Practice & Research in Nursing Group

Faculty of Health Sciences
Queen’s University

Report, January-December 2011

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Introduction

This past year has been a significant one for the School of Nursing and the PRN research group. In 2011, 5 new faculty joined PRN. Two PRN scientists, J. Tranmer, E. Vandenkerkhof hold CIHR career awards and M.B. Harrison is on a research secondment to the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer. Broad ranging changes locally and nationally will impact PRN in the coming year. First, university and faculty level strategic planning processes, including research direction, are underway. Second, significant changes have been made in the external funding environment. In light of these influences, during the annual School of Nursing Research Retreat PRN Scientists renewed their commitment to practice and health services research driven by the needs and challenges in today’s health care environment, and PRN has undergone a review and renewal of focus. Three major themes have emerged: ‘complex populations’, ‘knowledge to action’, and ‘health care quality’.

Scholarship streams within these themes have developed throughout PRN’s scientists’ research programs and stream leads include:

**Queen’s Joanna Briggs Collaboration (QJBC) for Patient Safety:**
Leads: M.B. Harrison, C. Godfrey, K. Sears, & R. Wilson

*Methodological collaboration to use synthesis and KT methodologies for quantitative and qualitative research that respond to practice and policy questions on patient safety and adverse events.*
Pain: The Fifth Vital Sign:
Lead: E. Vandenkerkhof

Focuses on the complex nature of pain and related symptoms at the population and individual level from an epidemiologic, assessment and management perspective

Knowledge Translation with Vulnerable Populations (KT-VP):
Leads: M.B. Harrison & R. Wilson

Working with community partners we face the challenge of evidence implementation, ethics and research in long term care and community settings.

International Wounds Collaborative:
Leads: M.B. Harrison & K. Woo

Dedicated to producing and using evidence in wound care.

Chronic Disease Management:
Lead: J. Tranmer

Chronic conditions and the transitions and continuity between sectors of care defining the care needs and gaps, development and evaluation of health care strategies

There are two emerging themes. In the next couple of years PRN scientists will be contributing to Research with the new Military and Veterans Health Care research Institute. Linking with our nursing care and research expertise, the focus will be on veterans and military families in areas that will be encompassed in our established scholarship streams including stress and its role in complex disease constellations, including cardiovascular, chronic pain, wounds, COPD, and stress. Secondly, ‘healthy work environments’ focuses on factors associated with physically and mentally healthy workforces, and on the development and evaluation of system level strategies to optimize health of the workforce.

Lastly, within the scholarship streams, the PRN group is influencing research methods, advancing knowledge translation science and innovating in education – a type of ‘basic research’ to pioneer and develop ground-breaking approaches. Our educators are advancing the use of simulation for improved care of complex populations. New and practical mechanisms and methodologies are being developed for knowledge translation at the point-of-care.
2010-2011 Highlights

QJBC takes on a National Perspective with Patient Safety

Following its inception in 2003, PRN’s first major initiative was the Queen’s Joanna Briggs Collaboration, the first North American Centre of the international JBI. QJBC was established as an academic-practice partnership with the South Eastern Ontario Health Sciences Centre (SEOHSC) and funded by the Ontario Ministry of Health & Long-term Care Health Research Grants Program. This funding provided PRN with the opportunity to develop programming for the regional QJBC, conduct reviews, provide training for students and practitioners, embed evidence-informed practice in the curriculum and conduct a program evaluation. This start-up period brought into focus the need to concentrate our effort on sustainability.

PRN’s strategy was to choose a specific care focus, patient safety. To develop a national academic-policy partnership with key partners, the Canadian Patient Safety Institute and Accreditation Canada, we sought and were awarded 5-years external funding ($1,000,000) for QJBC infrastructure (dedicated library scientist, methodologist and project management) through a targeted call from the Canadian Institutes for Health Research. The centre opened January 2010. CIHR-KT is our third key partner and Mr. Adrian Mota from CIHR serves as Chair on our Advisory Council.

QJBC Patient Safety has a scientific team of 16 faculty members working with four core staff. Currently there are 2 levels of organization and activity within QJBC: 1) Regional/Local Academic-Practice Partnership and 2) National, Academic-Policy Partnership. Key accomplishments and scholarship during 2011 are outlined in Appendix 1, including: establishment of the Network/collaboration CPSI & Accreditation and multiple partners within the Advisory Council comprised of 11 CEO members from across Canada; education and capacity building through a 5-day summer JBI workshop (~40 participants from across Canada), undergraduate patient safety labs during patient safety week (nursing and rehabilitation science), graduate support for candidates interested in patient safety topics, a synthesis methods course (N898), and supportive infrastructure for the new Queen’s graduate program MSc (HQ).

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3 Staff: A. Ross-White (library scientist), V. Donaldson (Project Officer), J. McVeety (Patient Safety Officer), V. Angus (Business Officer)

Focusing on Complex Populations in Long-term Care and Community

PRN scientists and their students have been very active in the long term care and community sectors with new research initiatives. This has been in response to pressing health issues related to improving chronic disease care and symptom management. Several PRN scholarship streams have evolved with this focus since 2010: KT with Vulnerable Populations, Pain the 5th Vital Sign, an international Wounds Collaborative and Chronic Disease Management. Using the full range of the PRN research capability the enquiries respond at a population level through to clinical practice issues.

Summary

Over the past two years PRN has undertaken an extraordinary level of research activity across the continuum of care. Particularly noteworthy is the expansion of our research into neglected sectors, namely long term care and community/home care.

In 2011 nearly ¾ of a million ($773,649) fuels our ongoing research. An additional $76,500 funding for new research has been awarded in 2011. PRN scientists currently have several grant applications under review, totalling $1,224,465. However, with changes in research funding policies and diminishing research funds available both federally and provincially, like most researchers across the Queen’s community, we have expended tremendous effort at the development and proposal level while our success rate has been disappointing (Appendix B).

Looking Forward

PRN continues to actively support development of our new faculty members’ research programs. Our new colleagues bring a broadened and timely focus to PRN’s germinal commitment to nursing research relevant to practice and health services. A central effort in 2012 will be to extend our operating funding bases for PRN research beyond the traditional provincial Ministry and tricouncil sources. Given the PRN group’s point-of-care focus we will explore opportunities such as the Local Integrated Health Network (LIHN), and the university’s new Veterans and Military Research Institute and local community-based agencies and networks. Linkages will be explored and formalized where appropriate with other disciplines and departments. Equally important and pressing is that career support must be sought for new faculty and renewed for senior scientists to fully develop the PRN research program.

There is continued need to establish a nursing research Chair within the School of Nursing. We are one of the few Nursing School’s without this critical infrastructure to advance our research. Effort on this front will continue.
# APPENDIX A

**Scholarship Stream Activity, 2011**

| Stream #1: | Queen’s Joanna Briggs Collaboration (QJBC) for Patient Safety | p. 08 |
| Stream #2: | Pain: The Fifth Vital Sign | p. 10 |
| Stream #3: | Knowledge Translation with Vulnerable Populations (KT-VP) | p. 11 |
| Stream #4: | International Wounds Collaborative | p. 12 |
| Stream #5: | Chronic Disease Management | p. 13 |
| **Emerging:** | Military & Veterans Health Care and Healthy Work Environments | p. 14 |
| **Foundational:** | Research Methods, Knowledge Translation Science, and Education Innovation | p. 15 |

# APPENDIX B

**Reduced Funding Opportunities**

Submitted, reviewed not funded, to be resubmitted | p. 17
**STREAM #1: Queen’s Joanna Briggs Collaboration (QJBC) for Patient Safety**

Methodological collaboration to use synthesis and KT methodologies for quantitative and qualitative research that respond to practice and policy questions on patient safety and adverse events.

**Theme:** Knowledge to Action

**Leads:** M.B. Harrison, C. Godfrey, K. Sears, & R. Wilson

**Grant Activity**

**Submitted/under review:**


Godfrey, C.M. CIHR New Investigator Salary Award, $300,000.


**Funding received in 2011:**


**Ongoing funding in 2011:**


Publications


Major Reports:

STREAM #2: Pain: The Fifth Vital Sign

Focuses on the complex nature of pain and related symptoms at the population and individual level from an epidemiologic, assessment and management perspective.

Theme(s): Complex Populations, Health Care Quality

Lead: E. Vandenkerkhof

Grant Activity

Funding received in 2011:


Ongoing Funding in 2011


VanDenKerkhof, E.G., Peters, M., Bruce, M. Understanding the epidemiology of chronic pain after surgery. International Association for the Study of Pain Collaborative Research Grants Program, $14,500 (2010-2012).


Publications


STREAM #3: Knowledge Translation with Vulnerable Populations (KT-VP)

Working with community partners we face the challenge of evidence implementation, ethics and research in long term care and community settings.

Theme(s): Knowledge to Action, Complex Populations

Lead(s): M.B. Harrison & R. Wilson

Grant Activity

Funding Received in 2011:


Ongoing Funding in 2011:


Publications


Gulati, S., Paterson, M., Medves, J. & Luce Kapler, R. (2011) Use of critical ethnographic approach to inform change in the lives of adolescents with disabilities. The Qualitative Report, 16(2) 523-562


STREAM #4: International Wounds Collaborative

Dedicated to producing and using evidence in wound care.

Theme(s): Knowledge to Action, Complex Populations

Lead(s): M.B. Harrison & K. Woo

Grant Activity

Funding applications submitted in 2011 and under review:

VanDenKerkhof, E.G., Harrison, M.B., Hopman, W. Maintaining health, function and autonomy in aging community-dwelling Canadians living with chronic conditions. Botterell Foundation, Queen’s University, $15,000 (2012-2013).

Woo, K. & Harrison, M.B. Knowledge translation project for the management of people with leg ulcers and co-existing circulation problems. Under review Canadian Institutes for Health Research Meetings & Dissemination, $24,909 (2012-2013).


Funding received in 2011:

Harrison, M.B. & VandenKerkhof, E. Canadian Wound Health Services Trial: Next steps for practice and policy. Canadian Institutes of Health Research Meetings & Dissemination Grant, $34,000 (2011-2012).


Publications


**STREAM #5: Chronic Disease Management**

Chronic conditions and the transitions and continuity between sectors of care

Theme(s): Complex Populations, Health Care Quality

Lead(s): J. Tranmer

**Grant Activity**

**Funding received in 2011:**


Tranmer, J.E., Edge, D., VanDenKerkhof, E.G. Defining and Optimizing Nursing Contribution to Chronic Disease Care Within the Primary Care Setting. Canadian Institute of Health Research Meetings, Planning and Dissemination Grant: Planning Grant, $22,780 (2011-2012).


**Funding Ongoing in 2011:**


**Publications**


Sagar, S., Brown, P., Pickett, W., Tranmer, J. (2011) Validation of the Walking Impairment Questionnaire for evaluation of the severity of claudication pain among patients with peripheral arterial disease. National Student Conference of Canadian Society of Epidemiology & Statistics, Montreal, QC.

Sagar, S., Brown, P., Pickett, W., Tranmer, J. (2011) Validation of the Walking Impairment Questionnaire for evaluation of the severity of claudication pain among patients with peripheral arterial disease. 14th annual meeting for Health Sciences Research Trainees, Faculty of Health Sciences, Queen’s University, Kingston, ON.


EMERGING STREAMS: Military & Veterans Health Care and Healthy Work Environments
Nursing focus on a) veterans and military families in areas of study that may include stress and its role in complex disease constellations; and b) factors and strategies that will optimize healthy work environments

Theme(s): Complex Populations, Knowledge to Action, Health Care Quality
Lead(s): Leadership evolving
Grant Activity
Submitted/under review:

Publications:


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**Research Methods, Knowledge Translation Science, and Education Innovation**

Knowledge translation and research methods development for new and innovative approaches to enquiries.

**Leads: Foundational research encompasses all PRN scientists**

**Grant Activity**

**Funding received:**


**Publications**


Appendix B: Submitted, Reviewed not funded. To be resubmitted


Mann, E. (PhD student) & VanDenKerkhof, E.G. (Supervisor). Coping with chronic pain: Can self-management strategies lead to improved health and decreased healthcare use? CIHR Doctoral Award, 2011


Sears, K. (PI) VanDenKerkhof, E., Edge, D, Tranmer, J., & Levesque, L. The prescribing trends by nurse practitioners for children of a low socioeconomic status or inflicted with a disability in Ontario: 2000 - 201 Senate Advisory Committee, Queen’s University, $10,000 (2011, unfunded).

Edge, D. The prescribing trends by nurse practitioners for children of a low socioeconomic status or inflicted with a disability in Ontario: 2000-2010. Senate Advisory Research Committee $10,000 (2011 unfunded)