Establishing International Research Collaborations: A Cross Cultural Perspective

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With the emphasis on global health and international collaborations, international research collaborations for nursing are essential. From a worldwide perspective, the process of building knowledge is directly related to the ability to disseminate this knowledge and apply it globally.
Comparing different cultural challenges and solutions can lead to unique ways to solve specific social and professional problems. These solutions can be used in other cultures as a way to replicate successful models and evidenced based practice to improve nursing practice. Establishing cross cultural research collaborations including cultural experiences helps deal with problems experienced within different cultures.
Here we present steps that contributed to the establishment of a sustainable research collaboration between a university School of Nursing in Rio de Janeiro (Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro) and a university School of Nursing in California, United States (Azusa Pacific University).
• The presentation will focus on the experience and insights of establishing a research collaboration:
  • engaging both undergraduate and graduate students in research
  • establishing common approaches to work from a collaborative international perspective
  • future plans for sustaining this collaboration.
MAIN CAMPUS - UERJ
SON - UERJ
Methods

• This study is based on the self-reported experience of faculty, preceptors, and nursing students that have participated in the collaborative partnership between Brazil and the United States (US).

• There is a well-established process for exchanging nursing professionals and students. An initial visit by the Dean and Associate Dean of the US School of Nursing resulted in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for education and research between the universities.

• Faculty and students from a School of Nursing in California, US visited the Brazilian university and university hospital in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Brazilian professors also visited the School of Nursing in California. Discussions ensued by e-mail and videoconference.
Pedro Ernesto hospital staff with APU team
Results

Between 2013 and 2016, faculty members from the School of Nursing in California travelled to Brazil 3 times, while Brazilian faculty members from Rio travelled once to the US.

Preliminary studies have shown that nurses who understand a variety of different people are more effective in offering ways to deal with illness and to seek wellness.
HUPE nurses visit APU
Additionally, two groups of US students have travelled to Rio where they had the opportunity observe nursing research and practice.
Undergraduate Research Collaboration
“Today I had the opportunity to meet with the faculty of the school of nursing at UERJ. They were extremely welcoming and very attentive to my needs. I received a tour of the offices and was introduced to various staff and faculty including the Dean NV. One of the most impressive things I learned about the school is that they publish their own journal. I was told that it was a multilingual journal and that I could even submit an article about my experience in Rio for publication if I wanted to. I also had the opportunity to meet with professor OMCV, who became the first male midwife in Brazil. He currently overseas much of the doctoral studies in women’s health. Overall, I was very impressed with the university not only from a personality stand point, but also with the variety of programs and degrees they offer. I can easily see why it is a leading university for nursing and nursing research in Brazil.”

(Jose, APU, SON ELM student)
While health care systems are very different, the population and the pressure from the growing a gerontological population is a significant consideration that is similarly shared between Brazil and the US.
Santa Marta Clinic and Urgent Care

- Serves the favela of Rocinha, the largest slum community in Rio de Janeiro
- Clinic serves 44,000 people, 12,285 families
- Community divided into 11 regions, each serviced by a health team
- Health team: 1 MD, 1 RN, 1 RN technician (equivalent to an LVN), 6 community health workers
- Enthusiastic about students doing home visits with the community health workers and partnering with the health team RN’s
- Clinicians receive 30% salary bonus for improved patient outcomes, families are eligible for scholarships as an incentive to make and keep regular visits to the clinic.
UPA 24h
Unidade de Pronto-Atendimento
Saudé Presente
Unidade Rocinha
• There are opportunities to identify different ways to solve problems consistent with the culture of each country.

• Observations and discussion led to new research possibilities in child and gerontological nursing.

• For example issues related to the Zika virus, and dementia syndromes, conditions common to both countries.
One application of a cognitive stimulation workshop for elderly people with dementia, a gerontological nursing care strategy, (Souza, Bastos, Santana, & Cassiano, 2008), was implemented in Brazil.

Dr. Celia Caldas, Professor at UERJ, work offers collaborative research opportunities. Currently she and Dr. Souza are examining the application of Kolcaba’s comfort theory as a basis for nursing practice when caring for elder in acute care. Additionally she has examined health promotion and wellness for elders at The University Open to the Third Age (Universidade Aberta a Terceira Idade).

Woods work on aging variations and ethnopharmacology (Woods, Mentes, Cadogan & Phillips, 2016) is under review as a collaborative research project at UERJ.
The interdisciplinary team at the Geriatric Clinic is a national research project focused on optimal function for elders with depression/dementia. Students are able to participate and derive their own related projects.

This clinic offers several research opportunities for both graduate and undergraduate students.
Two BSN Apu students participated in the interdisciplinary team geriatric clinic. Observing a comprehensive Geriatric Assessment and team discussion.
Using similar instruments to measure outcomes will help improve cross-cultural comparisons (Jessen, Cruz, Tesoro & Lopes, 2014), although there is considerable research work related to the cultural meaning and translation of instruments.

Ongoing videoconferencing, monthly will maintain relationships and help to identify areas of mutual interest for research.
Future Plans

- Identify funding sources

- Setting up the infrastructure for Graduate students to participate in research. The opportunities are available.

- Potential Collaborations
  - Graduate Students and Teachers
  - Comparison between populations - For example, Gerontological populations
Thank You!

Obrigada!