

**itle:**

SPECIAL SESSION: The Tale of Two Teng: A Program of Research in a Child's World

**Presenter:** Christine Kennedy, PhD, RN, PPCNP-BC, FAAN

**Type:**

Oral

**Keywords:**

children's health, health behaviors and pediatric primary care

**Summary:**

Highlights from a career program of research focused on the influence of illness, media, and culture on children's health will be shared. From children's TV habits and behavior in working class neighborhoods to influencing health policy engagement this précis will demonstrate the tenet that "research is all about relationships."

**Final Number:**

K 07

**Slot:**

K 07: Saturday, 29 July 2017: 3:30 PM-4:00 PM

**References:**

1. Keim-Malpass, Letzkus, L., & **Kennedy, C.** (2015). Health literacy and the Affordable Care Act: A policy analysis for children with special health care needs in the USA. *Risk Management and Health Care Policy*, 8, 31-36. doi: 10.2147/RMHP.S80699
2. Bender, M. S., **Kennedy, C.**, & Martinez, S. (2015). Designing a culturally appropriate visually enhanced mobile low-text mobile health app promoting physical activity for Latinos: A qualitative study. *Journal of Transcultural Nursing*, 1-9. DOI: 10.1177/1043659614565249
3. Keim-Malpass, J., Letzkus, L. C., & **Kennedy, C.** (2015). Parental/caregiver health literacy among children with special health care needs: A systematic review. *BMC Pediatrics*, 15
4. Keim-Malpass, J., Stegenga, K., Loudin, B., **Kennedy, C.**, & Kools, S. (2016). "It's back, my remission is over": Online communication of disease progression among adolescents with cancer. *Journal of Pediatric Oncology Nursing*, 33(3), 209-17.
5. Kanyamee, M., Fongkaew, W., Chotibang, J., Aree, P., & **Kennedy, C.** (2013). An intervention study of changing eating behaviors and reducing weight in Thai children aged 10-12. *Pacific Rim International Journal of Nursing Research*, 17(4), 317-328. doi:10.1177/1043454215600424 (92), 1-10. doi:10.1186/s12887-015-0412-x

6. Kennedy, C., & Chen, J. L. (2009). Changes in childhood risk taking and safety behavior after a peer group media intervention. *Nursing Research*, 58(4), 264. doi:10.1097/NNR.0b013e3181ac12dd
7. Chen, J. L., Wall, D., Kennedy, C, Unnithan, V., & Yeh, C. H. (2007). Predictors of increased body mass index in Chinese children. *Progress in Cardiovascular Nursing*, 22(3), 138-144.
8. Chen, J. L., Unnithan, V., & Kennedy, C. (2006). Comparing physical fitness and physical activity in Chinese children in Taiwan and the United States. *Asian Journal of Nursing Science*, 9(1), 17-25.
9. Chen, J. L., & Kennedy, C. (2005). Cultural variations in children's coping behavior, TV viewing time, and family functioning. *International Nursing Review*, 52(3), 186-195. 10.

**Learning Activity:**

<b>LEARNING OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>EXPANDED CONTENT OUTLINE</b>
<p>The learner will be able to articulate why a key to successful research is about establishing and maintaining relationships</p>	<p>A sustained, funded program of research requires many key ingredients. Skills, science, personal stamina, intellectual curiosity, flexibility, the incubator of time and career mentoring. But underpinning all of these and as equally important are the relationships integral to all of this work and with those who participate in this work either as study participants, research team members, colleagues who teach alongside of us and the clinicians who utilize our findings in practice.</p>
<p>The learner will be better able to identify factors that are associated with children's health outcomes</p>	<p>Childhood is how the human race begins and is also its future. Many of our health behaviors are based on habits formed during childhood and once established, are increasingly resistant to change. For example sedentary behavior contributes to the top chronic health conditions - diabetes, heart disease, obesity - and several recent studies report that 40% of premature deaths can be attributed to individual health behaviors. Research findings from Kennedy's program of research relevant to this theme will be reviewed</p>

## **Abstract:**

Highlights from a career program of research focused on the influence of illness, media and culture on children's health will be shared. From children's TV habits and behavior in working class neighborhoods to influencing health policy engagement this brief précis will demonstrate the tenet that 'research is all about relationships.' Using an analogy from the retelling of a Japanese folktale - concepts such as serving two masters, undefined expectations and how cooperation can underpin a research career path will be shared.

Dr. Kennedy's research has spanned the globe; with a particular focus on Pacific Rim countries and populations whose historical presence in California is critical to appreciate in primary care. Her research team is currently funded to study various aspects of health literacy and its role in clinical care and outcomes to reduce health disparities among underserved populations. Her research broadly addresses the impact of daily life activities on children's development, specifically on the behavioral underpinnings to health in early childhood (3-8 years of age).

Collaborative work with colleagues in pediatric oncology with an emphasis on symptom science has been a secondary line of enquiry. Her work over the past twenty-five years has built on relationships with colleagues and students around the world. Findings from early work on risk taking and injuries lead to examining how media, especially how television was influential in young children's perception of the "real world" and was grounded in her dual role in clinical practice as a PNP and graduate academic teaching in pediatric behavior and development. Interventions to change sedentary behaviors and increase healthy lifestyles in families use of mobile phone visual pictorial apps to facilitate physical activity in low health literacy populations and other relevant findings from this body of work will be reviewed.

Research for knowledge generation alone is at times insufficient and translation of evidence to practice with a measureable impact on policy can bring nursing science full circle. Policy activity has had a direct relationship to this program of research. Examples from legislation in the late 1990's from tobacco product taxes and the eventual Universal health care program for children in California; and more recently with Dr. Malpass and her examination of aspects of the Affordable Care Act and the needs of special health care children will be shared to illustrate this perspective.