The International Nursing Network for HIV Research: A Global Partnership Advancing Nursing Science

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Objectives

• Discuss why team-based scientific approach is effective for conducting HIV-related research

• Highlight strategies that may be used to build the capacity of research teams

• Explain how a team-based multi-site approach to conducting HIV related research can be used to leverage resources and generate quality data
A Brief History of the Network

• Official launch in 1995 in Botswana following 1980s collaboration between American Nurse scientist William Holzemer (UCSF) and Nonhlanhla Sukati (Univ. Swaziland)

• Creation of a network of nurse researchers that would contribute to the growing knowledge and progress in HIV science

• Goals
  • Improve the quality of care for persons living with HIV/AIDS
  • Link nurse scientists and clinicians working in HIV/AIDS,
  • Generate cross-cultural and cross-national research in HIV/AIDS
  • Identify and train nurse scientists.
  • Foster communication among Network participants,
  • Share conceptual, methodological and technical expertise,
  • Conduct cross-cultural, cross-national nursing research studies and disseminate the findings
The Network Today

- Participating sites across the United States/Puerto Rico, Canada, Thailand, Botswana, Uganda, and South Africa
- Completion of 7 research protocols (getting ready to begin our 8th)
- >50 published studies
- Growing participation from senior scientists to students
Team Based Multi-Site Approach
Resourceful AND Beneficial

• Collaboration team can pool resources
  • Sharing expenses (e.g. multiple small-pot funding OR single multisite funding mechanism)
  • Extremely time-intensive expectation for one site

• Sites can pool expertise for mutual benefit → Maximizes data utility
  • All sites complete single protocol
  • Some sites complete sub-studies or additional measures
  • Each site can use data + Entire group can use data
Contributions to Generating Quality Data

• Larger Samples
  • Multiple sites share recruitment

• Greater representation
  • Better chance of reaching representation compared to single site
  • Greater diversity within the sample

• Maximizes use of data!

• Optimizes future opportunities!
Model of Function

- Establishment of the Group’s Structure
  - Common Goals
  - Meetings, central contact points, intra-group responsibilities (e.g. coordination)
  - Research process; how will the group decide on a project

- Collaborate to develop protocols that are inclusive
  - Mutual benefit
  - Robust

- Collect and Disseminate
  - Writing
  - Presentations

- REPEAT!
Potential Challenges

• Authority
• Does the research fit my program?
• Is it cost-effective for me to attend regularly?
• What if I cannot get funding for my site?
• How will we decide on authorship?
• Will this really help students/trainees?
Exemplar: Active Living Study

• Assess physical activity, exercise patterns, and physical fitness among persons living with HIV in context of neighborhoods, HIV stigma, self-image, functional status (physical, mental, emotionally, and pain), comorbidities etc.
  • Met twice a year (Chicago, Cleveland, Birmingham, and Corpus Christi); developed protocol, trained on protocol, and completed data collection on >700 people living with HIV

• Interdisciplinary perspective and Interprofessional interactions
  • Nurse scientists, exercise physiologists

• Provide research development opportunity for students and junior faculty
  • Undergraduate Student Research Assistants, Clinical Experts-HIV Care, PT, AT, Tenure Track Faculty—AT and Nursing, Post-Doctoral Research Assistant

• Team Leader with experience and expertise in conducting mixed methods research, manuscript writing, and proposal development

• Create opportunity for development of manuscripts and proposal writing
  • 14+ proposed manuscripts to date (currently in process)
QUESTIONS?

GRACIAS  THANK YOU
ARIGATO  SUKSAMA
SHUKURIA  MEHRBANI
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