsy	-
Moderate Profound Hearing Loss	-30.9 %
Blind/ unable to see at all	18.2 %
ADHD	33.0 % ^
Other developmental delay	24.7 % ^

Nursing Curriculum Challenges

- Undergraduate and Graduate level are not receiving education and clinical experiences
- Lack of nursing educators and limited time in packed curriculum
- Negative attitudes by nursing students and nurses

Fairfield University

- Analysis: Goals of students
- Implementation: Revamped current generic masters of nursing program
- Goal: Elective courses facilitating interdisciplinary enrichment experiences
- Result: Development of nursing leaders

Student Ambassador



- Where: Rome, Italy
- When: April, 2013
- Conference: 2nd International Vatican Adult Stem Cell Conference: Regenerative Medicine- A Fundamental Shift
- Mission: Inspire the next generation about the power of adult stem cell science and the role these cellular therapies will play in medicine worldwide

Student Publication:

Culture E Fede (2013). Cultures et Foi Cultures and Faith Culturas y Fe. Vol XXI, Anno 2013, N. 3.

LEND Fellowship



Leadership, Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities

- Training program to develop skills in advocacy/policy, clinical, research, and teaching
- Goal is to take on a leadership role in a career specialized in children and families with disabilities and special healthcare needs

Three Two semester Courses

- Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities
- Leadership Seminar
- Seminars in Evidence Based Methods.

Dissemination

Interdisciplinary Collaboration

Masters in Special Education
Masters in Public Administration (MPA)

- Special Education Director on sabbatical, meeting set up for Summer 2015
- MPA Director
 - Meeting with MPA director
 - Initiated meeting between MPA and LEND at WIHD
 - Affiliation agreement written to allow MPA students to attend LEND for capstone/internship
 - Dissemination to MPA students

School of Nursing

- Presentation to the nursing faculty
- Evaluation of current curriculum with the two professors

Pre-assignment:

Video: "Welcome to Holland"
Article: "I am Michael"

Parent/Sibling Panel

- Parent: Autism
- Parent: PMD
- Sibling: Downs Syndrome
- Sibling: Cerebral Palsy



Panel Discussion: Student Reflections

"This was one of the most helpful things that they have done in nursing school so far!"

"Having this opportunity to hear from a panel of experts on special needs taught me a great deal more than if we were to just have a lecture"

"Regardless of my practice area, I found this panel to help me truly realize who I am as a person and how I want to provide the best care possible to my patients, regardless of their struggles. We're all human beings and we all deserve the right to the utmost care and support."

"I really would feel more comfortable if my patient had a developmental delay. Also the panel made it clear that as nurses we are role models and how we address and treat our patients will impact how the whole staff treats them."

"I especially liked how they encouraged us as future nurses to address the patient first, despite the delay."

"Overall, this information will help me in my future career as a nurse by enhancing my communication skills and how I approach new patients. It will also serve as a helpful reminder to always be considerate of patient's independent abilities, no matter what his/her diagnosis may be."

Next Steps

- Yearly dissemination for undergraduate, graduate nursing students, and interdisciplinary programs at Fairfield University
- Expansion to the panel discussion - self-advocate, key note speaker
- Expand panel discussions to local hospital at nursing grand rounds
- Poster Presentation at the SSTI 43rd Biennial Convention, Nov 2015
- Research study to obtain quantifiable data on the positive effects of a panel

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