



Government of Western Australia
North Metropolitan Health Service
Sir Charles Gairdner Osborne Park Health Care Group



Centre for Nursing Research 2017-2018 BIENNIAL REPORT





Thank you to the clinicians and all staff who have been involved in these research and evaluation projects.

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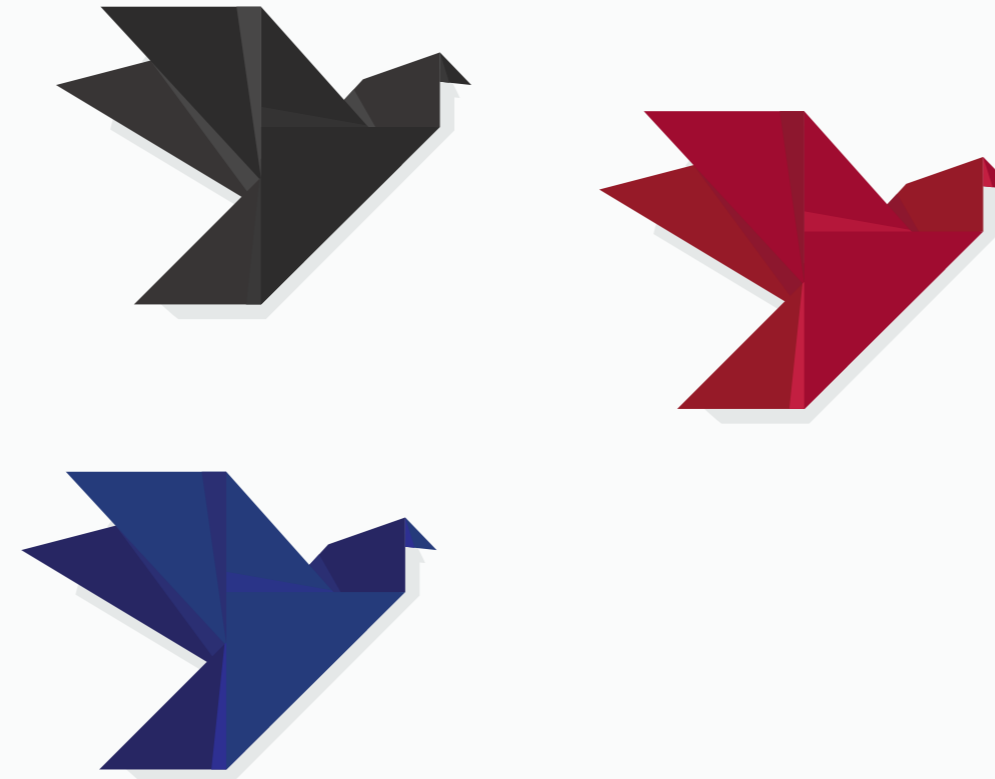


Centre for Nursing Research

Our Vision

*Advancing a nursing culture of inquiry,
discovery, and evidence translation*

The Centre for Nursing Research maintains strategic partnerships with three universities: Edith Cowan University, Curtin University and Murdoch University. Researchers collaborate with clinically-based nurses and multidisciplinary teams to conduct nurse-led research that generates and translates evidence to inform quality health care practice.





It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the Centre for Nursing Research (CNR) Biennial Report for 2017-2018.

The Nursing Service at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital is extremely proud of the achievements of CNR over the past two years. It is fantastic to see clinical research make a positive contribution to improvements in patient care.

The nursing staff of CNR have been able to attract funding to carry out research, which continues to produce excellent results. This continued research focuses and influences clinical practice and patient care outcomes. This has been achieved through partnerships with patients, their families and carers, clinicians, nurses and academic staff.

I hope you enjoy reading about the nursing research activities of the past two years. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff of CNR and the partnering universities who continue to produce such innovative and quality research outcomes.

Adjunct Associate Professor Tony Dolan
Executive Director of Nursing Services

Sir Charles Gairdner Osborne Park Health Care Group
North Metropolitan Health Service.



It is once again a great pleasure to present to you the Centre for Nursing Research Biennial Report.

The long standing and strong collaborative partnership with Edith Cowan, Curtin and Murdoch Universities is evident in the research outcomes described in this report.

The collaboration includes fellowships for early career researchers and joint appointments with senior researchers.

These relationships have allowed our front line clinical staff to have academic research mentorship leading to the development of excellent research projects, grant success, publications and conference presentations by both groups.

CNR once again ran the interprofessional Engaging iN Research program, which included participants from Perth Children's Hospital and the Cancer and Palliative Care network who were mentored to undertake a project over an 8-month period, which was presented in poster form during Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital Research Week.

I am extremely proud of the outcomes of CNR and hope that you enjoy reading this report.

Adjunct Associate Professor Sue Davis RN, B AppSc (Nursing), MN (Research)
Nurse Director Corporate Nursing Research & Education

Sir Charles Gairdner Osborne Park Health Care Group
North Metropolitan Health Service.

Our People



Sue provides leadership to hospital-wide nursing services including the Centre for Nursing Research, the Centre for Nursing Education, Clinical Nurse Consultant and Nurse Practitioner roles, nursing recruitment, patient equipment and a number of significant nursing projects. She is a member of the SCGH Human Research Ethics Committee. Sue worked in various Palliative Care roles for 18 years, including as the Clinical Nurse Consultant for Palliative Care at SCGH. Sue has an active interest in the promotion of nursing research and the integration of evidence into practice.

Following many years of service to nursing, Sue retired in December 2018.

Adjunct Associate Professor Sue Davis
RN, B AppSc (Nursing), MN (Research)
Nurse Director
Corporate Nursing Research & Education
Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital



Professor Twigg combines her extensive experience in Health Service leadership with more recent research and policy development to make a research contribution to issues related to nursing workforce, hospital staffing and cost-effective care. Her internationally recognised research is in nursing workforce and patient outcomes, which specifically relates to safe staffing levels and the relationships between staffing, patient, organisational and economic outcomes.

Professor Di Twigg AM
PhD, MBA, B Health Sc Nsg (Hons.), RN, RM,
FACN, FACHSM
Research Consultant



Anne is the Professor of Health Research and Graduate Research Director for the Discipline of Nursing, College of Science, Engineering, and Education at Murdoch University. Anne's main research interests are patient experience (especially in relation to chronic health conditions), nursing staff wellbeing, psychosocial care, pain management, end-of-life-care, and evidence translation. Anne is passionate about creating positive supportive healthcare environments by generating and translating knowledge.

Professor Anne Williams
RN, BSc (Hons.), MSc, PhD
Research Consultant

Welcome

Our People



Chris Toye is Associate Professor, Older Persons’ Health Care, at Curtin University and a Research Consultant in the Centre for Nursing Research. She conducts research into health-related care for older people and support for their family caregivers. Chris is a Foundation Member of the Australian Hartford Consortium of Gerontological Nursing Excellence and is leading an NHMRC funded multi-centre randomised controlled trial of a family caregiver program implemented when an older person is discharged home from hospital.

Associate Professor Chris Toye
RN, BN (Hons.), Grad. Cert. Tertiary Teaching, PhD
Research Consultant



Linda is a Senior Research Fellow at Edith Cowan University and Adjunct Research Fellow in the Centre for Nursing Research. Linda’s research interests include improving patient outcomes in acute care settings, nurse-led models of care, translation of evidence-based practice and implementation science. While at an early stage post-PhD she has been awarded more than \$400,000 in research funding, and is an investigator on 12 research studies. Linda is a passionate advocate for nursing research and supervises Masters and PhD students.

Dr Linda Coventry
RN, BSc, MS, PhD (NHMRC Postgraduate Research Scholarship)
Research Consultant



Mandy is a Senior Research Fellow at Edith Cowen University (ECU) and an Adjunct Research Fellow in the Centre for Nursing Research. She is a Registered Nurse, with experience in critical care nursing and completed her PhD in 2012. Her research focus is improving clinical outcomes within the acute care setting for adults and families with Type 2 diabetes, cognitive impairment, and morbid obesity. Her research also explores the concepts of emotional intelligence and well-being.

Dr Mandy Towell-Barnard
RN, DCur, MCur, BCur (Ed et ADM), Dip CritCare
Research Consultant



Susan has a joint appointment with Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital and Curtin University. Her research interests are older person’s health care, family caregiver support, and development of a resilience nursing workforce. She is a member of the Australian Hartford Consortium of Gerontological Nursing Excellence, and the Australian Association of Gerontology Strategic Grants Committee. She sits on the hospital’s Human Research Ethics Committee and Scientific Review Subcommittee. In 2019, Susan was appointed Associate Professor of Nursing at Murdoch University.

Dr Susan Slatyer
RN, BN (Hons.), PhD
Research Consultant



Vicki has a background in stoma wound and continence nursing and has a particular interest in pelvic floor dysfunction. She completed her Masters thesis in 2009 and worked as a Clinical Nurse Consultant in a pelvic floor unit in Sydney for many years. Vicki was awarded her PhD titled ‘The cost, treatment efficacy and the role of colonic dysmotility in faecal incontinence and constipation’ in early 2018 from University of NSW. Vicki is undertaking a three-year clinical research fellowship at Edith Cowan University and Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital.

Dr Vicki Patton
RN, BaHealth (Nursing), MN (Hons.), PhD
Research Fellow, Research Consultant



Anne Matthews is a Senior Registered Nurse with extensive clinical and management experience in tertiary and secondary hospitals. She provides a link between ward-based clinicians and the Centre for Nursing Research. She sits on a number of hospital committees where she provides research input and seeks opportunities for research and quality improvement activities. Anne has led a number of hospital-wide projects. She is studying a Masters of Research with Training at Murdoch University.

Anne Matthews
BSc Nursing Studies and current Masters Student
Clinical Nurse Specialist

Our People



Michelle holds a joint appointment as Research Officer in the Centre for Nursing Research and Edith Cowan University. She has advanced skills in the collection and analysis of quantitative data, database management, literature search, transcription, and report writing. She provides extensive support to research and evaluation projects and hospital quality improvement initiatives.

Michelle Ong
*BSc, BCom
Research Officer*



Janice has worked in the Centre for Nursing Research since 2000. Her areas of expertise are office management and research support. Following many years of service to Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, Jan retired in December 2018.

Jan Low
Administrative Assistant



Welma is a Clinical Research Nurse within the Emergency Department, based in the Centre for Nursing Research. She maintains her clinical role in the Intensive Care Unit and provides Research Nurse support on secondment from her clinical position. Welma’s research focus is safe working environments within hospitals to improve outcomes for patients and nurses. Welma returned to a clinical position in June 2018 after a number of years in this role.

Welma Van Schalkwyk
*RN, MTech (Nursing), Dip (Nursing), Dip (Critical Care), BTech (Nursing Management)
Research Nurse*



Helen is a Research Nurse at Murdoch University and Centre for Nursing Research, while maintaining her clinical role as a Registered Nurse on an orthopaedic ward. She provides research support for a number of projects through data analysis, literature search, and transcription. Her areas of interest include research and improvement of population health outcomes. Helen completed a Master of Public Health in 2017 at Edith Cowan University.

Angong (Helen) Acuil
*RN, BSc (Nursing), MPH
Research Nurse*



Emily has worked as a Research Assistant at Murdoch University and Centre for Nursing Research. She has an extensive background in oncology/haematology nursing and conducted her doctoral fieldwork at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital. Her PhD thesis explores organisation-wide interprofessional practice issues for recognising and responding to clinical deterioration prior to medical emergency.

Emily Allen
*RN, Dip HE, BSc (Hons.), PhD Student
Research Assistant*



Eileen is a Research Officer in the School of Physiotherapy and Exercise Science, Curtin University. She has extensive experience managing large interstate clinical trials, and broad nursing experience in a variety of Australian and international settings. Her research focuses on translation of evidence into clinical practice. Eileen is undertaking a PhD evaluating patient acceptance of a low back pain stratified/matched care pathway in primary care.

Eileen Boyle
*RN, BNsg, MNsg, GradDipLang, GradDipEd,
PhD Student
Research Officer*

Our People



Céline is a Health Research Officer at Murdoch University and provides research support to Professor Anne Williams within the Centre for Nursing Research. Céline manages the Solaris Collaborative Research Team (Solaris), a multidisciplinary group of health clinicians and researchers who drive a research agenda in the area of supportive cancer care. The group is undertaking a project measuring levels of empowerment and distress in cancer patients.

Céline Fournier
*BA, PG Dip PHC, M MSc
Research Assistant*



David is a research assistant at ECU. He assists with projects conducted by the Centre for Nursing Research, primarily providing recruitment and data collection for projects investigating hospital care for adults and families with Type 2 diabetes. He also provides individual tutelage to Aboriginal undergraduate nursing Assistance Scheme at ECU.

David Jennings
*BSc (Nursing) (Hons.)
Research Assistant*



Katherine is a Research Officer for Curtin University working with the support of the Centre for Nursing Research on a large falls prevention study at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital. Katherine has a background in pharmaceutical clinical trials for both patients and healthy volunteers. Her work focuses on the collection and analysis of qualitative and quantitative data, participant recruitment and staff training and support.

Katherine Jones
*BSc
Research Officer*



Tricia is a Research Assistant in the Centre for Nursing Research and Edith Cowan University. She provides research support to research and evaluation projects relating to hospital quality and improvement initiatives. Tricia is skilled in the collection and analysis of quantitative data, database management, literature search, qualitative interviewing and report writing.

Tricia Peh
*BHSc
Research Assistant*



Cathy is a Research Officer at both Curtin and Murdoch Universities and the Child and Adolescent Health Service (CAHS) at Perth Children’s Hospital. She provides research support on a number of research projects, including evaluation of hospital initiatives aimed at providing support for family carers of older patients with delirium, the evaluation of a cancer nurse wellbeing program, and developing a best-practice model of care for neurological nurses in the community.

Cathy Pienaar
*BSc (Nursing) and MSc (Medicine)
Research Officer*

Summary of Research Outputs

 **Funding**
\$204,272
(\$204,272.27)

 **48**
*Publications
in 2017 & 2018*



 **22**
PhD
Students

10 
Masters
Students





Partnering with Consumers

National Safety and Quality Health Service Standard 2

Partnering with consumers is of paramount importance in today's healthcare sector. It is also a requirement of the National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards (NSQHS) throughout healthcare organisations in Australia. 'Standard 2 - Partnering with Consumers' describes the systems and strategies to create a person-centred health care system that ensures patients are shared decision-makers both in their own care and in healthcare design (National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards, 2017).

The Centre for Nursing Research (CNR) is committed to partnering with consumers to ensure they are active participants in research aimed at improving patient care. We acknowledge that our consumers/ patients, their families and carers are at the heart of care planning. Our research aims to improve outcomes for all and, as such, we are committed to consumer collaboration at the level of the individual, the organisation, and the North Metropolitan Health Service. Throughout this biennial report there are examples of CNR staff partnering with patients, carers and families in research and quality improvement studies, particularly with the older adult population.

In one such project, family carers were involved in all three stages of a study conducted by CNR researchers in collaboration with Ward C16 and Curtin University. The project aimed to develop and trial ways to support families of older patients with delirium better. Ward C16 provides acute care for patients aged 65 years and older and includes a dedicated 10-bed Delirium Care Unit providing a safe, supportive environment for patients experiencing the acute symptoms of delirium. Delirium is a physical illness that results in a sudden change in thinking, memory and behaviour. Symptoms fluctuate, changing from



day to day, often increasing at night, and usually resolving over days or weeks. The study began with family carers of patients with delirium completing surveys evaluating how 'family-centred' they found care on the ward and how prepared they felt for caregiving. Next, family carers worked with ward staff and researchers to develop practice changes to improve two-way communication. One component was introduction of the 'Sunflower' tool (NSW Agency for Clinical Innovation) into each bedspace, which enabled family carers to provide and display information about the older person's likes, dislikes, and life. Lastly, the changes were trialled and family carers of patients with delirium provided feedback through surveys and telephone interviews. It was evident that families appreciated written and verbal information received from ward nurses, and valued opportunities to participate in the daily nursing handover. Ward nurses also saw great value in the Sunflower tool, which they felt equipped them with non-clinical information to comfort and avoid distressing patients with delirium.

Here in CNR we continue to seek opportunity for developing partnerships with our consumers, both individuals and organisations so together we can work towards research outcomes which positively impact service delivery, development of services, information and improve patient care.

<https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/National-Safety-and-Quality-Health-Service-Standards-second-edition.pdf>



Full tool available from: https://www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0008/285380/chops-sunflower.pdf

Acknowledgment to NSW Agency for Clinical Innovation for 'Care of Confused Hospitalised Older Persons' website 2013 (www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/chops).

Collaborations

WA, Australia, International

The Centre for Nursing Research (CNR) maintains strategic partnerships with three universities: Edith Cowan University, Curtin University, and Murdoch University. Additionally, CNR researchers collaborate with external service providers and academic institutions in nurse-led research conducted in Western Australia (WA), nationally and internationally. A brief snapshot of CNR collaborative activities is provided.

In WA, CNR researchers are integral to the Solaris Collaborative Research Team (CRT), a multidisciplinary group of health clinicians and researchers who drive research in the area of supportive cancer care. The CRT brings WA's leading cancer support service provider Solaris Cancer Care together with the state's five universities to generate and translate evidence to improve cancer patients' physical and psychological well-being. Collaborations with other service providers have sought to improve community-based care for Western Australians living with neurological conditions and their family carers, including those who provide home-based care for people with dementia.

CNR researchers also work with local universities to develop and trial innovative educational technologies, particularly in the rapidly developing area of simulation in nursing education. Building on earlier work exploring factors that sustain Aboriginal students in nursing education, CNR researchers collaborated with the Nursing and Midwifery Office (WA Health) to adapt an assessment and planning tool to facilitate resources to support these students.

Nationally, CNR researchers worked with collaborators from universities and service providers across Australia to review and develop clinical practice and policy. Projects focused on

blood sampling via peripheral venous cannulae, oral care to reduce risk of aspiration pneumonia in people with dementia who live in residential aged care, and issues in continence and stoma care. Internationally, CNR maintains a connection to Canada, and the UK through Associate Professor Chris Toye's involvement in research being conducted in Canada that aims to improve the quality of life of family caregivers of people who are at end of life, during caregiving and bereavement.

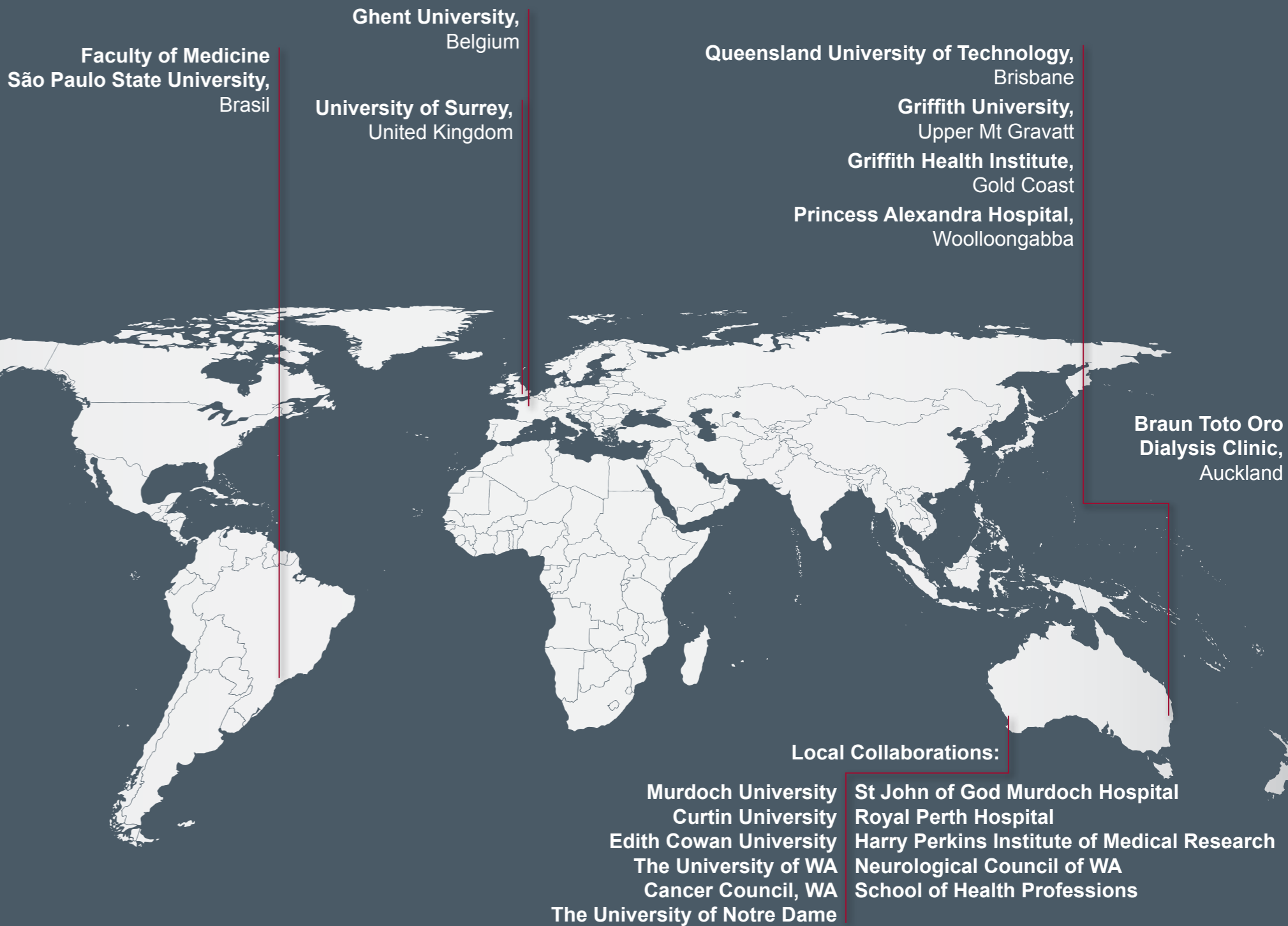
Interstate and Overseas Collaborations:

- Ghent University, Belgium
- Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane
- Braun Toto Oro Dialysis Clinic, Auckland
- Faculty of Medicine São Paulo State University, Brasil
- University of Surrey, United Kingdom
- Griffith University, Upper Mt Gravatt
- Griffith Health Institute, Gold Coast
- Princess Alexandra Hospital, Woolloongabba

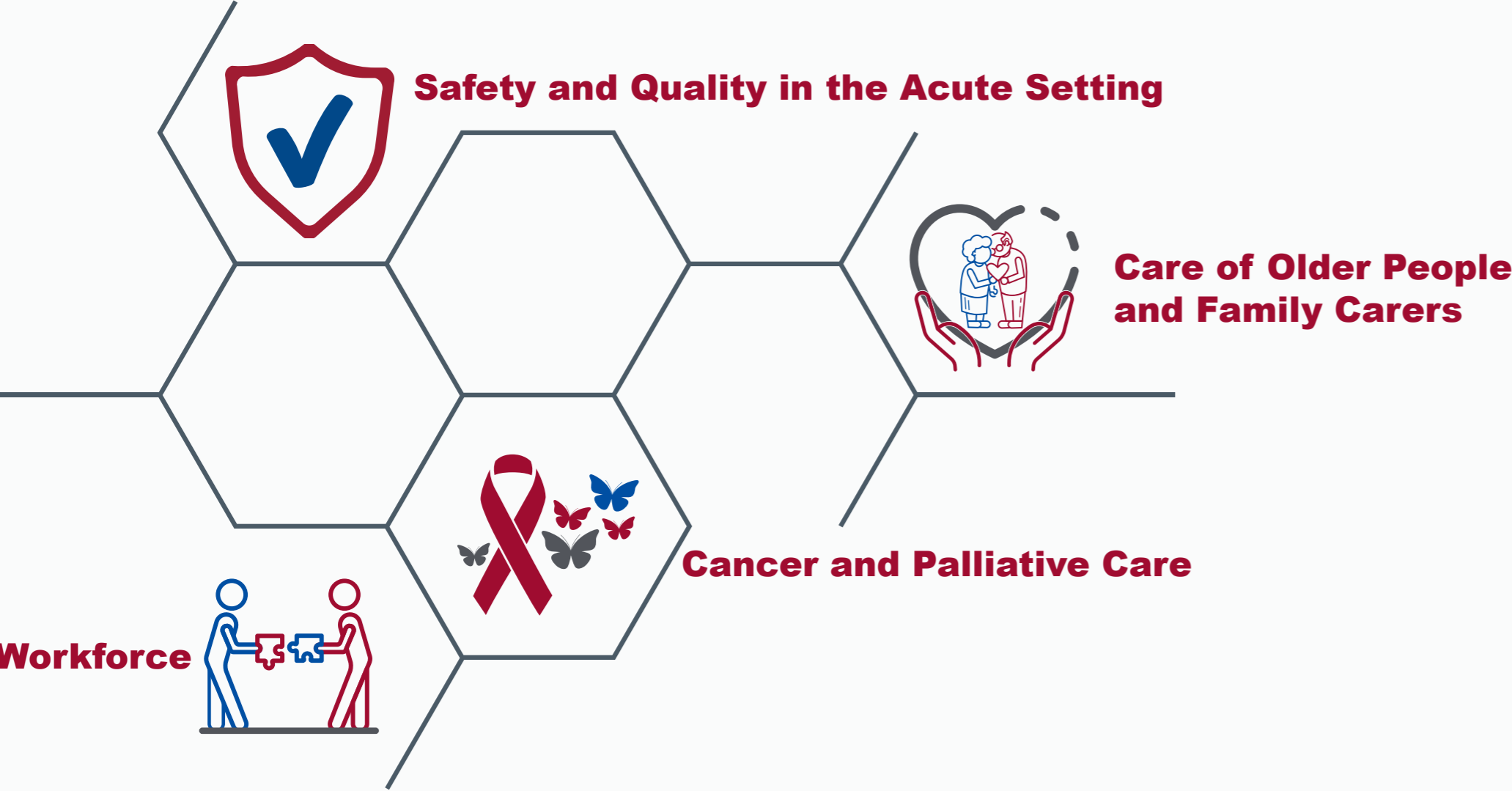
Local Collaborations:

- Murdoch University
- Curtin University
- Edith Cowan University
- The University of Western Australia
- Cancer Council, Western Australia
- The University of Notre Dame
- St John of God Murdoch Hospital
- Royal Perth Hospital
- Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research
- Neurological Council of WA
- School of Health Professions

Interstate and Overseas Collaborations:



Our Research



Safety and Quality in the Acute Setting



Summary Statement

Nurses comprise the biggest health workforce in the hospital and are uniquely placed to conduct research to improve patient outcomes. Our research focuses on patient quality and safety initiatives and examines innovative Advanced Nursing Practice models of care. We liaise and conduct research with Nurse Practitioners, Clinical Nurse Specialists, Clinical Nurse Consultants and direct care nurses aiming to enhance patient care. We focus on evidence-based practice recommendations and how they translate to practice.


Our research explores and aims to reduce hospital-acquired complications that align with the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care priorities. This research stream seeks to advance scientific and clinical evidence to improve nursing care and nursing management of our hospitalised patients.

Completed Projects

Title: The effect of media campaigns, patient characteristics, and presenting symptoms on prehospital delay in myocardial infarction: A prospective cohort study

Investigators: **Coventry, L.**, Bremner, A., Van Schalkwyk, J., Hegney, D., Thompson, P.


Patient delay in seeking treatment after having a heart attack is associated with increased mortality. This prospective cohort study assessed the impact of the Australian Heart Foundation media campaigns and identified characteristics that may contribute to delay. We found no association between awareness of media campaigns and delay time. Delay was associated with being widowed, symptom onset on a weekday or weekend, past medical history of heart attack, use of private rather than ambulance transport, and lack of symptoms of sweating and weakness. These findings are possibly relevant to future media campaigns.

 Link to published article:
<http://doi.org/10.1016/j.hlc.2018.203>

Title: Evaluation of chair overlays to reduce pressure injury in high risk patients in an outpatient renal dialysis setting in renal dialysis

Investigators: Cowan, N., **Ong, M.**, **Coventry, L.**

The audit aimed to evaluate if use of a chair overlay reduced pressure injury in haemodialysis patients, considered high risk due to extended time sitting immobile in a chair, comorbidities, and older age. No pressure injuries developed during the audit. The majority of included patients (n=13, 65%) found the overlay mattress comfortable or very comfortable. Nursing staff found the overlay easy to use. Further research is needed to evaluate if chair overlays can reduce pressure injury.


 For more information, contact:
<https://www.ecu.edu.au/schools/nursing-and-midwifery/our-staff/profiles/post-doctoral-research-fellows/dr-linda-coventry>

Projects in Progress

Title: Variables associated with successful vascular access cannulation in haemodialysis patients: A prospective cohort study

Investigators: **Coventry, L.**, Hosking, J., Chan, D., Coral, E., **Towell-Barnard, A.**, Lim, W., **Twigg, D.**, Rickard, C.


Patients on maintenance haemodialysis need effective vascular access. Haemodialysis involves insertion of two needles at the vascular access site, called ‘cannulation’. This study is identifying characteristics associated with successful cannulation. We collected data on 1,946 cannulations. The failure rate was low at 4.4%. Cannulation was likely to be successful if: it used a fistula (rather than a graft) or older access site; there was no stent; it did not involve ultrasound or a tourniquet; or the nurse had no post graduate renal qualifications. This understanding may inform development of a vascular access cannulation complexity instrument.

 For more information, contact:
<https://www.ecu.edu.au/schools/nursing-and-midwifery/our-staff/profiles/post-doctoral-research-fellows/dr-linda-coventry>

Title: The reliability and validity of a haemodialysis vascular access cannulation complexity instrument

Investigators: **Coventry, L.**, Hosking, J., Chan, D., Coral, E., **Towell-Barnard, A.**, Lim, W., **Twigg, D.**, Rickard, C.


Failure to cannulate a haemodialysis patient’s vascular access successfully on a repeated basis may result in serious complications. This study aims to evaluate the validity and reliability of an instrument to measure haemodialysis vascular access cannulation complexity. The purpose of the instrument is to determine complexity grade of the access to facilitate matching a suitably skilled, competency-assessed nurse to perform the cannulation in order to minimise the risk of missed cannulation and trauma. A convenience sample of experts will be invited to evaluate the instrument’s content validity prior to reliability testing.

 For more information, contact:
<https://www.ecu.edu.au/schools/nursing-and-midwifery/our-staff/profiles/post-doctoral-research-fellows/dr-linda-coventry>

Title: Develop, implement, and evaluate an intervention to reduce prevalence of hospital acquired pressure injury and improve compliance to evidence based guidelines: A prospective cohort study

Investigators: **Coventry, L.**, Walsh, N., **Towell-Barnard, A.**, **Davis, S.**, **Twigg, D.**, Murray, K., Jansen, S., Beeckman, D.


Pressure injuries are a preventable adverse event and serious health problem, with affected patients frequently experiencing pain, discomfort, and poor quality of life. Despite the development of an international evidence-based guideline for the Prevention, Management and Treatment of Pressure Injury, a large degree of non-compliance with the guideline has been found. This study aims to develop and trial an intervention to improve adherence to the guidelines and decrease the rate of hospital acquired pressure injury.

 For more information, contact:
<https://www.ecu.edu.au/schools/nursing-and-midwifery/our-staff/profiles/post-doctoral-research-fellows/dr-linda-coventry>

Title: Nurse knowledge, attitude and barriers toward pressure injury prevention: A cross-sectional study

Investigators: **Coventry, L.**, **Towell-Barnard, A.**, Walsh, A., **Davis, S.**, **Twigg, D.**, Jansen, S., Beeckman, D.


Pressure injuries are a major healthcare problem worldwide. The aim of this cross-sectional study is to explore nurse knowledge, attitude, and barriers toward pressure injury. Nurse knowledge of pressure injury is being assessed using two instruments: the Pressure Ulcer Knowledge Assessment Tool and the WoundsWest Wound Prevalence Survey Competency Testing Tool. Nurses’ attitudes towards pressure injury prevention are being measured using the Attitude Towards Pressure Ulcer Prevention tool. Nurses’ answers to an open ended question are being subjected to thematic analysis to explore barriers to prevention.

 For more information, contact:
<https://www.ecu.edu.au/schools/nursing-and-midwifery/our-staff/profiles/post-doctoral-research-fellows/dr-linda-coventry>

Title: The trend of pressure injury prevalence rates over a 21-year period: Results of 14 cross-sectional studies

Investigators: **Coventry, L.**, Walsh, N., Kaistha, P., **Towell-Barnard, A.**, **Davis, S.**, **Twigg, D.**, Jansen, S., Beeckman, D.


Pressure injury is one of the leading hospital-acquired complications that impact the cost of hospital care. A pressure injury is a significant and painful complication for the patient. The aim of this study is to present 21-years of pressure injury prevalence surveys, from 1997 to 2018, and to explore if the rates have decreased. Results of the pressure injury prevalence surveys are being analysed and implications for practice and research will be presented.

 For more information, contact:
<https://www.ecu.edu.au/schools/nursing-and-midwifery/our-staff/profiles/post-doctoral-research-fellows/dr-linda-coventry>

Title: Evaluation of strategies to improve the recognition of and response to the deteriorating patient in acute care

Investigators: **Twigg, D.**, Beament, T., **Towell-Barnard, A.**


Patients receiving hospital care may develop complications. Failure to recognise a patient whose clinical condition is deteriorating results in an increase in mortality rates. This raises the question of whether healthcare teams can detect patient deterioration in a timely manner, and then intervene rapidly and appropriately to prevent further harm to the patient. This mixed method study has used longitudinal and cross-sectional data to evaluate the effectiveness of an escalation policy utilising an Adult Observation Response Chart. Results will be available in 2019.

 For more information, contact:
<https://www.ecu.edu.au/schools/nursing-and-midwifery/our-staff/profiles/post-doctoral-research-fellows/dr-linda-coventry>

Title: Are we meeting their needs? A qualitative exploratory study of patients’ and their families’ experience of diabetes education

Investigators: Towell-Barnard, A., Whitehead, L., Daniels, G., Coventry, L., Twigg, D., Davis, S.


This study is exploring patients’ and families’ experience of diabetes education provided by ward nurses during hospital admission. Eleven patients admitted for diabetes management and six family carers were interviewed after discharge. Four major themes emerged: Denial reflected a view that diabetes education was not always relevant; Uncertainty involved trying to maintain glucose control and prevent adverse events; Communication embodied consistent diabetes education involving patient and carer; and Education described content and delivery tailored to the individual, flexible, culturally appropriate, and multidisciplinary.

 For more information, contact: <https://www.ecu.edu.au/schools/nursing-and-midwifery/our-staff/profiles/senior-research-fellows/dr-mandy-towell-barnard>

Title: Insulin Stabilisation Ambulatory Program for Inpatients Discharged from Hospital – “Diabetes Virtual Ward”.

Investigators: Towell-Barnard, A., Coventry, L., Twigg, D., Daniels, G., Cusack, N., Gibson, N., Kaye J., Davis, S., Murray, K.


The “Diabetes Virtual Ward” is an Insulin Stabilisation Ambulatory Program for Inpatients Discharged from Hospital. This study assesses whether patients cared for in this virtual ward have less time in, and fewer readmissions to, hospital within 30 days; and if there are less costs for the hospital. The study looked back at hospital records and compared outcomes for 385 pairs of matched patients admitted to the virtual ward and admitted to traditional wards. Results indicate that patients exposed to the virtual ward had significantly lower average blood glucose measurements, which was not observed for non-exposed patients with diabetes.

 For more information, contact: <https://www.ecu.edu.au/schools/nursing-and-midwifery/our-staff/profiles/senior-research-fellows/dr-mandy-towell-barnard>

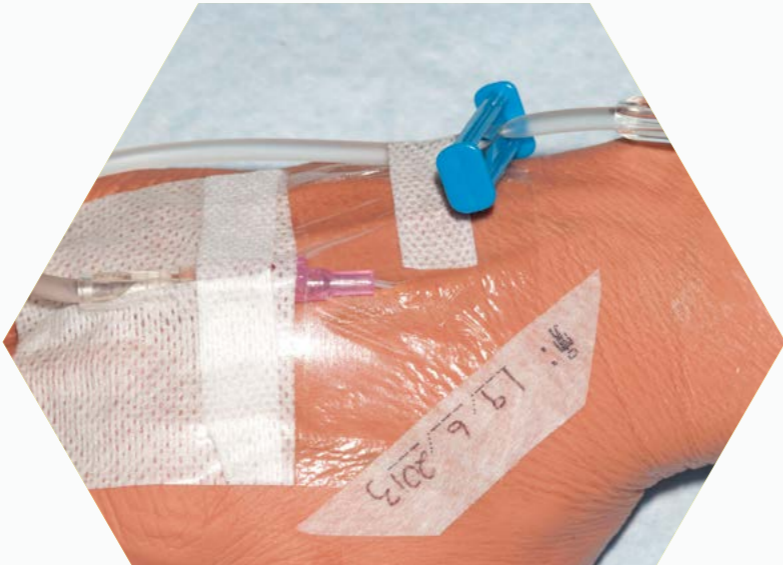
Title: The experiences of patients with class III obesity and their journey in the acute care setting: A heuristic inquiry

Investigators: Towell-Barnard, A., Ewens, B., Lofthouse, J., Matthews, A., Cowen, A., Whitehead, L.

Societal stigma and weight bias for people who are very overweight are apparent within the general population and within the healthcare providers who care for such patients. This study aims to explore the experiences of patients with Class III obesity in an acute care hospital. An interpretive approach will be utilised to explore and interpret the experiences of Class III obese patients admitted to an acute care setting in metropolitan Western Australia. The findings from this study will illuminate the experiences of patients who are very overweight and highlight areas for specific improvement in their care and management.

 For more information, contact: <https://www.ecu.edu.au/schools/nursing-and-midwifery/our-staff/profiles/senior-research-fellows/dr-mandy-towell-barnard>

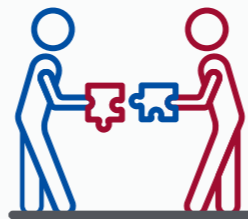
*See page 52 for investigator affiliations



Safety and Quality in the Acute Setting



Workforce



Summary Statement

Nurses are the lifeblood of hospitals, providing consistency in meeting round-the-clock clinical, mental, and social needs of patients and their families, and providing an accessible link to other members of the interprofessional team. As the largest component of the workforce, nurses play a central role in patient safety and provide the most direct care.

The effectiveness of this nurse surveillance role is influenced by the number and skill-mix of nurses available and the practice environment in which they work. Workforce development research is critical to providing an evidence framework to guide decisions that influence nurse staffing and ultimately patient outcomes.

“Our research shows that the right number and mix of nurses saves lives and improves care.”

Completed Projects

Title: Piloting a program to support the transition from clinical nurse to novice nurse educator

Investigators: Slatyer, S., Kimberley, A., Davis, S.

Nursing education is a specialty. However, many nurse educators are appointed on their clinical, rather than educational, expertise and transition into the new role with limited support. This project used action research methodology to develop and evaluate a Transition Support Program tailored to the needs of novice Staff Development Nurses. Analysis of qualitative data indicated that nurses who received the program (n=10) highly valued the mentoring component, which encompassed organisational aspects, educational skills, leadership and building networks.



For more information, contact:
<http://profiles.murdoch.edu.au/myprofile/susan-slatyer/>

Title: The impact of fitness levels and leisure-time exercise patterns on the risk of occupational musculoskeletal disorders among new graduate registered nurses in Western Australia

Investigators: Pugh, J., Blazeovich, A., Williams, A., Twigg, D., Giles, M., Wilkinson, A., Cormack, K.

To determine the impact of nursing students' physical fitness on musculoskeletal health, 111 students performed submaximal fitness tests. Undergraduate and 6- and 12-month post-registration nursing work, exercise, and musculoskeletal health were surveyed. A large proportion entered the workforce with low back, neck and shoulder problems. Many had modifiable characteristics of overweight/obese, average or worse fitness, plus inadequate and declining exercise. Increasing whole body strength best predicted musculoskeletal symptom severity and requires further study. Interventions to improve students' physical conditioning pre-registration appear warranted.



Link to published article: <https://doi.org/10.1111/jocn.12971>

Title: Evaluating the sustainability of a Pain Resource Nurse program in an Australian public hospital eight years post-implementation

Investigators: Allen, E., Williams, A., Slatyer, S., Goucke, R., Toye, C., Jennings, D., McCullough, K., Clarke, P., Stomski, N.

This mixed methods study revisited the Pain Resource Nurse role introduced in 2007, in sustaining evidence-based practice improvements in pain management in an acute care hospital. Pain Resource Nurse knowledge and attitudes to pain were assessed and characteristics of the role explored, along with any perceived contextual changes. Improvements in pain assessment and management observed in the previous study were sustained and Pain Resource Nurses continued to be considered important ward resources.



Link to published article: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/30160011>



Projects in Progress

Title: The development, implementation and evaluation of Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital professional practice model (PPM) to articulate “how we practise nursing at Charlies”

Investigators: Coventry, L., Slatyer, S., Davis, S., Dolan, T. & Twigg, D.

A nursing Professional Practice Model is a graphic illustration describing how nurses practice, collaborate, communicate, and develop professionally to provide excellent patient and family care. The aim of this action research study was to develop, implement and evaluate such a model for Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital. Developed in partnership with nurse leaders, nurse researchers and direct care nursing staff, the final model incorporated the hospital logo to clearly show the values underpinning nursing practice and how these are enacted in day-to-day care for patients, families and colleagues.

For more information, contact:
<https://www.ecu.edu.au/schools/nursing-and-midwifery/our-staff/profiles/post-doctoral-research-fellows/dr-linda-coventry>



Title: Comparing MagNet aTributes in NuRsing between Australia and the United STates

Investigators: McCarthy, A., Stone, L., Coyer, F., Coventry, L., Davis, S., Dolan, T.

The Magnet Recognition Program® recognises organisations for superior nursing processes and patient care, which lead to the highest levels of safety, quality, and patient satisfaction. Three Australian hospitals (Sir Charles Gairdner, Princess Alexandra and St Vincent’s Sydney Hospitals) have achieved Magnet accreditation. This mixed method study aims to explore the nature of nursing practice in Australian Magnet and non-Magnet hospitals and to compare practice environments, and nurse’s levels of burnout, intention to leave employment and job satisfaction between Magnet hospitals in Australia and the United States.

For more information, contact:
<https://www.ecu.edu.au/schools/nursing-and-midwifery/our-staff/profiles/post-doctoral-research-fellows/dr-linda-coventry>

*See page 52 for investigator affiliations



Workforce



Care:
What works?
What doesn’t work?
and why?

Care of Older People and Family Carers



Summary Statement


Australia’s improved life expectancy has led to a corresponding increase in the prevalence of chronic health conditions and disability in later life. Within hospital settings, how best to provide care for older people with complex needs is a daily challenge. Disease progression, symptom exacerbation, acute-on-chronic illness, and increasing frailty are frequently complicated by adverse event such as falls and co-morbid conditions (such as cognitive impairment). In these situations, families become key sources of information and advocacy. Discharge frequently depends upon family caregiving input. Best practice in this area is informed by nurse researchers working in collaboration with consumers and key stakeholders to identify problems, design studies to address these, and translate findings into clinical practice.

Completed Projects

Title: Developing a best practice community nursing model of neurological care for metropolitan Perth, Western Australia

Investigators: **Williams, A.**, Bentley, B., Monterosso, L., Pugh, J.


An exploratory mixed methods design was used to develop a best practice community neurological nursing model of care for Perth-based patients. Questionnaires were completed by adult neurological patients discharged from St John of God Healthcare Midland and their informal carers. Healthcare professionals were interviewed. Findings indicated a 62.6% uptake of the Neurocare service; half of patient problems pertained to aspects of daily living; and 42.3% of carers were at risk for depression. Healthcare staff identified aspects of the Neurocare role, which is an inward-outward model of care catering for patients with complex needs.

 For more information, contact:
<http://profiles.murdoch.edu.au/myprofile/anne-williams/>

Title: Developing an intervention to support family carers of older hospital patients experiencing delirium

Investigators: **Toye, C., Slatyer. S.**, Nichols, P., Aoun, S., Bronson, M., Hill, A., Maher, S., Alford, J.

This pilot study aimed to scope existing practice for family carers of hospital patients with delirium in one ward, change practice to further support these carers, and evaluate both change and its outcomes. The extent of change was monitored. During the mixed method study, nurse focus groups, carer interviews, and surveys of staff and families informed an evaluation of feasibility, acceptability, and outcomes. After 6-months, findings provided evidence of benefits for carers. There were also some challenges for the staff. Findings have informed plans to continue the new practice, albeit with minor changes.


 For more information, contact:
<https://staffportal.curtin.edu.au/staff/profile/view/C.Toye>

Projects in Progress

Title: Cognitive impairment, Emergency Department, and inpatient use by people with Type 2 Diabetes: A Western Australian linked data study

Investigators: **Towell-Barnard, A.**, Whitehead, L., **Twigg, D.**, Daniels, G., **Coventry, L.**, **Davis, S.**, Cusack, N., Lin, E.


The risk of Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus (T2DM) increases with age, as does the risk of mild cognitive impairment. Mild cognitive impairment presents as changes in thinking, noticeable to individuals and people close to them, but not affecting capacity for everyday activities. Hospital patients with T2DM are not routinely screened for mild cognitive impairment, but may need individualised discharge education. This study is assessing if patients with T2DM and mild cognitive impairment return to hospital earlier or more often compared to those with T2DM without cognitive problems.

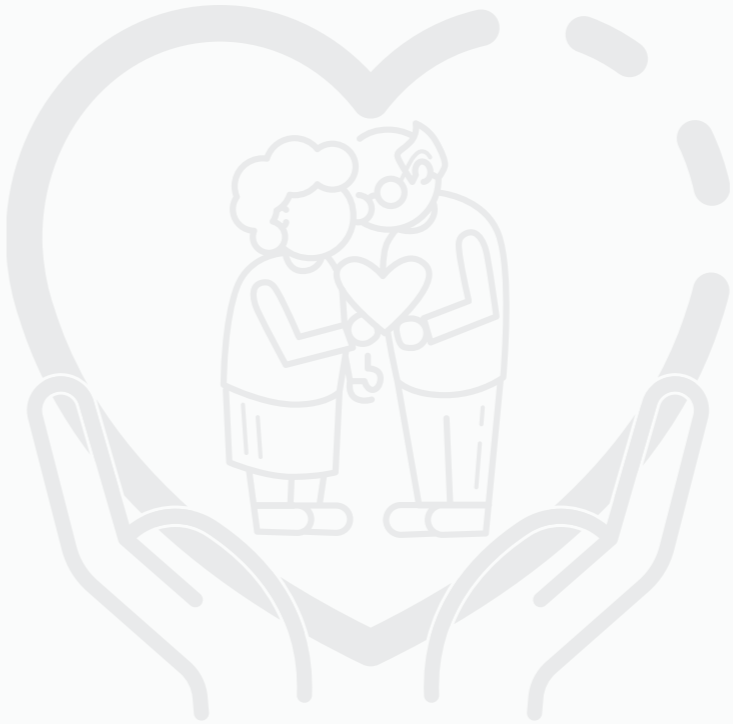
 For more information, contact:
<https://www.ecu.edu.au/schools/nursing-and-midwifery/our-staff/profiles/senior-research-fellows/dr-mandy-towell-barnard>

Title: Care for older people in poor health: Piloting a process to identify and support family caregivers with low levels of health literacy

Investigators: **Toye, C.**, Hill, K., **Slatyer, S.**, Jactinto, A., Burton, E., Bronson, M.

The aim of this mixed methods study is to develop a feasible, useful, and acceptable process to identify older people's family caregivers who find accessing and using health related information difficult and include them in the Further Enabling Care at Home post-discharge hospital outreach program when the older person is discharged home. The reliability of a potentially useful questionnaire is being evaluated with 50 family caregivers of older people. Approximately 20 additional caregivers, selected using the questionnaire, will be included in the program. Findings will inform process and program refinements.

 For more information, contact:
<https://staffportal.curtin.edu.au/staff/profile/view/C.Toye>



Care of Older People and Family Carers





Cancer and Palliative Care



Summary Statement

The number of patients diagnosed with cancer continues to be high and the role of nurses caring for these patients is both complex and challenging. Our cancer research program focuses on the wellbeing of both patients and nurses.

For patients we seek to improve outcomes by understanding more about patients' experience, knowledge and use of complementary therapies alongside mainstream cancer therapies.

For nurses we have promoted wellbeing through the development and implementation of a cancer nurse wellbeing educational program, to counter the recognised problem of staff stress and burnout.


“Creating positive supportive healthcare environments by generating and translating knowledge.”

Completed Projects

Title: Developing a wellbeing educational program for cancer nurses

Investigators: Williams, A., Williams, N., Slatyer, S., Monterosso L., Morrison, P., Allen, E., Stomski, N., Towell-Barnard, A., Twigg, D., Sullivan, S., Petterson, A., Ryan, E., Maben, J.


A participatory action research approach was used to develop a wellbeing educational program for cancer nurses. Nurses from three metropolitan hospital participated in this study which involved a survey of stress and coping, a review of the literature, consultative nurse focus groups, and nurse interviews. A wellbeing conceptual framework was developed with six factors being viewed as contributing to wellbeing. The framework was used to develop a curriculum for a cancer nurse wellbeing workshop, ready for implementation and evaluation.

 For more information, contact:
<http://profiles.murdoch.edu.au/myprofile/anne-williams/>

Title: Implementing and evaluating a wellbeing educational workshop for cancer nurses in Western Australia: A pilot study

Investigators: Williams, A., Allen, E., Williams, N., Morrison, P., Stomski, N., Buchanan, G., Slatyer, S., Petterson, A., Pienaar, C., Jacques, A., Monterosso, L., Towell-Barnard, A.


A wellbeing framework for Western Australian cancer nurses, developed from previous work, was evaluated during two one-day workshops attended by 36 nurses. A pre-post follow up design assessed cancer nurses' stress, wellbeing, and coping style using three validated instruments. Eleven nurses were also interviewed following the workshops. Nurses' stress levels decreased and happiness levels increased from pre- to week 1, and week 6 follow-up; problem solving style of coping increased, while suppressive and reactive styles of problem solving decreased in the nurses. Findings indicate that the workshops were very positively received.

 For more information, contact:
<http://profiles.murdoch.edu.au/myprofile/anne-williams/>

Title: Cancer patients experience and outcomes related to complementary health choices: A feasibility study – Phase 2

Investigators: Williams, A., Fournier, C., Allen, E., Bulsara, C., Joske, D., Petterson, A., Stomski, N., Myers, H., Bennett, K., Furzer, B., Phillips, M., Miller, L.

In this feasibility study we recruited 30 cancer patients and examined their experiences and outcomes related to using complementary therapies and medicines alongside standard treatment. We used questionnaires and diaries at three time points (baseline, 3 & 6 months). Data provided some interesting insights into perceptions and use of complementary therapies in the community with an extensive list of herbs, vitamins, minerals, homeopathic and self-help practices, and some potential safety concerns. We experienced recruitment and retention issues, but levels of completion of the questionnaires and diaries were acceptable.

 For more information, contact:
<http://profiles.murdoch.edu.au/myprofile/anne-williams/>




Projects in Progress

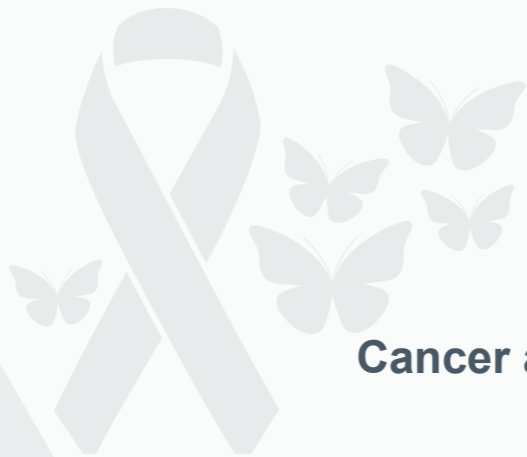
Title: Evaluation of a remote symptom monitoring system for people receiving chemotherapy for breast or colorectal cancer

Investigators: Whitehead, L., **Twigg, D.**, Dewar, J., Brown, D., Kirk-Walker, D.

The aim of this study is to develop and evaluate a web based symptom management monitoring system for patients receiving chemotherapy for breast or colorectal cancer. Consenting participants record their symptoms electronically (i.e. on a phone, computer, iPad) to allow real time symptom monitoring and management of chemotherapy side effects. The intervention provides participants with a platform to support self-management of symptom/s, including providing advice as to when it is appropriate for participants to contact their medical oncology team, general practitioner or the hospital Emergency Department.

 For more information, contact:
<https://www.ecu.edu.au/schools/nursing-and-midwifery/our-staff/profiles/associate-dean/professor-lisa-whitehead>

*See page 52 for investigator affiliations



Cancer and Palliative Care

Quality Improvement Projects

A Quality Improvement (QI) project is an activity where the primary purpose is to monitor or improve a process, program or system delivered by the organisation. Types of QI activities include clinical audit, practice review, satisfaction and knowledge surveys, and program evaluation. QI activities ask whether we are doing the things we should be doing or achieving the outcomes we have agreed we should be achieving.

The Centre for Nursing Research (CNR) provides support and mentorship to nursing staff throughout the hospital, who wish to undertake QI activities. All QI activities are electronically registered in the GEKO (Governance, Ethics, Knowledge, Outcomes) system. Requests to CNR for QI support come via a variety of research and clinical staff networks which include hospital-wide committees, sub-committees, study groups and projects. Staff working within the CNR also undertake QI activities to scope possibilities for future research studies.

The Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) within CNR is a key person to guide, direct, mentor and oversee QI projects.

Examples follow.



GEKO # 27219

Review of the Link Nurse role at SCGH and Osborne Park hospital (OPH)

Anne Matthews Clinical Nurse Specialist CNR & Professor Anne Williams

Link nurses, also known as resource nurses were introduced to Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital (SCGH) around 2007, and are also in place at Osborne Park Hospital. There are a large number of link nurse roles across both sites. Link nurses are direct care nurses who carry a portfolio of interest. Examples of these portfolios are pain management, falls, medication safety and diabetes. Link nurses attend meetings in their specific area of interest and are involved in QI activities and audit in their clinical areas.

The introduction of the National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards in 2012 saw a large increase in link nurse portfolios, raising concerns regarding expectation of this role from both the link nurses’ and senior nurses’ perspectives. In 2018, members of the Nursing Executive of SCGH approved a review of the link nurse role.

This QI used a qualitative descriptive design to review the role of link nurses. This review was conducted in order to evaluate the role of the link nurse and its appropriateness in the health care environment and to make recommendations for the continued practice of this role. Focus groups with link nurses and senior nurses were conducted. Recommendations included development of a standardised framework to support the link nurse role which will see the future launch of a new link nurse model across both hospital sites. Michelle Ong provided CNR research assistance support to the project.

- The following recommendations are suggested:
- A clearly stated definition for the link nurse role.
- A formalised link nurse recruitment process.
- A structured educational preparation program incorporating ongoing mentoring and support for new link nurses.
 - Protected time for link nurse activities.
 - Visible support from an organisational perspective such as the provision of a badge at commencement and a Certificate on completion.
 - Provision of ongoing opportunities for professional development.
 - Clearly defined structures for involvement in auditing.

SCGH WA Health Department funded Cognitive Impairment (CI) project

Project Lead - Jacqui Bates CNC Cognition

Members of the CI working party - Anne Matthews Clinical Nurse Specialist CNR, Mary Bronson Deputy Nurse Co-Director Medical Division, Associate Professor Chris Toye, Dr Susan Slatyer and Andrew Hilll CNC Aged Care. Michelle Ong provided CNR research assistance support to the project.

GEKO # 23716

Improving Identification, Documentation and Care Planning for the patient with Cognitive Impairment

GEKO # 26334

Assessment of Nursing Staff Knowledge on Dementia and Delirium

GEKO #26472

Carers of Inpatients with Cognitive Impairment (CI) Satisfaction Survey

GEKO # 27207

Improving the Identification, Documentation and Care Planning for Patients with CI

These four projects are a part of a larger program of work being conducted in the area of cognitive impairment.

With an ageing population and an increasing number of older adults with cognitive impairment, this has been identified as a major impact upon healthcare provision. The importance of cognitive impairment is reflected in the requirements within Standard 5 Comprehensive Care of the National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards 2017. In 2017, the WA Department of Health approved project funding for a number of clinical positions across metropolitan and country health services in Western Australia. Position holders were tasked with improving the identification, intervention and care planning for persons over 65 years of age with cognitive impairment within their respective health services.

At SCGH, Jacqui Bates was seconded to the position of Clinical Nurse Consultant Cognition and worked closely with members of the CNR to complete a suite of QI activities. These included developing audit tools plus data analysis for four QI activities which explored compliance with nursing admission documentation, a staff knowledge survey on dementia and delirium, and a Cognitive Impairment Carer survey.

These QIs used both quantitative and qualitative designs to audit documentation and survey nursing staff and carers in regards to knowledge and perception of care provision for older adults with cognitive impairment.

The QI recommendations include a need for improved education of nursing staff regarding care provision for patients with cognitive impairment. The future will see the increased provision of education on cognitive impairment across all wards at SCGH with delivery through various education mediums.





Research Education



The Centre for Nursing Research (CNR) provided educational content to Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital staff in the topics of evidence-based practice, research methodology, research ethics, quantitative and qualitative research critique, and overviews of current research. CNR staff members with expertise in specific areas delivered lectures into Centre for Nursing Education (CNE) programs, post-graduate certificate courses, and graduate nurse inductions. Topics included leadership, medication safety, clinical ethics, safety and quality, and preventing stress and burnout in nursing. A number of CNR staff also provided sessions by invitation to unit-based study days, such as those provided by the Intensive Care Unit and HomeLink/ward C16. Anne Matthews, Clinical Nurse Specialist in CNR also plans and facilitates regular, interprofessional, hospital-wide forums providing evidence-based knowledge in contemporary patient safety issues.

CNR offered clinically-based nurses undertaking research and QI projects access to individualised education and training in web-based data collection platforms, data analysis software, and MS Excel. This education was provided, by appointment, with Michelle Ong, Research Assistant. Michelle also provided training to Edith Cowan University post-graduate nursing students in using the SPSS data analysis program.

During 2017 and 2018, CNR collaborated with CNE to provide the Charlies Peer Support Group, available to all nurses undertaking post-graduate study. These monthly 1-hour informal sessions link nurses who are studying with experienced researchers and educators, and with each other. The sessions provide a relaxed environment that supports participants to ask questions and share experiences of balancing study, work, and home responsibilities. Participants are encouraged to ask study-related questions, explore options for navigating courses of study; and share tips and tricks. Once linked to CNR and CNE, students can arrange individual support sessions with research and education facilitators on an as-needs basis.

All CNR researchers holding joint appointments or adjunct positions with universities provided supervision for higher degree students enrolled at their universities. Additionally, in line with the CNR collaborative model, several researchers provided education about research methodology, including meta-analysis and action research to university-based staff and student forums. CNR research consultants also engaged with community organisations to share research findings and bring their expertise to discussion of practice issues.

Engaging iN Research

The Engaging iN Research program (ENR) has been held at SCGH since 2012.

This eight-month educational program is offered annually in collaboration with the Centre for Nursing Education and aims to enhance a culture of enquiry and evidence-based healthcare practice using an inter-professional approach. Program content includes principles of evidence-based practice, research methodology and critique, the role of quality improvement (QI) in health care, QI project management, introduction to report writing, knowledge translation, Microsoft Excel, and presentation skills. Each participant leads a quality improvement project with support of a research mentor.

The program has gained popularity over the years and 2017 and 2018 an increase in participants from other metropolitan hospitals. The program was originally designed for nurses and was known as Engaging Nurses in Research. The name of the program was changed in 2018 to more accurately reflect multidisciplinary course participants. In 2018, participants included five nurses and two Occupational Therapists from Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, three nurses from Perth Children's Hospital, and two nurses from WA Cancer and Palliative Care Network.

Application to the ENR program is via an Expression of Interest, which must outline a proposed QI activity. Participants can expect to devote a minimum of 64 hours of self-directed study in order to achieve the learning outcomes. The program is aligned with an academic unit at Edith Cowan University and recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is achieved on its successful completion. If the participant wishes to do so, they can use this RPL to enrol in Post Graduate studies at Edith Cowan University.

The 2017 and 2018 ENR program participants are listed on the following pages.



2017

Project Title:
The efficacy of skin testing, specific IgE and basophil activation testing in predicting the outcome of oral provocation challenges in children with suspected beta-lactam allergy

Participant:
Annabelle Arnold

Mentor:
Renee Deleuil

Project Title:
Development and trial of the Occupational Therapy Cancer Outpatient Initial Assessment

Participant:
Sarah Bennett

Mentor:
Welma Van Schalkwyk

Project Title:
Review of PMH nurses' experiences on factors that influence the efficacy of the Rapid Response System

Participant:
Melanie Cairns

Mentor:
Mark Woodard / Fenella Gill

Project Title:
Management of cognitive impairment: An audit of Occupational Therapists working at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital

Participant:
Courtney Collis

Mentor:
Linda Coventry

Project Title:
Bowel care compliance in a medical ward

Participant:
Margaret Doyle

Mentor:
Helen Myers

Project Title:
Patients' retention of medication information after discharge from Ward G63

Participant:
Shirley Go

Mentor:
Susan Slatyer

Project Title:
Intravenous Access for Paediatric Patients with Septic Arthritis at Princess Margaret Hospital

Participant:
Amyleigh Hall

Mentor:
Carmel Boylan

Project Title:
Pain Assessment in the Critically Ill Patient

Participant:
Louisa Jenkin

Mentor:
Amanda Towell-Barnard

Project Title:
'Cancer timeframes – Are we getting it right in WA?' – The development of a timely measurement tool

Participant:
Alison Keay

Mentor:
Karen Taylor

Project Title:
Factors associated with increased length of stay of patients with complex needs seen by the Allied Health Coordination Team (ACT)

Participant:
Theresa Kirwan

Mentor:
Kristie Harper

Project Title:
Gastro Referral Pathway: An evaluation of patient experience

Participant:
Nicole Newell

Mentor:
Susan Slatyer

Project Title:
Development and implementation of a distraction activities box on a general medical ward

Participant:
Claire Newton

Mentor:
Chris Toye

Project Title:
Compliance with ICU bowel management protocol: Constipation prevention and management

Participant:
Jing (Cherry) Ning

Mentor:
Susan Slatyer

Project Title:
Nurses' perception of safety culture in the paediatric perioperative department

Participant:
Julie Preston

Mentor:
Mark Woodard / Fenella Gill

Project Title:
Impact of sensor mat use in preventing falls in the SCGH Delirium Unit

Participant:
Leena Pukalathara Joseph

Mentor:
Lucy Patton

Project Title:
Health professionals' knowledge, education and experiences in paediatric clinical holding

Participant:
Serena Ricciardone

Mentor:
Vicki Corkish

2018

Project Title:
Evaluation of epidural education for nurses

Participant:
Kate Atherton

Mentor:
Vicki Corkish

Project Title:
Evaluation of operating theatre staff knowledge of Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus

Participant:
Stephen Chatterton

Mentor:
Linda Coventry

Project Title:
Patient feedback on the Occupational Therapy Cancer Related Fatigue Management Handout

Participant:
Magda Dudek

Mentor:
Kristie Harper

Project Title:
Are we doing enough to address the issue of passive smoking affecting children with asthma or viral induced wheeze?

Participant:
Claire Franklin

Mentor:
Mark Shah / Fenella Gill

Project Title:
An area specific audit of documentation of the Glasgow Coma Scale

Participant:
Katie Green

Mentor:
Amanda Towell-Barnard

Project Title:
How and why do patients and visitors use the 5th floor courtyard between G53 and G54 at SCGH?

Participant:
Agata Halladin

Mentor:
Anne Matthews

Project Title:
Is the information documented in the Reportable Telephone Encounter form sufficient?

Participant:
Kirsten Mooney

Mentor:
Karen Taylor

Project Title:
Development of an evaluation tool to identify the educational needs of cancer nursing and allied health professionals

Participant:
Gill Newstead

Mentor:
Welma Van Schalkwyk / Susan Slatyer

Project Title:
Will patients who are returning to work after having a myocardial infarction benefit from attending a nurse led education clinic?

Participant:
Julie Prout

Mentor:
Susan Slatyer

Project Title:
Reducing stroke burden through patient education: Exploring the barriers to staff in educating patients on reducing their stroke risk

Participant:
Belinda Saint

Mentor:
Lucy Patton

Project Title:
Satisfaction with the CCT2Home Occupational Therapy home visiting service for patients with acute back pain

Participant:
Erryn Siva

Mentor:
Kirsty MacDonald

Project Title:
PCH nurses' experience and perspectives on palliative care

Participant:
Taryn Vose

Mentor:
Renee Deleuil

All posters available can be viewed online at <http://www.scgh.health.wa.gov.au/Research/index.html>



Spotlight on Higher Degree Research Student



Peri Mickle, BNurs

Currently enrolled in Masters of Nursing
(by Research)

Clinical Research Nurse,
Department of Anaesthesia

Clinical Nurse – Post Anaesthetic
Care Unit

My passion for research began with various Quality Improvement activities in the Post-Anaesthetic Care Unit (PACU). I quickly recognised how powerful quality improvement and research can be. It's an amazing feeling to know the changes you have implemented are making a positive difference to patients who you may not even meet!

I started a Masters in Nursing by Research degree at Edith Cowan University in 2016 when I came up with a research project idea. It has been a long but very rewarding journey. I would not have made it this far without the support and encouragement of my supervisors Dr Linda Coventry, Dr Beverley Ewens, Dr Nicholas Gibson and Dr Dale Currigan and the support from the Anaesthetic Department, PACU and Centre of Nursing Research at SCGH.

My research project is a before and after cohort study that aims to investigate whether the intervention of an immediate pre-operative haemoglobin (Hb) blood test before surgery will improve the outcomes of patients with hip fracture.

Patients with hip fracture record a high incidence of post-operative complications with a one-year mortality rate of between 25% to 33% .

A low Haemoglobin (Hb) level on admission to hospital predicts the mortality of patients with hip fractures. A low Hb level in patients with hip fracture is often multi-factorial but is largely due to acute fracture-related blood loss. Our study implements an additional Hb test immediately prior to surgery to detect low Hb. We believe the test will ensure low Hb levels are diagnosed, investigated and treated prior to, or during, surgery. We believe the treatments provided in response to the updated Hb result may prevent poor outcomes.

Recruitment began in March 2018. So far, we have recruited and completed data collection for 150 participants, 50 of which have received the intervention of a Hb test immediately prior to surgery. The Hb test has triggered the response to urgently treat low Hb with one or more blood transfusions in nine interventional patients. The Hb level in these nine patients ranged from 64-92g/L. It is possible that in these nine patients, the Hb test has been an essential tool to detect and treat anaemia prior to surgery to avoid intraoperative complications. We have not yet analysed patient outcomes or how other intra-operative treatments, such as Tranexamic Acid, have changed between the cohorts.

Higher Degree Research Students at December 2018



Professor Di Twigg
Edith Cowan University

Doctor of Philosophy:

Tania Beament, School of Nursing and Midwifery, ECU, “*Improving the recognition of and response to the deteriorating patient in acute care: A translational research project.*”

Gemma Doleman, School of Nursing and Midwifery, ECU, “*The impact of communication satisfaction on paediatric nurses’ job satisfaction and intention to stay.*”

Amanda Fowler/Graf, School of Nursing and Midwifery, ECU, “*A mixed method study on nursing graduate support programs in rural and remote areas of Western Australia.*”

Helena Halton, School of Nursing and Midwifery, ECU, “*Improving outcomes of acute heart failure.*”

Tania McWilliams, School of Nursing and Midwifery, ECU, “*Best practice in acute paediatric burn management: Compliance and influencing factors in Western Australia.*”

Professor Anne Williams
Murdoch University

Doctor of Philosophy:

Barrett Losco, College of Science, Health, Engineering and Education, Murdoch University, “*The development of a Chiropractor-led intervention to facilitate patient activation for improved chronic spinal pain self-management.*”

Kathy McCoy, College of Science, Health, Engineering and Education, Murdoch University, “*The neurological client carer experience of a generic community neurological nurse led model in a regional area of Western Australia.*”

Caroline Brown, College of Science, Health, Engineering and Education, Murdoch University, “*Understanding successful international clinical placements-A case study of short term international placements for Australian nursing students in Asia.*”

Melanie Baker, College of Science, Health, Engineering and Education, Murdoch University, “*The application of evidence based practice in the acurte care hospital setting:A Grounded Theory study of the perspectives of nurses in Western Australia.*”

Master of Philosophy:

Chelsey Philips, College of Science, Health, Engineering and Education, Murdoch University, “*Developing and pilot testing an instrument to measure healthy ageing in an Australian spinal cord injury population.*”

Amanda Newell, College of Science, Health, Engineering and Education, Murdoch University, “*Hear my voice- the impact a patient passport app has on delivery of person centred care and communication.*”

Research Masters with Training:

Anne Matthews, College of Science, Health, Engineering and Education, Murdoch University, “*Early Onset Dementia.*”

Lily Gao, College of Science, Health, Engineering and Education, Murdoch University, “*Palliative Care.*”

Jacqueline Hills, College of Science, Health, Engineering and Education, Murdoch University, “*Patient safety and organisational culture.*”

Dr Linda Coventry
Edith Cowan University, University of Western Australia

Doctor of Philosophy:

Carol Crevacore, School of Nursing and Midwifery, ECU, “*Delegation practices between the Registered Nurse and the Assistant in Nursing in the acute care setting in Western Australia.*”

Christine Mackay, School of Nursing and Midwifery, ECU, “*Does baseline temperature affect clinical outcomes for patients with febrile neutropenia following bone marrow transplant?*”

Master of Science (Research):

Annabelle Arnold, School of Nursing and Midwifery, ECU, “*Does a reported penicillin allergy influence the clinical outcomes for children under the Antimicrobial Stewardship Programme?*”

Shelley McRae, School of Nursing and Midwifery, ECU, “*Clinical outcomes of an Alternate model of Cardiac rehabilitation of Cost Effective Secondary prevention.*”

Peri Mickle, School of Nursing and Midwifery, ECU, “*The effect of an immediate pre-operative haemoglobin blood test on hip fracture patient outcomes: a before and after study cohort study.*”

Erina Myers, Health Professions Education, UWA, “*Development of an education package to screen for delirium in the ICU.*”

Assoc Professor Chris Toye
Curtin University

Doctor of Philosophy:

Ailsa Munns, School of Nursing, Midwifery and Paramedicine, Curtin University, “*Investigation of a culturally secure home visiting model for Aboriginal family and child health support in the Midland community in Western Australia.*”

Sheridan Read, School of Nursing, Midwifery and Paramedicine, Curtin University, “*A grounded theory study of the experiences of people with dementia to inform person centred planning in dementia care.*”

Matthew Wittorff, School of Nursing, Midwifery and Paramedicine, Curtin University, “*Combined vision and hearing impairment in the aged care sector - exploring attitudes, prevalence and outcomes of rehabilitation.*”



Dr Mandy Towell-Barnard
Edith Cowan University

Doctor of Philosophy:

Tania Beament, School of Nursing and Midwifery, ECU, “*Improving the recognition of and response to the deteriorating patient in Acute Care: A translational research project.*”

Fiona Foxall, School of Nursing and Midwifery, ECU, “*An exploration of the factors influencing decision-making regarding the withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment in a West Australian metropolitan intensive care unit.*”

Elizabeth Gatonga, School of Nursing and Midwifery, ECU, “*The lived experience by patients in Western Australia following total laryngectomy.*”

Charmaine Hammond, School of Nursing and Midwifery, ECU, “*GPs attitudes to obesity prevention.*”

Fungai Mbengo, School of Nursing and Midwifery, ECU, “*Effects of the YOLO programme to promote resilience in youths at risk of HIV infection. A mixed methods approach.*”

Kim Oliver, School of Nursing and Midwifery, ECU, “*Perceived stress amongst nurses, a reliable representation of cortisol levels in hair.*”

Phuntsho Om, School of Nursing and Midwifery, “*The the needs and expectations the elderly in Bhutan: A narrative inquiry.*”

Ulrich Steinwandel, School of Nursing and Midwifery, ECU, “*Do Inferior Vena Cava ultrasound measurements (IVC-US) by nursing staff improve assessment and management of intravascular volume status in the satellite haemodialysis clinic settings and reduce the number of intradialytic hypotensive episodes (IDH)?*”.

Master of Science (Research):

Kimberly Lock, School of Nursing and Midwifery, ECU, “*A study of the prevalence of abnormal glycaemic events in the perioperative period.*”

Awards

Professor Di Twigg AM

Lifetime Achievement Honour

On Saturday 6 May, Professor Di Twigg AM, Dean of the School of Nursing and Midwifery was recognised for her many contributions to the nursing profession with a prestigious Lifetime Achievement Honour at the 2017 Western Australian Nursing and Midwifery Excellence Awards. Professor Twigg received her award in the presence of our Vice-Chancellor Professor Steve Chapman CBE and the Premier of Western Australia Mark McGowan.

Professor Twigg began her nursing career in 1974, and served as the Executive Dean of Nursing Services at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital for 13 years where she led the hospital to achieve Magnet status, an international award that recognises nursing

excellence. Di has also developed many key position papers which were influential in shaping nursing practice, and led the adoption of a professional Decision-Making Framework in Western Australia.

Di joined ECU as the Executive Dean of the School of Nursing & Midwifery in 2010, leading one of the largest Schools in Australia. Di brings her extensive experience in Health Service leadership to the research arena in the fields of hospital staffing, nursing workforce and cost effective care. She has published more than 40 peer reviewed papers and attracted \$1.65 million in research funding. Under Di's leadership, the School has twice achieved the highest possible ranking in the Excellence in Research for Australia rounds with research assessed as well above world standard.

<https://www.ecu.edu.au/schools/nursing-and-midwifery/news-and-events/snm/2017/05/lifetime-achievement-honour>



Ward C16

WA Health Excellence Awards

Category 2: Engaging with consumers, carers and the community

Supporting family carers of older hospital patients experiencing delirium

This project increased support for family carers of older patients with delirium admitted to ward C16, Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital. The ward team worked with researchers from the Centre for Nursing Research to scope existing practice and develop and implement practice change designed to better support and include family carers.

The practice change involved nurses providing to families:

- an admission 'welcome pack' that documented information about delirium and opportunities to participate in care
- an invitation to join the daily 1pm nursing handover
- a copy of the 'Sunflower' tool that allowed carers to document patients' likes and dislikes
- a bedside 'orientation board' with the date and planned care.

After the change was successfully implemented, carers of patients with delirium provided feedback through 20 surveys and 12 in-depth interviews. Nurse focus groups explored feasibility of the changes in routine practice. Findings showed that carers felt more included in care and felt that they were receiving the information they needed about care. Carer interviews revealed that families, while still concerned about the delirium, were reassured by written and verbal information provided.



Families particularly valued inclusion in the daily nursing handover. Nurses saw great value in the Sunflower tool, which they felt equipped them with information to calm and comfort patients with delirium.

Awards

2018

Anne Kimberley

SCGH Research Week New Investigator Award

Staff Development Educator, Centre for Nursing Education (CNE)

Supporting Transition: From Nurse to Nurse Educator

New Nurse Educators are often recruited on the basis of their demonstrated clinical competence rather than educational expertise putting them at risk of role ambiguity and job dissatisfaction as they transition into a new role. This research project developed and evaluated a Transition

Support Program (TSP) for nurses commencing as ward-based Nurse Educators, into the role of Staff Development Nurses (SDN).

The study employed a participatory action research approach and novice SDNs were invited to participate in a randomised controlled trial (RCT) evaluating the TSP (intervention) compared to usual support (control). The TSP comprised of an e-learning package and 1:1 mentor meetings between an

experience Nurse Educator and the novice SDN. Outcome measures included role stress, satisfaction, empowerment, and self-efficacy. Qualitative interviews explored the SDNs' perceptions of the TSP effectiveness and feasibility.

Twenty novice Nurse Educators participated in the RCT. Qualitative themes indicated that TSP mentoring tailored to individuals' needs encompassed educational skills, leadership, and building networks was highly valued. The project generated recommendations for the broader implementation of the transition support program aimed at leading the way to overcome the challenges for the novice SDNs. The TSP, particularly mentoring, was effective in supporting SDNs who are at risk of role stress during their role transition. Further project phases are underway to embed sustainable processes to effectively transition novice SDNs across the organisation.

Grants

Project Title:

Service innovation to improve outcomes and quality of care for patients receiving chemotherapy for breast and colorectal cancer at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital

Cls: Whitehead, L., Myers, H. & Twigg, D.

Funding Amount: \$144,416.00

Funding Body: WA Cancer and Palliative Care

Year Awarded: 2018

Project Title:

The effect of an immediate pre-operative haemoglobin blood test on hip fracture patient outcomes: a before and after cohort study

Cls: Coventry, L., Mickle, P., Gibson, N., Ewens, B. & Currigan, D.

Funding Amount: \$39,993.00

Funding Body: SCGOPHCG Research Advisory Grant

Year Awarded: 2017

Project Title:

Care for older people in poor health: Piloting a process to identify and support family caregivers with low levels of health literacy

Cls: Toye, C., Hill, K., Jacinto, A., Slatyer, S., Bronson, M. & Burton, E.

Funding Amount: \$38,984.57

Funding Body: Sir Charles Gairdner and Osborne Park Health Care Group and Charlies Foundation for Research

Year Awarded: 2018

Project Title:

The accuracy and clinical utility of violence risk assessment tools for the acute care setting

Cls: Towell-Barnard, A., Dodds, M., Twigg, D., Dolling, S., Simpson, L. & Ryan, E.

Funding Amount: \$35,628.00

Funding Body: Master Research Program and the School of Nursing and Midwifery at Edith Cowan University

Year Awarded: 2017

Project Title:

Implementing and evaluating a wellbeing educational workshop for cancer nurses in Western Australia: A pilot study

Cls: Williams, A., Allen, E., Williams, N., Morrison, P., Stomski, N., Buchanan, G., Slatyer, S., Petterson, A., Pienaar, C., Jacques, A., Monterosso, L., Towell-Barnard, A., Twigg, D., Cope, V. & Maben, J.

Funding Amount: \$23,762.70

Funding Body: Cancer Council Western Australia

Year Awarded: 2017

Project Title:

Developing a process to screen for health literacy in family caregivers of older people and refining a support intervention for use with caregivers experiencing low levels of health literacy

Cls: Toye, C., Jacinto, A., Hill, K. & Slatyer, S.

Funding Amount: \$19,500.00

Funding Body: Australian Technology Network of Universities and São Paulo Research Foundation Joint Research Co-operation Scheme

Year Awarded: 2017

Project Title:

Sampling blood from peripheral intravenous cannulas and hemolysis rates: an observational study

Cls: Jacob, E., Coventry, L., Davies, H. & Hussain, M.

Funding Amount: \$14,956.00

Funding Body: Nurses Memorial Charitable Trust

Year Awarded: 2018

Project Title:

Prevalence of blood sampling from intravenous cannulas post insertion in acute healthcare

Cls: Jacob, E., Coventry, L., Wang, C. & Davies, H.

Funding Amount: \$14,673.00

Funding Body: Nurses Memorial Charitable Trust

Year Awarded: 2017

Project Title:

Western Australia core data set and conceptual framework

Cls: Twigg, D., Duffield, C. & Myers, H.

Funding Amount: \$5,000.00

Funding Body: Department of Health WA

Year Awarded: 2017

Project Title:

Effectiveness of the Coagchek PRO II compared with usual care in patients receiving intravenous heparin management via pathology results. To validate the Coagchek PRO 11 against the currently Coagchek XS plus used in Home Link

Cls: Walters, M., Santiago, A., Grove, C.,

Michalopoulos, N. & Coventry, L.

Funding Amount: \$4,956.00

Funding Body: Research Advisory Committee

Year Awarded: 2017

Project Title:

Evaluation of chair overlays to reduce pressure injury in high risk patients

Cls: Coventry, L. & Cowan, N.

Funding Amount: \$4,943.00

Funding Body: SCGOPHCG Research Advisory Small Grant

Year Awarded: 2017

Project Title:

Management of cognitive impairment in an acute hospital setting: an audit of Occupational Therapists working at SCGH

Cls: Colliss, C. & Coventry, L.

Funding Amount: \$1,876.00

Funding Body: SCGOPHCG Research Advisory Small Grant

Year Awarded: 2017



2017

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