



University of
South Australia

School of
**Nursing and
Midwifery**

Research Week 2010



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Research Week 2010

DATE

Monday 27 September to Friday 1 October 2010

LOCATION

Room BJ3-30
Bonython Jubilee Building, City East Campus
UniSA

CONTACT

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Welcome

The School of Nursing and Midwifery at UniSA provides a range of undergraduate, postgraduate and higher degree programs. The School's higher degree by research program provides a substantial program of multidisciplinary research that addresses issues related to clinical practice, health, and teaching and learning. This doctoral research forms an important component of the research output of the school.

To showcase this exciting research activity, the School holds an annual Research Week for doctoral students to present their research to their peers and to the school community. Research Week also provides a number of research development opportunities for doctoral candidates and academic staff, in terms of participating in seminars and workshops.

On behalf of the School of Nursing and Midwifery I welcome you to this week of presentations and seminars, and encourage you to participate in the social events that have been scheduled during this week.

Professor Helen McCutcheon
Head of School

Monday

Chair: Dr Kay Price

9.00 - 9.30		Coffee
9.30 - 10.00	Prof Helen McCutcheon	Opening and Welcome School Research Grants
10.00 - 10.30	Craig Phillips	Pre-registration paid employment choice and impact on graduate nurse transition
10.30 - 11.00	Odette Gibson	The impact of primary health care resourcing on hospitalisation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in far north Queensland with Type 2 Diabetes mellitus
11.00 - 11.30 <i>MORNING TEA</i>		
11.30 - 12.00	Sandra Campbell	Pre-pregnancy predictors of pregnancy loss in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women in North Queensland
12.00 - 12.30	Yvette Roe	Acute coronary syndromes Retrospective national cohort: ACACIA registry preliminary findings
12.30 - 1.30 <i>LUNCH</i>		
1.30 - 2.15	Prof Jan Pincombe	Health and Well Being Research Concentration
2.15 - 3.15 <i>AFTERNOON TEA</i>		
3.15 - 4.00	Prof Judith Finn	Nursing Research Concentration

Tuesday

Chair: Professor Judith Finn

9.00 - 9.30		Coffee
9.30 - 10.00	Kim Dalziel	The use of secondary sources of evidence to inform health economic evaluation and modelling: Lessons from a portfolio of health economic evaluations
10.00 - 10.30	David Foley	The role of the personal support worker when accompanying someone with intellectual disability to an Emergency Department: Results of focus groups and interviews
10.30 - 11.00	Monica Broniecki	Risk factors for injuries in Ambulance Officers
11.00 - 11.30 <i>MORNING TEA</i>		
11.30 - 12.00	Josie Woll	Elder abuse in residential aged care: perceptions, practice and policy
12.00 - 12.30	Anna Gregory	Health system factors affecting quality of health care for community dwelling older people with complex care needs: an interactive approach
12.30 - 1.30 <i>LUNCH</i>		
1.30 - 2.15	Prof Nicholas Procter	Mental Health Research Concentration
2.15 - 3.15 <i>AFTERNOON TEA</i>		
3.15 - 4.00	Prof Leonie Segal	Health Economics Research Concentration

Wednesday

Chair: Professor Jan Pincombe

9.00 - 9.30		Coffee
9.30 - 10.00	Heidi Silverston	Leadership development for nurses: Is it contributing to workplace health?
10.00 - 10.30	Amy Baker	Exploring loss from mental illness: Findings from the first phase of a participation action research project
10.30 - 11.00	Kim Milde	The social, cognitive and emotional dimensions of learning in rehabilitation
11.00 - 11.30 <i>MORNING TEA</i>		
11.30 - 12.00	Diane Wright	A focused ethnographic exploration of midwifery culture in "routine" antenatal care: social models & environmental realities
12.00 - 12.30	Jackie Amos	A model of maternal maltreatment of children aged 3 - 12 years
12.30 - 1.30 <i>LUNCH</i>		
1.30 - 3.00	Professor Patsy Yates	Developing a research program

Thursday

Chair: Associate Professor Carol Grech

9.30 - 10.00		Coffee
10.00 - 10.30	Mei Man Chen	Taiwanese women's decision making regarding vaginal birth after caesarean section using constructs of theory of planned behaviour
10.30 - 11.00	Sandra Ullrich	Findings from a study to improve nursing practice in nutritional care: Connections and dissonances across two health care organisation
11.00 - 11.30 <i>MORNING TEA</i>		
11.30 - 12.00	Liz Newnham	Epidural analgesia in labour: Panacea or predicament?
12.00 - 12.30	Kevin O'Shaughnessy	Researching issues men find sensitive!
12.30 - 1.30 <i>LUNCH (Book Launch)</i>		
1.30 - 3.00	Prof Judith Finn	Research grant writing workshop

Chair: **Professor Nicholas Procter**

9.30 - 10.00		Coffee
10.00 - 10.30	Susanne Becker	What are the issues that impact on the recruitment and retention of locum nurses in rural and remote Australia?
10.30 - 11.00	Andrew Gardner	"There are those who have it and those who do not; Macro and micro skills in mental health practice"
11.00 - 11.30		MORNING TEA
11.30 - 12.00	Kelly Lewis	A case control study to identify early predictors of patient deterioration in the general ward setting
12.00 - 3.00		PROFESSORIAL BBQ

Jackie Amos Parallel parent child narrative/parent and child therapy: A theoretical exploration of a process using the parent child relationship to treat severe behavioural problems in 3 - 12 year olds

Supervisors

- Professor Leonie Segal
- Dr Tahereh Ziaian

Amy Baker Ethical considerations in recovery of mental illness: Exploring, reflecting upon and responding to losses from mental illness through participatory action research

Supervisors

- Professor Nicholas Procter
- Dr Tony Gibbons

Susanne Becker The issues that impact on the recruitment and retention of locum nurses in rural and remote Australia

Supervisors

- Professor Helen McCutcheon
- Professor Desley Hegney

Monica Broniecki Risk factors for back, neck and shoulder musculoskeletal injuries, claims and cost of claims in ambulance officers

Supervisors

- Professor Adrian Esterman
- Professor Esther May
- Dr Hugh Grantham

Sandra Campbell Pre-pregnancy and reproductive health among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women in North Queensland

Supervisors

- Professor Robyn McDermott
- Professor John Lynch
- Professor Adrian Esterman

PhD Students

Mei-man Maggie Chen Exploring Taiwanese women's decision-making regarding vaginal birth after caesarean section

Supervisors

- Professor Jan Pincombe
- Dr Lois McKellar

Kim Dalziel The use of secondary sources of evidence to inform health economic evaluation and modelling: Lessons from a portfolio of health economic evaluations

Supervisors

- Professor Leonie Segal
- Prof Glenn Salkeld

David Foley Emergency Care of People with Intellectual Disability

Supervisors

- Professor Helen McCutcheon
- Associate Professor Lynne Barnes

Andrew Gardner A constructivist grounded theory inquiry into how mental health clinicians negotiate 'the' professional boundary and preserve 'the' therapeutic relationship

Supervisors

- Professor Helen McCutcheon
- Dr Maria Fedoruk

Odette Gibson The impact of primary health care on hospitalisation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Far North Queensland with Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus

Supervisors

- Professor Leonie Segal
- Associate Professor Hazel Lim

Anna Gregory Health system factors affecting quality of health care for community dwelling older people with complex needs

Supervisors

- Professor Leonie Segal
- Professor Debbie Kralik

Ola Kutah A critical analysis of the construction of health literacy by paediatric and child and youth health RNs

Supervisors

- Dr Kay Price
- Professor Helen McCutcheon

Kelly Lewis A case control study to identify early predictors of patient deterioration in the general ward setting

Supervisors

- Professor Helen McCutcheon
- Professor Adrian Esterman
- Associate Professor Carol Grech

Kim Milde Philosophical hermeneutic interpretation of learning in rehabilitation

Supervisors

- Dr Colleen Smith
- Professor Nicholas Procter

Louis Msema Ascertaining STI knowledge and sexual behaviour of Adelaide African refugee men for culturally competent prevention

Supervisors

- Professor Nicholas Procter
- Dr Helen Calabretto

Elizabeth Newnham Epidural anaesthesia in labour for low-risk women: panacea or problem?

Supervisors

- Professor Jan Pincombe
- Dr Lois McKellar

Kevin O'Shaughnessy Developing effective nursing and psychosocial supportive care interventions for prostate cancer survivors encountering cancer progression/recurrence

Supervisors

- Professor Adrian Esterman
- Dr Tom Laws
- Dr Carole Pinnock

PhD Students

Christine Palmer Nursing practice in an acute psychiatric inpatient unit: A critical ethnography

- Supervisors*
- Professor Eimear Muir-Cochrane
 - Associate Professor Lynne Barnes
-

Craig Phillips Pre-registration paid employment choice and impact on graduate nurse transition

- Supervisors*
- Professor Adrian Esterman
 - Dr Colleen Smith
 - Associate Professor Amanda Kenny
-

Yvette Roe Impact of engagement in the health care process on outcome: Exploring potential differences between Indigenous¹ and non-Indigenous patients admitted to hospital in South Australia for ACS

- Supervisors*
- Professor Robyn McDermott
 - Associate Professor Christopher Zeitz
 - Dr Bronwyn Fredericks
 - Professor Adrian Esterman
-

Heidi Silverston Leadership development for nurses: contributing to workplace health

- Supervisors*
- Professor Leonie Segal
 - Professor Helen McCutcheon
 - Associate Professor Pat Buckley
-

Sandra Ullrich An action research approach to improve nutritional care in nursing practice across two health care organisations: connections between group processes and organisational systems

- Supervisors*
- Professor Helen McCutcheon
 - Dr Barbara Parker

Ava Deborah Walsh Baby Friendly Health Accreditation (BFHI) in Australia: An examination of Attitudes and Realities of policy and practice

- Supervisors*
- Professor Jan Pincombe
 - Dr Ann Henderson
-

Josie Woll Elder abuse in residential aged care: perceptions, practice and policy

- Supervisors*
- Professor Helen McCutcheon
 - Dr Cath Hall
-

Diane Wright Exploring the mother-midwife relationship during antenatal care : a focused ethnography of midwife culture in public hospitals

- Supervisors*
- Professor Jan Pincombe
 - Dr Robyn Nayda

Candidates Abstracts



CANDIDATE

Jackie Amos

B Med Sci Hons, BM BS, FRANZCP, Cert. Child and Adol Psych

SUPERVISORS

Professor Leonie Segal

Dr Tahereh Ziaian

TITLE

A Model of Maternal Maltreatment of Children aged 3 – 12 years

ABSTRACT

Psychotherapeutic treatment options are limited for families where the child has severe and intractable disturbances of emotion and behaviour, where there is suspected or confirmed maltreatment by the mother and where the mother has her own history of childhood neglect and abuse. Despite a recent concentration of research efforts in the field, there is a paucity of studies that integrate empirical and theoretical knowledge of child development, interpersonal trauma and personality development, with what is known about existing clinical interventions. To this end this PhD focuses on synthesizing this literature in a novel way, to inform the expansion of theoretically derived treatments for this clinically complex population.

The goal of Stage 1 of the PhD is first to understand the pathways through childhood that leave a mother susceptible to becoming a maltreating parent. The second focus of Stage 1 is to explore how this vulnerable mother's relationship with her own infant/child can become disturbed as a result of her own early experiences. In this presentation I will propose a new model for understanding maltreatment in mother-child dyads. At the core of this model is the hypothesis that a mother's maltreating behaviour arises from unconsciously motivated attempts to avoid re-experiencing the distress from her own early experiences of traumatic attachment relationships.

Abstracts

CANDIDATE

Amy Baker

BAppSc(OccTh); BHLthSc(Hons)(OccTh)

SUPERVISORS

Professor Nicholas Procter

Dr Tony Gibbons

TITLE

***Exploring loss from mental illness:
Findings from the first phase of a participatory action research project***

ABSTRACT

Within the literature, it is widely acknowledged that people with a mental illness may experience a profound degree of loss. Supporting this view are findings from a number of qualitative studies in which loss from mental illness was reported as a theme, however, these studies focused on other topics, such as parenting, employment or housing issues for people with a mental illness. In-depth, qualitative studies specifically examining the losses arising from mental illness have not been located within the literature.

The purpose of the current study was to explore the nature, scope and consequences of loss resulting from mental illness, situated within contexts of recovery and human flourishing. Participatory action research (PAR) was the methodology guiding this study, chosen as a practical, empowering form of research that focuses on issues that are most meaningful to participants. In this presentation, findings from the first and largest phase of this PAR project, the reconnaissance phase, will be presented. This phase included 16 semi-structured interviews with people who had a mental illness as well as initial focus group sessions with seven of the interviewees. Beginning with a brief introduction to the research context, findings from the reconnaissance phase will be presented and accompanied by a brief discussion of implications for recovery and human flourishing.

CANDIDATE

Susanne Becker

PhD Candidate

SUPERVISORS

Professor Helen McCutcheon

Professor Desley Hegney

TITLE

What are the issues that impact on the recruitment and retention of locum nurses in rural and remote Australia?

ABSTRACT

Background: Nurses are the most widely dispersed of all health professionals and it is essential that incentives and support are provided to enable them to continue to work in rural and remote locations. Many workforce oriented papers and Government reports have found that the issue of securing locum relief is frequently cited as being one of the major disincentives for accepting and/or staying in employment in rural and remote areas. One of the factors that may assist in the recruitment and retention of this permanent workforce is the provision of locum relief.

In the current work environment permanent staff may be denied access to annual and/or study leave in the absence of appropriate backfill or locum relief and the impact on their work/life/study balance may eventually lead to them leaving the area/position. When this does happen rural communities may have to wait extended periods of time to recruit new nurses to the area. This places added stressors on the remaining staff and can impact on the quality and availability of patient services in the area. The locum nurse is therefore a very important part of ensuring rural and remote communities are provided with access to quality nursing services at all times.

This study aims to:

- Establish what is known around the recruitment and retention of locum nurses in rural and remote areas
- Identify the factors that determine the attractiveness of locum work in rural and remote Australia
- Improve our knowledge and understanding of the issues that impact on why individual nurses choose locum work

Abstracts

Susanne Becker

PhD Candidate

ABSTRACT (continued)

Methodology/Method: Interpretive Description provides researchers with a methodological framework where an inductive analytical approach can lead to understanding of descriptive findings (e.g. interview data) that can potentially change the angle of vision through which components of the phenomena under study are normally considered. Theoretical and purposive sampling and comparative analysis allows similar and dissimilar cases to be described with interpretation developing from a need to explore 'what might this mean'. Interpretive Description aims to provide new insights and understanding to enable outcomes from the study to be acted upon in a very practical way.

Conclusion: This study provides an opportunity for locum nurses to speak about issues relating to locum work and to gain an understanding of their working life issues and identify areas of concern relating to working in rural and remote areas of Australia. Studying their stories, interview responses and recommendations around locum work may lead to improved understanding of their role in supporting the permanent workforce and how to recruit and retain them in order for rural and remote Australians to have continuing access to nursing services.

CANDIDATE

Monica Broniecki

PhD Candidate

SUPERVISORS

Professor Adrian Esterman

Professor Esther May

Dr Hugh Grantham

TITLE

Risk factors for injuries in Ambulance Officers

ABSTRACT

This thesis explores the risk factors for back, neck and shoulder musculoskeletal injuries and claims in ambulance officers.

The study includes three phases, namely:

- 1) a demographic description of the SA Ambulance Service including the numbers of injuries and claims,
- 2) predictors for injuries and claims arising from the pre-employment medical, functional capacity evaluation and psychometric testing, and
- 3) a comparison of individual, physical and psychosocial risk factors for ambulance officers who have sustained an injury or claim and those who have not.

The presentation will outline the key findings from Phase 2 and Phase 3 of the study and recommendations that will be made arising from the study results.

CANDIDATE

Sandra Campbell
PhD Candidate

SUPERVISORS

Professor Robyn McDermott
Professor John Lynch
Professor Adrian Esterman

TITLE

Pre-pregnancy predictors of pregnancy loss in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women in North Queensland

ABSTRACT

Aim: To identify important preventable pre-pregnancy risk factors to improve the health of Indigenous mothers and babies.

Methods: Data from 1,009 Indigenous women of childbearing age who participated in a 1999-2000 health screening program in far north Queensland were linked to Queensland hospitalisations data. Women who attended hospital after their health check (censor date: March 2008) for a pregnancy related condition were identified. Characteristics associated with becoming pregnant and with subsequent pregnancy loss were analysed using generalized linear models.

Results: The likelihood of pregnancy decreased with age. Women who were smokers and those who had low red cell folate at baseline were more likely to experience a subsequent pregnancy (RR 1.38 [95%CI 1.13-1.69]; RR 1.33 [1.10-1.60] respectively). The risk of spontaneous abortion increased with age. Women who reported risky drinking or had elevated gamma-glutamyl transferase were also at higher risk (RR 2.24 [1.11-4.52]; RR 2.31 [1.30-4.10] respectively). Spontaneous abortion was associated with sexually transmitted chlamydia (RR 2.35 [1.29-4.27]) or gonorrhoea (RR 3.44[1.96-4.27]). Women who had both chlamydia and gonorrhoea at baseline had a five-fold increase in risk of pregnancy loss compared with women who had no infection (RR: 5.02 [2.34-10.75]).

Conclusions: In this study poor nutrition, a high prevalence of sexually transmitted infections and high rates of smoking and risky drinking are affecting the reproductive health of young women in rural and remote communities in north Queensland. A sustained and committed health service response that includes provision of pre-pregnancy care and targeted health promotion is warranted.

CANDIDATE

Mei-Man Maggie Chen
PhD Candidate

SUPERVISORS

Professor Jan Pincombe
Dr Lois McKellar

TITLE

Taiwanese women's decision making regarding vaginal birth after caesarean section using constructs of theory of planned behavior

ABSTRACT

Aim: To explore the decision-making process regarding vaginal birth after caesarean section by Taiwanese women.

Background: Despite evidence supporting a successful vaginal birth after caesarean section (VBAC) which is significantly associated with less maternal morbidity and satisfactory neonatal outcomes. Taiwanese women who have had previous caesarean section (CS) rarely choose a VBAC (3%) versus repeat CS (97%). International professional organizations recommend that VBAC should be offered to eligible women. This study explores factors affecting women's decision-making process regarding vaginal birth after caesarean section.

Design and methods: The theoretical underpinning of the study adopted Ajzen's Theory of Planned Behaviour (TPB). A prospective qualitative study comprising three sequential in-depth interviews with the constructs of TPB guiding the interview questions was employed to capture women's reasoning of their decision making concerning VBAC. 32 Taiwanese women have had previous caesarean section for non-recurrent cause, are pregnant between 34 and 38 weeks of gestation, and are older than 20 years in three obstetric clinics in Northern Taipei city Taiwan were recruited.

Main outcome measures: Factors affecting decision-making, expectation and experience of attempting VBAC, perception of decision making and issues concern VBAC information provision.

Abstracts

Mei-Man Maggie Chen

PhD Candidate

ABSTRACT (continued)

Findings: This presentation will provide the preliminary findings from stage one of the study. Factors affecting Taiwanese women's decision making reflect three constructs of Theory of Planned Behaviour (TPB). Those women who chose VBAC held favorable attitudes towards a normal birth versus unfavorable attitudes towards caesarean section. Health professionals appear to be powerful referents who most women comply with their recommendations to choose caesarean section in the subsequent birth. VBAC information is not available from health care providers. Some women are not aware that they could choose a normal birth after caesarean section. The discussion of VBAC is only available upon request by women who have chosen this method. The availability of VBAC information affects women's participation in decision making and subsequent childbirth experience.

Conclusion: Despite women holding positive attitudes towards VBAC they are not normally offered this birth method. Lack of VBAC information limited women's right to choose. VBAC information should be made available to women who have had previous caesarean section so they are able to make informed choice of birth method in subsequent pregnancy.

CANDIDATE

Kim Dalziel

BHealth Sc(hons), MHealthEcon

SUPERVISORS

Professor Leonie Segal

Professor Glenn Salkeld

TITLE

The use of secondary sources of evidence to inform health economic evaluation and modelling: Lessons from a portfolio of health economic evaluations

ABSTRACT

Introduction: Economic evaluation is an ideal tool for the translation of primary research or knowledge into policy decisions due to its ability to draw together disparate sources of evidence. Economic evaluation typically employs modelling to extend outcomes beyond those gathered in a clinical trial or to link intermediate to final outcomes. Whilst there has been considerable debate and guidance around the quality of evidence to inform the clinical effectiveness parameters, criteria for the selection of secondary data inputs for economic modelling remains largely uncharted. There are published criteria for economic evaluation, but provide limited guidance regarding the selection of secondary evidence and focus on broad processes such as transparency. The purpose of this thesis is to contribute to the formation of rules of evidence for health economic modelling.

Methods: This program of research in order to fulfil the requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy by Portfolio of Publications presents a comprehensive and diverse program of health economic evaluation and modelling research. Three peer-reviewed publications present systematic reviews of existing economic evaluation literature (two of these also include further quantitative analyses). A further six peer-reviewed publications provide original empirical examples of economic evaluation and modelling. The research underpinning these articles has been assessed to derive a set of rules and core principles for the rigorous use of secondary evidence for modelling.

Results and Conclusion: Drawing on the published empirical examples of economic modelling that compose this thesis, new hierarchies of evidence and quality assessment criteria are proposed. The purpose is to inform the identification and selection of parameters/assumptions to support the translation of intermediate to final outcomes and extrapolation to the long-term.

Abstracts

CANDIDATE

David Foley
BSc, RN, A&E Cert, MN

SUPERVISORS

Professor Helen McCutcheon
Associate Professor Lynne Barnes

TITLE

The role of the personal support worker when accompanying someone with intellectual disability to an Emergency Department: Results of focus groups and interviews

ABSTRACT

When someone with intellectual disability (ID) attends an emergency department (ED) they may not have expressive language, or their anxiety at being in the ED may make it very difficult for them to express their distress and communicate their needs. It can consequently be helpful for them to be accompanied by someone who is able to act on their behalf, assist communication and manage their anxiety.

This presentation will present results from focus groups and an interview with personal support workers (PSW) who identify that the role is confused and not defined. However experienced PSWs describe strategies that enable successful communication. This requires the PSW to know their client well and then to act assertively but diplomatically in the ED. This presentation will describe how the PSW role needs to be clarified and how people employed in this capacity can be equipped to advocate effectively for people with ID.

CANDIDATE

Andrew Gardner
PhD Candidate

SUPERVISORS

Professor Helen McCutcheon
Dr Maria Fedoruk

TITLE

“There are those who have it and those who do not; Macro and micro skills in mental health practice”

ABSTRACT

Clinicians who work in mental health indicate that one of the greatest attributes you can have as a practicing clinician is a keen sense self of awareness and a degree of emotional intelligence. They reflect that some more than others “have it” and acknowledge that some “do not”, or are still developing this awareness.

In this research self awareness has been developed into a category termed “Using interpersonal skills”. Using interpersonal skills and being self aware is seen as a macro skill, acknowledging that there must be an ability to employ interpersonal skills in order to at the very least engage clients in the mental health context. As a category using interpersonal skills is understood to be about being aware of your own personal values and principles and how this might effect the way clinicians deliver care. It includes listening and responding, general communication, negotiating, and making people feel comfortable in often difficult situations. Being aware from moment to moment of your own feelings and emotions and being able to manage these emotions by keeping the self in check. Macro skills are about those social skills that allow you to form and manage relationships successfully, the key element to ongoing engagement with clients.

The research also indicates that discipline based knowledge and skills play a significant part in the development of a well rounded clinician. Hence a further category has been developed termed “Using professional skills and attributes”. Using professional skills and attributes are seen as micro skills, acknowledging that they are refined skills that specifically refer to those abilities that are developed from discipline based knowledge and clinical practice. Professional skills and attributes are the sorts of skills that clinicians are initially introduced to in their specialist education and further hone as they learn more about their craft as a mental health practitioner. These are skills and attributes that are developed over time and with exposure to different clinical situations and experiences.

Andrew Gardner

PhD Candidate

ABSTRACT (continued)

A few nagging questions emerge from these two categories though –

- Which of these macro and micro skills are more important for a clinician in mental health?
- Can self awareness as a clinician be developed over time?
- Can discipline based knowledge enhance the development of self awareness?

CANDIDATE

Odette Gibson

PhD Candidate

SUPERVISORS

Professor Leonie Segal
Associate Professor Hazel Lim

TITLE

The impact of primary health care resourcing on hospitalisation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Far North Queensland with Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus

ABSTRACT

In many rural and remote Australian communities, primary health care is the sole locally based health service and responsible for connecting people to the broader health system. In this setting it plays a substantial role in on-going management of patients with chronic health conditions. Service users, providers and funders in health planning forums across Far North Queensland (FNQ) ask the question, “How is primary health care performing?”

Preliminary findings of a systematic literature review show that modelling primary health care resources as a determinant of hospitalisation whilst adjusting for other determinants is not applied to primary care management of diabetes in Indigenous communities in FNQ and Australia and internationally in New Zealand, USA and Canada.

Common approaches to answering this question include quality of diabetes care audits, avoidable hospitalisation rates, and program effectiveness evaluation. My research focus is resourcing of primary health care, specifically funding, workforce, chronic disease management systems and infrastructure. An econometric model is used to isolate the unique contribution of these resources on hospitalisation of people with Type 2 Diabetes. Hospitalisation is captured by admission cost. Other determinants in the model include individual characteristics, health status, hospital supply and community characteristics.

This presentation draws attention to the model specification, data items, source and collection, and concludes with a description of the study population, the dependent variable - inpatient admission cost, and two independent variables - individual characteristics and health status.

Abstracts

CANDIDATE

Anna Gregory
PhD Candidate

SUPERVISORS

Professor Leonie Segal
Professor Debbie Kralik

TITLE

Health system factors affecting quality of health care for community dwelling older people with complex care needs: an iterative approach

ABSTRACT

Purpose: The purpose of this presentation is to explain how each stage undertaken for this PhD thesis informed and directed later stages of the body of work. A brief summary of key insights emerging from each stage of this project will be presented.

Background: Addressing the needs of older people living at home with chronic and complex care needs is a high priority for clinical service providers, researchers and policy makers. There are widely recognized problems with the quality of health care for community dwelling older people with complex needs who require highly integrated health care delivery. This PhD thesis was situated within the real world context of health care systems being open, complex systems. There are gaps in current knowledge about how health system factors affect quality of health care for older people with complex needs.

Linking each stage: A literature review was conducted systematically to synthesize existing findings about health system factors affecting quality of health care for community dwelling older people with complex needs. A qualitative study was then undertaken to deepen our insights into how health system factors affect quality of health care. A new insight emerged from the qualitative study about the critical role of older people as active participants within health care systems, which affects quality of health care. This new emergent insight directed the planning and conduct of final stages of the PhD thesis.

Keywords: health systems, older people, complex needs, quality of health care

CANDIDATE

Kelly Lewis
PhD Candidate

SUPERVISORS

Professor Helen McCutcheon
Professor Adrian Esterman
Associate Professor Carol Grech

TITLE

A case control study to identify early predictors of patient deterioration in the general ward setting

ABSTRACT

The hospitalised patient requires comprehensive care for optimisation of health and it is widely recognised that many acutely unstable patients are now managed outside the confines of an intensive care setting. As a result it is clear that there exists a group of patients located in the general ward environment who are at risk of deterioration. The purpose of this study is to identify the early predictors of patient deterioration in the general ward setting and to develop an assessment tool to enable and facilitate the easy identification of patients at risk of deterioration in this environment. At present there is no existing method of assessment based on early predictors of deterioration, that incorporate pre admission, admission and those factors that may occur early in the patients hospital stay that can be used to identify potential patient deterioration. This method of assessment differs from the current track and trigger methods, such as medical emergency teams, patient at risk teams and early warning scoring systems as it aims to detect and survey at risk hospitalised patients at an earlier stage, enabling changes in their clinical status to be identified early and treated promptly, rather than triggering a response only when extreme values are reached.

This study involves two phases and utilises an unmatched case control methodology, that is retrospective in nature, taking place at the Royal Adelaide Hospital (RAH), a major metropolitan trauma centre of South Australia. The first phase will include the identification of clinical indicators (markers) that suggest a patient located in the general ward setting may be at risk of deterioration. The second phase will involve the development of a risk score and testing on a different dataset.

Abstracts

CANDIDATE

Kim Milde

RGN, BN Hons, PhD Candidate

SUPERVISORS

Dr Colleen Smith
Professor Nicholas Procter

TITLE

The social, cognitive and emotional dimensions of learning in rehabilitation

ABSTRACT

This presentation will describe how the adult learning theory of Danish educationalist Knud Illeris informed data analysis in this study. Illeris' theory provided a framework to facilitate development of a 'horizon' from where learning in rehabilitation can be viewed. The application of Illeris' work to the initial interpretations of this study highlighted the disparate horizons of understanding between current practice in the field of spinal cord injury rehabilitation and the understandings described by people with a spinal cord injury. The tension between these understandings gives rise to an opportunity to reflect on the perceived differences and thus enhance the possibilities for interpretation and this will be the focus of the presentation.

CANDIDATE

Elizabeth Newnham

PhD Candidate, BA (hons), B. Mid, B.Nsg

SUPERVISORS

Professor Jan Pincombe
Dr Lois McKellar

TITLE

Epidural anaesthesia in labour : Panacea or problem?

ABSTRACT

There is increasing concern, locally and globally, over rising birth intervention rates. Midwives, medical practitioners and policy makers are seeking to redress this problem in various different ways. The placement of an epidural in a 'low risk' labouring woman shifts her to a 'high risk' category without any other intervention. My research aims to critically analyse routine epidural analgesia use within this context of strategy-seeking to decrease intervention rates.

Epidural analgesia has been used increasingly in childbirth since the 1960s, without adequate initial testing. Despite 40 years of medical research since that time, current research is conflicting. The most recent Cochrane Review concludes that epidural analgesia increases the instrumental delivery rate, while other studies suggest that epidural use disrupts natural hormone production and decreases breastfeeding success. While judicious use of epidural analgesia may be beneficial in particular situations, its current use as a routine analgesia needs to be examined more closely. As yet, this has not been examined in depth, either in Australia or elsewhere.

My research draws on extant social and political theory, including cultural constructions of birth and pain, and the influence of technological imperatives within the late capitalist economy, to provide a critical medical anthropology framework with which to examine the trend of routinely using epidural analgesia for labour. Within this framework I will use ethnography and thematic analysis to contribute to an existing social theory of birth, and to develop a unique insight into the influences upon Australian women when they choose or refuse epidural analgesia.

Abstracts

CANDIDATE

Kevin O'Shaughnessy

RN BN BHSc (Honours), PHD candidate

SUPERVISORS

Professor Adrian Esterman

Dr Tom Laws

Dr Carole Pinnock

TITLE

Researching issues men find sensitive!

ABSTRACT

Background: I am using focus groups to explore the views of men facing or diagnosed with recurrent prostate cancer. This presentation explores the value of using focus groups as a method of data collection for qualitative research into men with regarding issues they regard as sensitive, which is the basis of a paper we are writing.

Method: Contemporary research regarding the use of focus groups when exploring sensitive issues such as mental health, masculinity, sexuality, sexual dysfunction, cancer, death and dying is reviewed. I will discuss evidence of the methodological and epistemological difficulties relating to the use of focus groups when researching sensitive issues, and explore some suggestions to resolve these difficulties.

CANDIDATE

Craig Phillips

PhD Candidate

SUPERVISORS

Professor Adrian Esterman

Dr Colleen Smith

Associate Professor Amanda Kenny

TITLE

Pre-registration paid employment choice and impact on graduate nurse transition

ABSTRACT

Many Australian undergraduate nursing students undertake paid employment whilst completing their pre-registration nursing degrees (AIHW, 2006). The choices of paid employment vary, and may include health care settings or the hospitality and retail sectors. Evidence suggests that the primary reason why undergraduates seek employment is financial, however, there may be a number of other reasons why students work.

Little is known about pre-registration employment choice and the impact on graduate nurse transition to registered nurse practice. Utilising a three phase exploratory mixed method design (Creswell, 2002), this PhD study aims to identify if there is a relationship between undergraduate nursing students paid employment choices and transition to registered nurse practice. This presentation will present a thematic network (Attride-Stirling, 2001) and analysis from phase one of the study, arising from the data from eight focus group interviews with graduate nurses working in aged and acute care in metropolitan and rural locations. In addition, this presentation will report on preliminary work relating to phase two of the study, including recruitment processes and the development of the survey instrument.

Abstracts

CANDIDATE

Yvette Roe
PhD Candidate

SUPERVISORS

Professor Robyn McDermott
Associate Professor Christopher Zeitz
Dr Bronwyn Fredericks
Professor Adrian Esterman

TITLE

Pre-registration paid employment choice and impact on graduate nurse transition

ABSTRACT

Acute coronary syndromes (ACS) are a major contributor to the morbidity and mortality of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, evidenced by national health statistics. Effective management of ACS requires a systematic approach to ensure patients have access to the services they need in a timeframe commensurate with the clinical condition and in order to reap the greatest benefit of treatments. This study will explore guideline concordant-care, patient engagement, associated risk conditions and co-morbidity among Indigenous Australians who present with ACS. Research suggests that despite similar acute management pathways between Indigenous and non-Indigenous patients, the transition from acute care to long-term care and secondary care is suboptimal for Indigenous patients who were substantially under-treated when compared to their non-Indigenous counterparts.

The program of research comprises three distinct but more importantly complementary studies that investigate whether health care outcomes are poorer for Indigenous patients experiencing ACS than that for non-Indigenous Australians. The difference in health outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous patients can be at least partially explained by the extent of guideline concordant-care and patient engagement.

The presentation will be divided into two parts; commencing with an overview of the research program including projected timelines and milestones. This will be followed by a discussion on preliminary findings from a retrospective national cohort comparing Indigenous and non-Indigenous ACS patients.

Yvette Roe

PhD Candidate

ABSTRACT (continued)

This research aims is to ascertain if Indigenous status is associated with whether or not an appropriate procedure was administered at the treating hospital and if Indigenous status is associated with poorer outcomes (i.e. extent of guideline concordant-care after discharge from hospital).

CANDIDATE

Heidi Silverston

RN, BN, MHA, GradCertEd (Adult&VocLearn)

SUPERVISORS

Professor Leonie Segal
Professor Helen McCutcheon

TITLE

Leadership Development for Nurses: is it contributing to workplace health?

ABSTRACT

International concerns about nursing workforce shortages have given rise to growing interest in nursing leadership, with governments and professional bodies alike drawing links between: the quality of nursing leadership; the retention and recruitment of nurses; and the safety and quality of healthcare services (Commonwealth of Australia 2002a, b; Page 2004).

Leadership development is frequently proposed as the solution to these complex problems (Commonwealth of Australia 2002a, b; Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations 2002; Ham 2003; The Australian Council for Safety and Quality in Health Care 2005) with the quality of nursing leadership regarded as influential in enhancing the health of the nursing workplace and thus quality and safety of care (Page 2004; Pearson et al. 2004; Shirey 2006; Akerjordet & Severinsson 2008; Hall, Doran & Pink 2008). Relatively little is known however, about the efficacy of leadership development as an intervention for solving these problems.

Studies looking at outcomes of leadership development programs commonly focus on the individual (WK Kellogg Foundation 2002; Leonard & Goff 2003) and are frequently based on self reported data (Cummings et al. 2008). As provision of leadership development programs for employees involves a significant investment of time and money, in an environment of increasing fiscal restraint, there is a clear imperative to substantiate such investment through evidence of beneficial organisational or system level impact.

This study is exploring what, if any, impact a clinical leadership development program implemented for South Australian nurses and midwives has on organisational level indicators of staff turnover, absenteeism and work-related injury. This presentation will focus on the complexities associated with defining and measuring these indicators.

CANDIDATE

Sandra Ullrich

PhD Candidate

SUPERVISORS

Professor Helen McCutcheon
Dr Barbara Parker

TITLE

Findings from a study to improve nursing practice in nutritional care: Connections and dissonances across two health care organisations

ABSTRACT

Despite being preventable and treatable inadequate nutrition remains a problem for many older people in residential aged care and tertiary health care facilities. Current evidence suggests that organisational systems hinder nurses' ability to provide optimal eating assistance on a day to day basis, effectively separating them from what is a fundamental aspect of nursing care (Savage & Scott 2005). This has important implications for nursing practice and resident/ patient outcomes as the adequacy and quality of eating assistance has been identified as an important determinant of food and fluid intake in older people (Simmons, Keeler, Zhuo, Hickey, Sato, Schnelle 2008).

Action research was used for this study and sustainable change was created to nursing practice in nutritional care across a residential aged care facility and a tertiary health care setting. This presentation reports on the changes to system processes and nursing practice that enhanced the delivery of nutritional care and the connections and dissonances across organisations that shaped nurses ability to create sustainable change within their work environment.

Savage J, Scott C. Patients' nutritional care in hospital: An ethnographic study of nurses' role and patients' experience. London: Royal College of Nursing Institute 2005.

Simmons SF, Keeler E, Zhuo X, Hickey KA, Sato H, Schnelle JF. Prevention of Unintentional Weight Loss in Nursing Home Residents: A Controlled Trial of Feeding Assistance. Journal of the American Geriatrics Society. 2008; 56:146673.

Abstracts

CANDIDATE

Josie Woll
PhD Candidate

SUPERVISORS

Professor Helen McCutcheon
Dr Cath Hall

TITLE

Elder abuse in residential aged care: perceptions, practice and policy

ABSTRACT

The aim of this research is to examine elder abuse specifically within residential aged care facilities (RACF's) and what residents, family and health care workers understand by the term elder abuse. The research will also examine how violations are approached and how reporting decisions are made.

In Australia and internationally, there is a paucity of research on elder abuse and it remains a hidden problem specifically within RACF's. To date government reports, anecdotal articles and media stories have provided the only estimate on the prevalence of elder abuse within RACF's. The Federal Government implemented a number of regulatory initiatives in 2007 to address a small number of highly publicised cases in 2006. Since the introduction of these initiatives there has been no research to determine if they are improving incidents of abuse in RACF's. Therefore, there is some urgency to determine perceptions, prevalence, causes and how these violations are dealt with.

This study will use action research methodology involving consultation and collaboration with care workers to empower them to look at current practices and review them in light of the research findings.

This presentation will focus on the review of the literature and the proposed study plan. The outcomes of this study have important implications for developing knowledge of prevalence and causes of elder abuse and an understanding of perceptions which could have important implications for policy, practice and future research.

CANDIDATE

Diane Wright
PhD Candidate

SUPERVISORS

Professor Jan Pincombe
Dr Robyn Nayda

TITLE

A focused ethnographic exploration of midwifery culture in "routine" antenatal care: social models & environmental realities

ABSTRACT

Contemporary midwifery practice advocates the development of "mother-midwife relationships" as a model for pregnancy care in which women may exercise greater personal control and involvement (Pairman McAura-Couper 2006, Kirkham 2000, Stapleton, Kirkham, Curtis & Thomas 2002, Wilkins 2000). Focus on midwifery cultures that support mother-midwife relationships have concentrated on continuous midwife led models (Fourer & Sandell 2008), leaving midwives working in hospital medical models underrepresented in current literature. Using focused ethnography this study seeks to equalize the imbalance for women who use public run maternity care services through an exploration of the cultural landscapes of 16 midwives who provide routine antenatal care in specific South Australian public hospitals.

Boyatzis (1998) provides a sensitive framework for thematic analysis and code formation of complex voluminous data without compromising the underpinning research paradigm. This data driven, inductive approach remains close to the raw data throughout the interpretive process and provides clear auditable pathways between the data and codes.

Fieldwork revealed two differences between midwives' approaches to antenatal clinics with distinct differences to the construction of the actual antenatal care event. The two approaches have been nominally labeled a "Social Approach" and a Structured Approach". Closer examination of interview data is beginning to illuminate different attitudes amongst these midwives that potentially accounts for the variations.

In this presentation, I will share some themes that are providing greater meaning to the cultural construction of midwifery practice in these particular hospital settings. Through improving our understanding of the cultural environment for these public hospital based midwives opportunities to improve aspects of mother-midwife relationships may be identified.



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