

A Message from the Dean



As I write this message, I am reflecting on the considerable achievements of individuals and groups from the School during the year.

All of our post graduate courses have been redesigned this year to comply with the Australian Quality Framework (AQF) which comes into effect January 1, 2015. The AQF sets minimum standards for all level of courses across Australia and we have taken this opportunity to revise offerings and to introduce several new master's degree programs to meet the changing educational needs of registered nurses. The post graduate team led by Judy Mannix and Associate Professor Kath Peters, have worked this year to ensure our courses are AQF compliant. The Graduate Diploma in Midwifery also achieved reaccreditation this year. I will take this opportunity to recognise the outstanding contribution our industry partners make to our curriculum reviews and development. Their sound clinical judgement and experience ensure that our courses do reflect contemporary practice and organisational needs.

The curricula are not the only course changes we will have in 2015. The School will be offering year 1 of the Bachelor of Nursing program from the UWS College campus at Lithgow. A Clinical Practice Unit replicating the CPUs on campus, was been installed for students and an experienced academic and clinician, Ms Chris Haley, is working with the group of 15 students. Students will complete 1st year of the Bachelor of Nursing at Lithgow and come to one of our other campuses to complete 2nd and 3rd year.

Research activities in the School are going from strength to strength as you will see from the research projects profiled in this newsletter. Dr. Ajesh George received the UWS Vice Chancellor's Excellence Award for Early Career Researchers, which adds to the already impressive list of awards and citations Ajesh has received for his research. The VC's award is well deserved recognition for Ajesh's developing research program.

To all those staff who graduated with their Doctor of Philosophy and Master of Nursing degrees during 2014, congratulations for passing this milestone in your academic career.

We have also been busy on the international scene with graduations in Hong Kong and ongoing discussions to expand offshore courses. Professor Roger Watson from the University of Hull, UK, visited the School during July and presented the annual Making the Difference in Health Care address to 80 health service leaders and UWS staff.

As would be expected in a large and complex School, we have had staff changes during the year. Professor Maree Johnson has moved to the Australian Catholic University and we wish her well in her new role. Associate Professor Bronwyn Everett took the role of Acting Director of the Centre for Applied Nursing Research (CANR) at the Liverpool Hospital following Maree's resignation and I expect the that new Director will commence during 2015. Thank you Bronwyn for stepping into this demanding role and ensuring the continued success of CANR.

This year has seen significant changes in the professional staff teams. The School Manager and three Team Leaders resigned and new appointments have been made to those management roles. Several academics have also retired and we wish Dr. Sharon Hillege and Barbara Beale well in their retirement.

I thank everyone in the School for their efforts this year. It is a pleasure working with you all and I look forward to 2015.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. D. Griffiths". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R" and "D".

Dean, School of Nursing and Midwifery
University of Western Sydney

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Research

Research in progress

Several of our research teams have received funding from the UWS Research Partnerships Program for critically important studies. Professor Virginia Schmied, Dr Charlene Thornton and Professor Lesley Wilkes will be working with their partners to complete the research.

- POstnatal Process and PathwaYs (POPPY): A study investigating postnatal pathways and care for women and their babies in NSW, conducted by Professor Virginia Schmied
- The Effect of Prenatal and Antenatal Factors on Outcomes for Mothers and Babies: A NSW population-based data linkage study, conducted by Dr Charlene Thornton (funded by UWS and NSW Kids and Families (partnership grant)
- Feeding at End-of-life for People with Advanced Dementia: An exploratory study of decision-making, conducted by Professor Lesley Wilkes

Jointly funded by the DVC Education and the Dean, School of Nursing and Midwifery, The ACTION Study: ACademic aspiraTIONs of TeachIng-fOcussed Nurse academics, was conducted by Dr Jan Sayers, Associate Professor Bronwyn Everett and Dr Deborah Hatcher

For more information on these studies, please contact individual researchers via the UWS School of Nursing and Midwifery [website](#).

International Confederation of Midwives Congress

Staff and students from the School of Nursing and Midwifery represented UWS at the 30th triennial congress of the International Confederation of Midwives, held in beautiful Prague in June 2014.

Seven academic staff and six higher degree students presented a total of 9 papers at the event, which was themed 'Midwives: Improving Women's Health Globally'.

Staff presented on topics related to obstetric intervention during birth and maternal and neonatal outcomes for low risk women born in Australia compared to born overseas; the use of routinely collected data for determining outcomes of the place of birth; psychosocial assessment and depression screening in pregnancy and after birth, and preceptorship of the midwifery student and the significance of relationship.

HDR student papers focused on a range of topics, including: reporting findings from a video-ethnography of interactions between midwives and women in pregnancy; the role of unregulated birth workers in Australia; women's experiences following severe perineal trauma; and specialist perinatal and infant mental health services.

Professor Hannah Dahlen facilitated two workshops with colleagues from the UK and Canada, 'Whose Agenda and Whose Destiny? The Ethics of Birth Place Decisions' and 'Assessing Progress in the Active Phase of the First Stage of Labour' which was co-facilitated with Dr Margie Duff.

The conference was fantastic and well-organised, with friendly delegates and a broad programme to suite different interests. All papers were of a high standard and there was certainly a strong feeling of pride in being a member of the midwifery profession.

“The ICM Conference in Prague 2014 was a significant milestone for me. It was my first time presenting my own research and I was thrilled that this was at the leading midwifery international conference. Although nerve-racking, presenting at this prestigious event instilled in me greater confidence to present again. Having the opportunity to network, meet other midwives involved in research, share ideas and practice stories has both inspired and invigorated my enthusiasm to continue my studies and career as a research midwife academic. I am very grateful to the School for the opportunity.”

- Elizabeth Rigg, Doctoral student



From Left: Donna Hartz, Elaine Burns, Hannah Dahlen, Virginia Schmied, Fiona Arundell, Holly Priddis, Alison Teale (HDR student) and Katie Sullivan (HDR student).

Chinese-Australian Women and Breast Cancer

Dr Cannas Kwok and a team of UWS researchers are raising awareness about breast cancer and cervical cancer prevention with conservative Chinese-Australian women in Sydney.

Culture has a significant impact on the way women comply with cancer screening practices. In particular, Chinese cultural norms and language barriers can make some women reluctant to talk about breasts and reproductive health issues. Having identified this need, Dr Cannas Kwok and her team set out to address the issue.

Culturally sensitive education

“Since most cancer education publications and leaflets are based on mainstream culture, migrant women may not recognise the need for early detection practices,” says Dr Kwok. “We decided to initiate a program that provided information about breast cancer and cervical cancer in Cantonese and Mandarin.”

Following the information sessions, interested participants could make mammography appointments and organise screening activities with an interpreter. A Chinese-speaking registered nurse was also available to perform Pap smears on-site.

The team also produced a series of culturally sensitive resources that were widely used in Chinese community organisations, churches, GP clinics, restaurants and grocery shops. To the team’s knowledge, these resources were the first of their kind produced in Australia.

The program was well received by the community. “I am delighted to see that the program was so successful,” says Dr Kwok. “It has integrated both Western and Chinese concepts of health into an effective and inclusive screening program.”

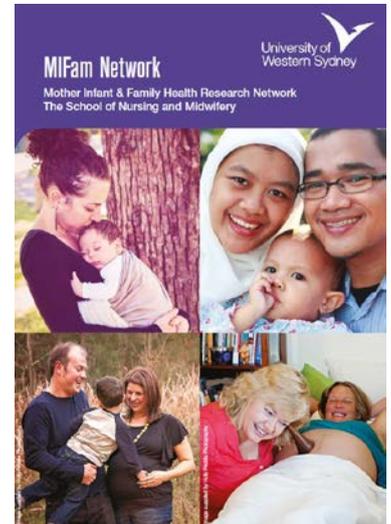
This project was funded by Cancer Institute NSW.

MIFam: The Mother Infant & Family Health Research Network

A vibrant, collaborative research program aiming to improve health outcomes for women in pregnancy and birth, infants and children, parents and families through the early years

Led by Professors Virginia Schmied and Hannah Dahlen, MIFam has a strong presence in Sydney's west, working with women, families, health and community groups as well as with national and international researchers. The program which is funded by the Australian Research Council in partnership with Karitane and Tresillian Family Care Centres embraces the diversity of cultures and groups and their experiences, and is increasingly turning its attention to the needs of women and families who were not born in Australia, who are migrants or refugees, or who are from culturally or linguistically diverse backgrounds.

In 2013 MIFam published 30 papers and presented 25 conference papers, including several keynote addresses. MIFam also received separate funding from the ARC to conduct the study 'Characteristics, trends, co-admissions and service needs of women admitted to residential parenting services in the year following giving birth in NSW' in partnership with Karitane and Tresillian Family Care Centres.



CHoRUS – Child Health: Researching Universal Services

A national study investigating the feasibility of implementing a national Framework for Family and Child Health Services

Over 2,500 health professionals and consumers participated in this three-phased study, which was funded by the Australian Research Council together with five partnering State and Territory Governments (Victoria, WA, Northern Territory, Queensland and NSW).

Important findings

We found that the current service system is fragmented and many parents with young children do not have access to routinely scheduled developmental surveillance or to parenting support. Significant effort is needed to redesign aspects of the universal CFH service system in order to meet the needs of pregnant women, children and families, including:

1. Initiatives to aggregate data nationally to plan service and compare outcomes across jurisdictions;
2. Designing service structures that facilitate communication and collaboration between professionals and services;
3. Developing service pathways that facilitate a 'seamless' journey for women, children and families;
4. Increasing the number of appropriately trained professionals available to ensure evidence-based services are delivered to all children and families, and;
5. Ensuring professionals are well supported to work in partnership with women and families and to work in collaborative models of care.

The study found that consumers value CFH services, although families often reported feeling 'lost' and 'confused' about where and who to see in relation to their child's health and development and parenting support. The importance of sensitive and appropriate interactions with health professionals and building trusting relationships was emphasised by consumers and professional alike.

Key service innovations included:

- Streamlining maternity discharge processes at State level to ensure effective information exchange with CFH nursing services and general practice;
- Establishing liaison roles to connect services and professionals and to support families across service transitions;
- Offering joint home visits and group co-facilitation with midwives and CFH nurses; and
- Co-location of services in child and family centres. For example, CFH nurses described the benefits of working in new ways with early childhood education specialists and family support.



Awards and Prizes

Research Excellence

Dr Ajesh George received a Vice Chancellor's Excellence Award as an Early Career Researcher at the 2014 UWS Research Excellence Awards. This is further recognition of Dr George's research achievements. Since obtaining his PhD, he has led ground breaking research on promoting perinatal oral health through collaboration between antenatal care providers and dentists.



Professor Rhonda Griffiths AM and Dr Ajesh George

Best Research Prize

Laynie Hall Pullin was awarded Best Research Prize for her conference paper, *Spinal Cord Injury and Long-term Carers: The Culture of Care*, at the Australasian Rehabilitation Nurses Association (ARNA) national conference, held in Darwin in October 2014.

FELLOW 43 Medal

Laynie Hall Pullin was awarded the FELLOW 43 medal by Professor John Yeo OA, patron of the Spinal Injury Nurses Association (SINA) and Mr John Hebblewhite, AM FCN, honorary secretary and founder of FELLOW 43. The FELLOW 43 group - originating from Ward 43 (Spinal Ward, Lidcombe Hospital) - continues projects designed to enhance the lives of people with disability. Laynie was awarded the medal for her contribution to research on "those who are involved in long-term care in the homes of people with spinal cord injury".



From left: Professor John Yeo, Laynie Hall Pullin, John Hebblewhite

Highly Commended



Associate Professor Amanda Johnson and Professor Esther Chang were nominated for the 2014 Australian Educational Publishing Awards, with their published text, *Caring for Older People in Australia: Principles for Nursing Practice*, being highly commended in the Tertiary (Wholly Australian) Student Resource category.

Best Instructional Designer in Asia Pacific

Congratulations to **Con Athanasiou**, Blended Learning Designer for the School, who has been awarded Best Instructional Designer in Asia Pacific at the LearnX Impact Awards 2014 <http://www.learnx.net>.

CANR

Centre for Applied Nursing Research

Over the last 20 years, CANR has grown from modest beginnings as the Graduate Nursing Research Practice Unit to a leading centre of cutting-edge translational research.

Located within the Ingham Institute, a state-of-the-art research precinct of Liverpool Hospital, CANR is a joint venture between the School of Nursing and Midwifery and the South Western Sydney Local Health District (SWSLHD). Within a context of the largest, fastest growing and most ethnically diverse District in NSW, the Centre conducts research relating to patient safety, women's and children's health, and cross-cultural health and health literacy; thus addressing national, state and local priorities.

CANR's focus remains on supporting the research interest and capability of nurses and midwives, and strengthening collaborations between health staff and academics. It also continues to play a major role in developing evidence-based guidelines and policy, and ensuring the translation of research into practice by answering important questions posed by clinicians and academics.

Midwifery Initiated Oral Health Care (MIOH)

In collaboration with midwifery and dental professional organisations, CANR led the development of the Midwifery Initiated Oral Health (MIOH) program for pregnant women.

This program includes an online training package for midwives and evidenced-based promotional material that incorporates oral health education into normal midwifery practice. It also provides appropriate pathways whereby pregnant women can be referred for prompt dental treatment.

Introduced in NSW and Victoria, the MIOH program has increased oral health knowledge and the confidence of midwives to promote oral health. A multicentre trial has shown it to significantly improve the uptake of dental services, oral hygiene, oral health, quality of life and knowledge of pregnant women.

What do I do after my baby is born?

Keep your own teeth and gums clean and healthy as this can help your baby's health. It is important to brush your teeth and gums regularly.

- Breast feed your baby.
- Put your baby to bed without a bottle.
- Only put breast milk or infant formula in feeding bottles and take the bottle away once your child has finished feeding.
- Use a different spoon to taste your baby's food. Clean your baby's dummy with water. Do not use your mouth to clean it.
- Introduce a cup from 6 months of age.
- Start cleaning your baby's teeth as soon as they appear or around 6 months, using a child-sized, soft toothbrush, but not with toothpaste.
- Have your child's teeth checked at all child health visits.
- Take your child to a dental professional by the end of their 2nd year.

How do I find out more information?

Contact telephone numbers

| Region | Contact Number |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| Central Coast | 1300 789 064 |
| Northern Sydney | 1300 451 822 |
| Hunter New England | 1300 451 822 |
| Mid North Coast | 1300 451 822 |
| Northern NSW | 1300 452 826 |
| Far West | 1300 452 826 |
| Western NSW | 02 9845 6766 |
| Newnes Blue Mountains | 1300 739 840 |
| South Western Sydney | 02 9293 3333 |
| Sydney | 1300 368 838 |
| Illawarra Shoalhaven | 1300 154 226 |
| South Eastern Sydney | 1300 154 226 |
| Murrumbidgee | 1800 450 046 |
| Southern NSW | 1800 450 046 |

Keep smiling while you are pregnant

Taking care of your gums and teeth during pregnancy is important for you and your baby

Additional outcomes include national certification of the MIOH Education Program by the Australian College of Midwives as a Continuing Professional Development activity, endorsement by NSW Health for state-wide distribution of pregnancy oral health brochures, and incorporation into the Victoria's Maternity Services and Oral Health Promotion Strategic Plan (2013-2017). An oral health component based on the MIOH program has also been included in the new Bachelor of Midwifery curriculum at UWS.

Transforming Clinical Handovers

Poor clinical handover – where patient information is transferred between clinicians, is one of the most important contributing factors in serious adverse events. Working with the Centre for Educational Workforce and Development as well as clinicians, managers and staff from information management and technology, CANR researchers helped develop a structured content handover approach based on a minimum data set, which placed patients at the centre of communication.



From left Amanda Larkin, CEO SWSLHD, Professor Maree Johnson and Paula Sanchez accepting the SWSLHD Award

Electronic handover embedded the structure while educational tools demonstrated bedside handover. Results from the study demonstrated increased transfer of critical information, increased patient engagement during nursing handover, and improved nurse satisfaction with handover. No increase in time was required to deliver handover. The system has been successfully implemented across 10 hospitals and is currently being used by other health professionals. This project won the 2013 SWSLHD Quality Award (Improvement in Patient Safety).

Medication Safety: The Recall and Check Study

Medication-related incidents are the second most common adverse event type reported in Australian hospitals, with medication omissions constituting the largest category. The 'Recall and Check' study was undertaken at Bankstown and Fairfield Hospitals to determine the effectiveness of using nurse recall cards for patients absent from their bed unit, and cross-checking medication charts during nursing handover, to reduce omission of medication.

'Recall and Check' cards were developed in the most prevalent language groups to advise patients to contact their nurse if their medication had been missed. Data collection is complete and preliminary analysis underway.



The 'Recall and Check Card'

Paediatric Fever Management Education Program

The first of its kind, this education program specifically caters for parents/carers with limited health literacy. Fever in children is one of the primary reasons that parents/carers become concerned for their child's health and seek medical assistance. It has been shown that fever management education can improve the knowledge and practices of parents/carers.

Findings from a randomised controlled trial at Campbelltown Hospital were used to develop a modified fever education program, consisting of a fever management brochure and DVD. The program has recently been endorsed by the Australian Resource Centre for Healthcare and is available on the [SWSLHD website](#).



Managing your Child's Fever

CNRPD

Centre for Nursing Research and Practice Development

Since 1996, CNRPD has promoted nursing research and practice development in the Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District through collaboration and education.

A joint venture between UWS and Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District (NBMLHD), CNRPD encourages collaborative research through the secondment of Clinical Nurse Consultants and conducts education sessions with nurses in the district. The major focus of research is the patient/client, nursing roles and workforce issues in collaboration with practice development.

Study: Breast Care Nurses

The breast care nurse (BCN) is usually an expert clinical nurse who is seen to play a significant role in the care of people with breast cancer and their families. Using a survey, this landmark study aims to describe the evolving role of the BCN and determine the differences of the role in urban, rural and remote areas.

Until now, no substantive work has been documented to validate previous studies of the original BCN role description, which has grown since its conception in the 1990s in Australia. The number of BCNs has also grown, with approximately 100 employed through the McGrath Foundation and other organisations such as the Breast Care Institute in NSW.

Slippery Sally: reducing costs and injury

A 'Slippery Sally' is a lightweight, thin polyester sheet coated with silicon that is used to assist with manual patient transfers. Discussion groups during the Essentials of Care (EOC) Program identified that Slippery Sally (SS) slide sheets have had a positive impact on manual handling within the Medical Imaging Department (MID). Patient transfers are safer and fewer staff injuries have been reported.

The challenge

On arrival to the MID, patients requiring transfer are given a new SS sheet and this is intended to remain with them on their return to the clinical area. However, it was identified that when the same patients were returned to MID, the SS was missing. This unnecessarily increased costs for the unit.

An initiative was implemented to use a clear plastic drawstring bag to store the SS at the end of patients' beds, to ensure the SS remained with them. However, again, these bags and slide sheets did not return with the patients.

It was obvious that this initiative would not succeed without the involvement of other clinical areas within Nepean Hospital. As a result, eight EOC teams were invited to join the MID SS project to gain interest and demonstrate positive outcomes. These outcomes could later be used to involve other teams across Nepean Hospital.

Collaborative success

Anecdotal evidence suggests that more SS slide sheets are being returned to the MID. Ward audits demonstrate an increase in the use of SS slide sheets and storage in the drawstring bag on patient beds.

The ongoing research will require investigating consumer input, the experiences of staff members, cost/benefit analysis of the equipment to the organisation, how this project fits within the National Safety Standards, staff awareness of which methods are the most effectual, and evaluation.

This project aims to deliver many benefits for all units involved: reduced costs, reduced workplace injuries, reduced pressure injuries, and a safer lifting technique for patients. It also aims to promote the effectiveness of the Department of Health's EOC program. It is envisioned the outcomes from the study will provide evidence to support the introduction of this project into all clinical areas across NBMLHD.

Pathways to Clinical Nurse Specialisation

This study began in 2012, the research team includes Professor Lesley Wilkes, Dr Laretta Luck, Ms Jenny O'Baugh and Dr Joanne Cummings and investigates how Clinical Nurse Specialists, Clinical Nurse Consultants and Nurse Practitioners in the Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District distinguish their roles. Interviews will be used to investigate their views on their career pathways and what nurses need to do to progress in their career pathways.

Outcomes will include the development of a framework for clinical nurses' career pathways. This project will be a foundation for the development of a questionnaire to be validated by nurses in NSW in a subsequent study and an article is scheduled for publication in BioMed Central in 2015.

Enjoyment of Nursing

In some studies, enjoyment of nursing has been found to be the prime reason why nurses stay in the workforce. However, there is little research that explores the concept fully. During 2014 we interviewed nurses to explore their individual experiences of nursing.

The major themes to emerge from the data that indicated enjoyment were: doing for others, supporting others and educating others. Themes that identified a lack of enjoyment related to the aggression of others, i.e. patients/clients, families or other staff in the workplace, and system issues. System issues referred mainly to the need for support from other nurses and management.

Conclusion

Nurses still enjoy caring for patients and teaching others to care. This is why they stay in nursing, even when the system and people are not always supportive or encouraging. Managers and educators can use these results to better understand the importance of giving support to nursing staff in order to optimise their enjoyment of caring for their patients/clients. Publication scheduled for 2015 in the Journal of Clinical Nursing.

The role of the Clinical Nurse Consultant

Using a structured questionnaire, the domains and functions of Clinical Nurse Consultants (CNCs) in the Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District (NBMLHD) are being explored. The questionnaire has been sent to all CNCs and the data is currently being analysed.

Preliminary data analysis suggests that CNCs consider all domains to be important, although the most frequently utilised and important in their perception are clinical service and management, clinical leadership, and education. Research is still seen as secondary in their role.

Resource booklet: Patient-controlled fluid allowance

This ongoing pilot study aims to review a simple educational tool used by nurses at the bedside to promote self-monitoring behaviour in patients with Congestive Cardiac Failure (CCF). 40 patients with CCF are participating in the study of the effectiveness of a newly developed patient resource booklet on changing patient behaviour to self-monitor their fluid intake at home.

Writing Retreat

Once again CNRPD under the leadership of Professor Lesley Wilkes ran two extremely popular Writing Retreats in February and July. Forty six enthusiastic staff and students attended the retreats held at Edmund Rice Retreat & Conference Centre in Mulgoa.

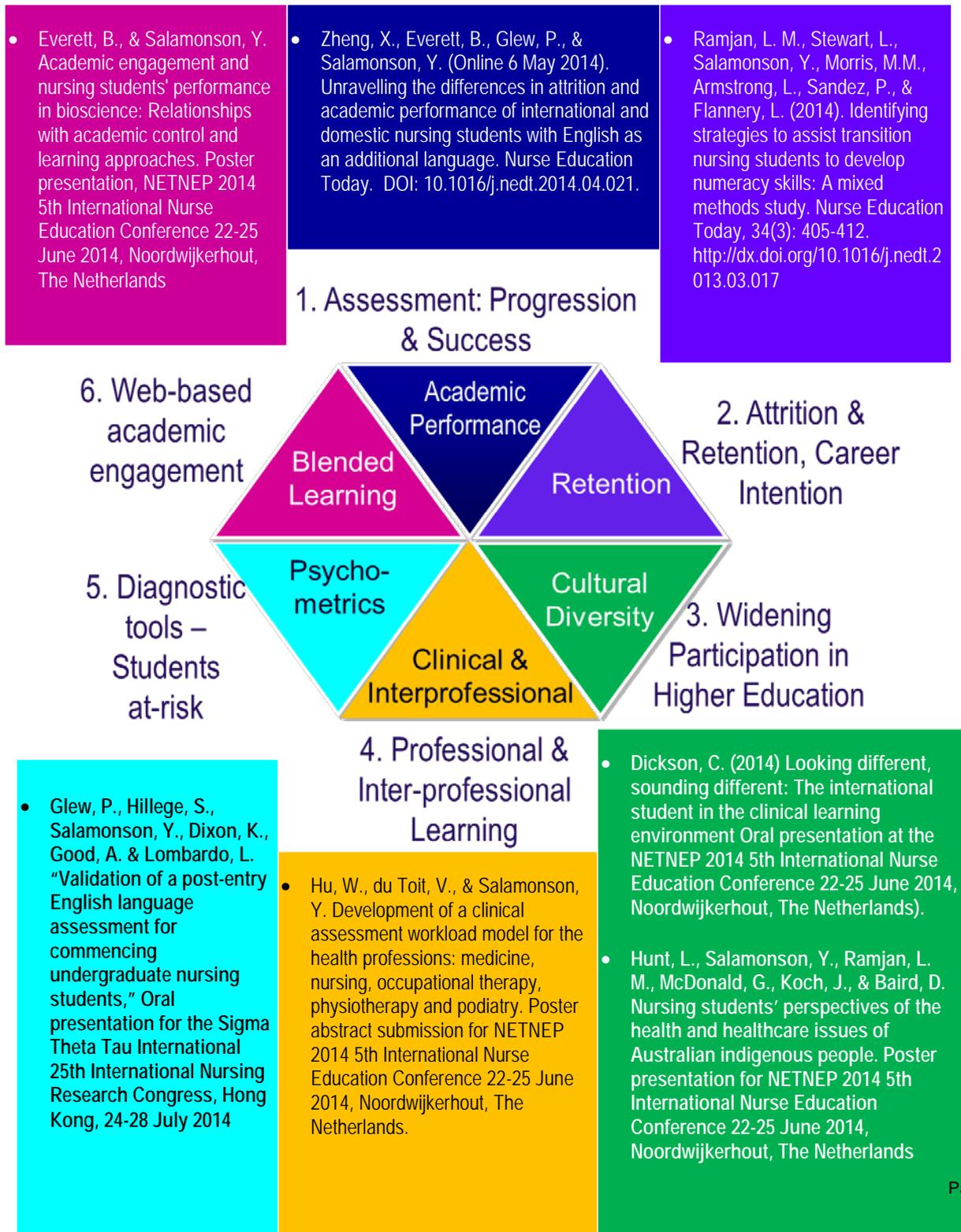


Ali Teate

Teaching and Learning

Educational Research

The School of Nursing and Midwifery continues to build on our strength in educational research. In 2014 academic staff disseminated findings from a wide range of educational research projects, depicted by the six research foci below.



Inherent Requirements: Progress since IRoNE

By pioneering a community of learning, UWS is making education more inclusive, accessible and supportive for all students – regardless of ability.

Further work has been undertaken since the Inherent Requirements of Nurse Education (IRoNE) project was completed in 2011. This project researched, identified and articulated the requirements of the Bachelor of Nursing program to ensure that reasonable adjustments could be made for students with disabilities.

Translation of IRs to other disciplines commenced, with the establishment of the UWS IR Strategy supported by the appointment of a Program Officer and a disability staff member. To date, 65 published IRs exist, with a further 68 in development at UWS.



IRoNE Team: Toni Azzopardi, Amanda Johnson, Cathy Dickson, Mary Goldsmith, Kirilee Phillips, Cecily Hengstberger-Sims, [UWS School of Nursing and Midwifery], Trevor Allen [Disability Services]

Published IRs

- [Accounting courses](#)
- [Education courses](#)
- [Engineering courses](#)
- [Interpreting and Translation courses](#)
- [Language courses](#)
- [Law courses](#)
- [Medicine courses](#)
- [Midwifery \(undergraduate\) course](#)
- [Nursing \(undergraduate\) courses](#)
- [Nursing and Midwifery \(postgraduate\) courses](#)
- [Occupational Therapy courses](#)
- [Bachelor of Paramedicine](#)
- [Physiotherapy courses](#)
- [Master of Psychology \(Clinical Psychology\)](#)
- [Bachelor of Social Work](#)
- [Teaching \(postgraduate\) courses](#)
- [TESOL courses](#)

Thought leadership

UWS is at the forefront of this emerging field of practice across Australia. We are engaged in collaborations in the higher education sector, both academic (with universities and TAFEs) and with disability organisations, at an international and national level. We also provide expert consultancy to various groups and individuals.

Our conference presentations, speaking engagements and information on the web page (http://www.uws.edu.au/ir/inherent_requirements) have generated much interest from other institutions seeking to adopt IRs; not only in undergraduate nursing, but also in other disciplines.

| Institutions Adopting Inherent Requirements | |
|---|--|
| University | Courses/Programs |
| Edith Cowan University | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nursing and Midwifery Undergraduate |
| University of New England | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nursing Undergraduate• Nursing Post Graduate• Social Work |
| University of New South Wales | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teaching Secondary |
| University of Technology, Sydney | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teaching Secondary• Nursing Undergraduate• Midwifery Undergraduate• Key Terms |
| Murdoch University | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nursing Undergraduate |
| Newcastle University | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Medicine• Nursing Undergraduate• Occupational Therapy• Physiotherapy |

Undergraduate Programs

Bachelor of Nursing Student and their Academic Mentors participate in Trans-Tasman HealthFusion Challenge

UWS again participated in the annual Trans-Tasman HealthFusion Challenge at QUT hoping to follow up their success in 2013. Although our UWS student team put in a fantastic effort, unfortunately we did not make the finals this year. Seven universities participated in a day of challenges, including a case-study presentation (for which teams had four weeks to prepare), unseen extension questions and problem-solving activities. Participants were judged on how well they worked as a multidisciplinary team, with one student per discipline.



The 2013 UWS Trans-Tasman Health Fusion Team

Thank you to our academic mentors from Nursing, Dr Rebecca O'Reilly and Dr Christine Taylor, Kym Hennessy from Podiatric Medicine, and Project Officer Michelle Kent, who managed and organised the team.

Bachelor of Midwifery

The Bachelor of Midwifery (BMid) course is now well into its second year and fulltime students are progressing well.



In their first year, our first cohort of students followed five women each throughout pregnancy, birth and the postnatal period. Many of these women provided written feedback about their positive experiences with the students and the advantages of midwifery students undertaking continuity of care.

Subject material for the final year of the Bachelor of Midwifery is being developed and additional equipment purchased. Students are looking forward to the second half of the course, when they will learn about complex care, legal and ethical issues, dealing

with emergency situations, and working collaboratively in a multidisciplinary team.

Clinical learning

The new curriculum is providing students with excellent opportunities for clinical learning, both in on-campus simulation labs and in practice-based placements. Our partnership with midwifery educators at the Local Health Districts is very strong, providing the students with a high level of support during these placements. Communication between the hospital and the university is frequent and ongoing, including quarterly meetings with hospital educators at the UWS Parramatta campus.

All midwifery students are currently allocated to one hospital for the duration of their three-year course, so a 'Meet the Educator' morning tea was arranged for the first-year midwifery students prior to their clinical

placements. This was an opportunity for hospital educators to meet their students in a relaxed and friendly environment, and familiarise them with hospital expectations and processes.

Matters and Mutterings

Several students have presented their experiences as midwifery students at local conferences, while others have documented their experiences for the state-based midwifery newsletter 'Midwifery Matters'.

Many BMid students have become student members of the Australian College of Midwives (ACM) and have attended the ACM NSW 'Midwifery Mutterings' group which meets at Ultimo every couple of months.

Rural Health Placements

After an encouraging response from an 'expression of interest' email to students, we have increased our rural health placements and are now using them for second and third year students, as well as for transition placements. Dr Christine Taylor has met many supportive staff during visits to the Broken Hill and Bourke facilities. Students are eligible for a rural health scholarship of up to \$1000 to support their rural placement and are provided with free accommodation, computer and wi-fi access during their stay.



Student Lori Gribben on Mine tour



Bourke Hospital

Postgraduate Programs

Over 700 students are currently enrolled in postgraduate courses offered by the School; studying on-campus, by distance education and off-shore through Hong Kong Baptist University.

Congratulations to our graduates

Congratulations to the six students who completed the Master of Mental Health Nursing (Nurse Practitioner) course. Graduates from this course are advanced practice mental health nurses who currently live and work in diverse communities across Australia, from the Northern Territory to the NSW South Coast. Upon successful completion, graduates are able to seek authorisation as Nurse Practitioners with AHPRA and it was pleasing to learn that within months of completing the course, at least one of our graduates was authorised as a Nurse Practitioner.



Graduates from the Master of Mental Health Nursing (Nurse Practitioner) course (left to right): Leigh Peterson (SA), Adele Northwood (NT), Chris Leary (QLD), David Hughes (NSW) and Mark Willbourn (Academic Course Advisor)

The School has enjoyed a nursing education partnership with Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBU) spanning over 20 years. Several staff including the Vice Chancellor attended the HKBU 2014 Award Ceremony for graduates from The Master of Nursing (Clinical Leadership) and Master of Primary Health.



From Left: Dr Lucie Ramjan, Assoc. Prof. Kath Peters, Vice Chancellor Prof. Barney Glover Prof. Rhonda Griffiths at the ceremony

Australian Quality Framework compliance

All postgraduate courses underwent an extensive review in 2014 to ensure that all offerings are in line with the Australian Quality Framework (AQF). This resulted in a number of changes to course offerings from 2015. While the major specialty areas of Nursing, Midwifery, Mental Health, Child & Family Health (Karitane) and Primary Health Care remain, changes have occurred in the length of courses and in the admission criteria for different levels within courses.

Changes in 2015

This year we introduced the Master of Mental Health Nursing. In addition to the current specialisations of Clinical Leadership, Clinical Teaching and Research Studies within the Master of Nursing, the School has also introduced two new specialisations in Aged Care and Primary Health Care. The revised Graduate Diploma in Midwifery was approved by the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council, and commenced in January 2015.

Events in 2014

Consul General from the Philippines visit

The Consul General from the Philippines, Anne Jalando-on Louis, joined the Vice Chancellor for lunch and addressed more than 100 Filipino nursing students. She also inspected the labs and teaching spaces. Interestingly, she was formerly a nurse teacher in the Philippines – and one of our current Bachelor of Nursing Graduate Entry students also used to be a student of hers!



School Engagement

UWS Promotional Video

The video encapsulates the UWS experience and is serving as a prime recruitment asset in interactions with over 50,000 prospective students throughout 2015. The Clinical Practice Unit at Parramatta campus featured in the video and six of our nursing students participated.



Heartbeat 'Get the Rhythm' and Rural Indigenous Visit

This event was held for Indigenous students at the Campbelltown campus. Over 100 students rotated through the Clinical Practice Unit, where they washed their hands, took their temperature and did pulse oximetry.

Visiting Scholars: Making the Difference in Healthcare

The Making the Difference in Healthcare event was held at the Female Orphan School at Parramatta in August 2014. Adjunct Professor in the school, Professor Roger Watson spoke to guests about the Francis Report, an inquiry into patient safety in the UK. The event was well supported by UWS staff and senior clinicians and administrators from our industry partners. It also showcased the strength of our current school research efforts and guests valued the networking opportunities. Thank you to Professor Scott Holmes who attended and opened the event.



Professor Rhonda Griffiths AM and Professor Roger Watson

UWS Day

UWS Day was held in June at Parramatta and Kingswood campuses, and in November at Campbelltown and Bankstown campuses. Over the four days, more than 150 students attended and Dr Stephen McNally delivered presentations. Many students were interested in Nursing and Midwifery. During the Campbelltown and Parramatta sessions, 30 students visited the Clinical Practice Units and participated in hand washing, with many students finding their skills were lacking!

Science Unleashed Festival

Held at the Hawkesbury campus in November, the Science Unleashed Festival involved nursing tours and manikin demonstrations by Deputy Director of Clinical Education, Sharon Jacobs. Students listened to their hearts and lungs using stethoscopes, measured their temperatures and pulse, and washed their hands.

Let's Talk Uni

Held at the Parramatta campus in November, Let's Talk Uni featured information and workshops to help prospective students understand the differences between web-based and university learning environments. Eighty students participated in the nursing workshops over one day. The event targeted TAFE/VET students who applied to a UWS degree, or who were contemplating coming to university in the first year or two after their VET studies.

Field of Dreams

The Field of Dreams program is a joint initiative between UWS and the National Rugby League (NRL). This program is aimed towards Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students from selected rural communities. By providing students with opportunities to enhance their sense of self and improve their goal setting skills, this program assists in pre-tertiary achievement, raises awareness of higher education as a viable option and supports in linking with higher education providers.



The program is designed to:

- Provide an on-campus experience for students;
- Increase student leadership, personal and cultural development;
- Increase attendance at relevant information workshops; and
- Engage students in industry-based work experience relevant to their aspirations.

The program also includes a one-day NRL Experience, such as a game day, training session or fun day. A presentation dinner was held on Tuesday, 2 September, at the Hawkesbury campus to celebrate the inaugural camp, and acknowledge student achievement and corporate partners.

2014 Open Day

The 2014 Open Day was a great success, with over 600 potential future students and visitors attending presentations about Nursing and Midwifery courses at the Parramatta campus in August. Prospective students were also given the opportunity to visit the Clinical Practice Units.

Koori Education Carnival

179 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students from 27 local schools participated in the Koori Education Carnival, which was held at the Parramatta campus in July. During the opening session, students in Years 5 to 8 were addressed by inspiring speakers Uncle Greg Sims and Aboriginal UWS students Jessica Wellington and Nat Barnes.



Afterwards, they formed fifteen groups and were led by UWS students through five different activities, including one based on knowledge of Aboriginal culture. The day also featured an Aboriginal cultural talk and performance by Aboriginal dancers, and students received showbags of UWS-branded materials and a Koori Bridges booklet with info about UWS.

Feedback from students and school staff was extremely positive.

“The event was wonderful. My students came away thinking that attending university and doing something more with their lives is achievable. The day cleared any pre-conceived notions they had about university. They loved the event and the day, and were especially impressed with the campus and the activities on offer. The day really opened up a dialogue and a conversation about education and what to do after high school.” - Teacher, Parramatta West Public School

Students

Emerging Nurse Leader



Congratulations to Jenyfer Joy, who was accepted into the Australian College of Nursing's Emerging Nurse Leader (ENL) Program. The ENL Program identifies five pre-registration nursing students annually who have demonstrated a commitment to leadership in nursing through their involvement in student and community activities, student representation and/or other involvement in the advancement of the nursing profession. This is the first time one of our students has been successful in this program and we are pleased that Jenyfer is representing the School and UWS.

3MT Competition

The Three Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition requires Research Higher Degree students to explain their research projects to a non-specialist audience in just three minutes. The School held the 3MT in July and the quality of participants was excellent, particularly Toby Raeburn's winning presentation of his research '*A Case Study of Recovery Practices at a Clubhouse Psychiatric Rehabilitation Service*'.

Competition was strong. Runner-up Shyama Ratanyake did a fantastic job of sharing her project: '*Knowledge, Attitudes and Skills of Undergraduate Nursing Students in Oral Feeding with Older People: A Mixed Method Study*'. Well done also to Ali Teate, the People's Choice winner, for her presentation: '*Interactions between Midwives and Women during Antenatal Consultations in Two Different Models of Care: An Ethnographic Study*'.



Pictured from left: Toby Raeburn, Shyama Rantanyake and Ali Teate

Aspire Future Leaders

Now in its eighth year, the UWS Aspire Future Leaders program (now managed by the Academy at UWS) provides students in Advanced courses and students with an ATAR higher than 90 with opportunities to develop leadership skills and network with people from diverse industries. Several students in our School have joined the program, including Samuel Devlin, Marisa Ferreira, Aerandee Kannangara, Lauren Boothroyd, and Jenyfer Joy.

Professor Rhonda Griffiths attended the Aspire Leadership Retreat dinner and had the opportunity to speak with each of the students from the School. They are a very impressive group, and the Aspire Future Leaders program will provide them with more opportunities to achieve their potential, both personally and professionally.

