



School of Nursing and Midwifery

Summer Scholarship Research Program 2019

Project Lists

Project 68:	Medication adherence in Arab people with cardiovascular disease: A literature review	3
Project 69:	An exploratory comparative study of GradStart Programs offered to newly registered nurses in NSW	5
Project 70:	The oral health of children in out of home care: their needs and the role of foster carers.....	7
Project 71:	Safewards: Conflict and Containment in Acute Mental Health Wards	10
Project 72:	Understanding cardiovascular risk in Indian Women: a literature review.	12
Project 73:	Western Sydney Clinical Frailty Registry.....	14
Project 74:	Frailty among surgical patients and clinical variation	17
Project 75:	Developing and piloting oral health promotional resources for people with cardiovascular disease and stroke	19
Project 76:	The intersection of sexual diversity and healthcare: A scoping review of the literature.....	22
Project 77:	Where are the silences? A scoping review of child participatory research literature in the context of the Australian service system.....	25
Project 78:	Nursing students' experiences during clinical placement of a 24/7 rotating roster: The NEPER study.....	27
Project 79:	The use of drama in healthcare: A review of the literature	30
Project 80:	Surveying the met and unmet information needs of carers' of cancer patients in the outpatients waiting rooms: a quantitative pilot study.....	33

Project 81:	A quantitative analysis of awareness and response to intimate partner violence among faith-based leaders of migrant and refugee background.	36
Project 82:	Psychosocial wellbeing of young people with cancer.....	38
Project 83:	Integrating oral healthcare into the undergraduate nursing curriculum : An scoping review (The IONIC Project).....	40
Project 84:	“MY SUPPORT”: Postnatal care plans to improve maternal and newborn health.	42
Project 85:	Improving genitourinary and sexual health for women with breast cancer: current evidence and implications for Breast Care Nurses.....	45
Project 86:	Sterile water injections for relief of back pain in labour – a qualitative study	47
Project 87:	Preoperative dental preparation for adults undergoing valvular surgery: an integrative review of the literature.....	50

Project 68: Medication adherence in Arab people with cardiovascular disease: A literature review

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Project description

Medication adherence is defined as the process by which people take their prescribed medications, with good adherence considered taking these medications 80% or more of the time. Although considered the cornerstone in managing cardiovascular disease (CVD) and reducing Major Adverse Cardiovascular Events (MACE), adherence to guideline-recommended therapies is poor, with a recent meta-analysis of almost two million participants finding only 60% had good adherence.

Although there is a large body of literature describing medication adherence in people with CVD, including a meta-analysis of non-adherence to cardiovascular medications in older Australians, almost no research has been undertaken on medication adherence in people with CVD from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) backgrounds.

Australia's increasing cultural and linguistic diversity, coupled with a population that is living longer, is resulting in higher rates of chronic and age-related conditions in CALD groups. Of these chronic conditions, CVD accounts for the largest burden of disease and comprises one third (34%) of all prescription medicines.

Despite Arabic-speaking people comprising the third largest language group in Australia (the second largest language group in Western Sydney), no literature reviews have been undertaken to explore medication adherence in Arab patients with CVD living in developed countries such as Australia. Importantly, Western Sydney is also a major point of settlement for humanitarian arrivals from the Middle East, who have a higher prevalence of some CVD risk factors (triglycerides, hypertension and smoking) compared with the general Australian population.

Project Aims

This project aims to summarise the existing literature surrounding medication adherence in Arab people with cardiovascular disease. Specifically this project aims to explore:

1. the knowledge, attitudes and practices related to medication adherence in Arab people with CVD
2. the role of cultural beliefs in relation to CVD medication adherence in Arab people with CVD
3. the barriers and facilitators to medication adherence among Arab people with CVD

Project Methods

This project will involve conducting a literature review and will engage the student in the following activities:

- Training in the use of EndNote software and management of an EndNote library
- Developing a search strategy in consultation with a librarian.
- Electronic literature searches of library databases including SCOPUS, MEDLINE, CINAHL, PubMed, EMBASE, Google Scholar and grey literature
- for both qualitative and quantitative data
- Critical appraisal of study quality
- Extraction of data and presentation of results in summary tables
- Drafting report findings
- Dissemination of findings in a peer-reviewed journal.

Opportunity for Skill Development

The student will be guided in the development of a range of research skills which include but are not limited to

- Literature searches, accessing databases, developing search strategies and appraisal of articles
- Use of Endnote software
- The methodology of literature review
- Extracting the data obtained from literature searches
- Drafting of a literature review journal article
- Engaging in the vibrant and supportive research culture of SoNM by receiving mentorship and support in building a potential future career in research

Students are required to have the following skills/meet the following pre-requisite(s) to apply

- Currently enrolled in an undergraduate degree at WSU in the areas of Nursing and Midwifery, Health Sciences or Medicine
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team, including ability to prioritise tasks and meet deadlines
- Computer literacy (Microsoft programs, internet, library, outlook)

Desirable:

- Completed a research unit
- Basic understanding of conducting and writing literature reviews
- Experience with report writing

Project 69: An exploratory comparative study of GradStart Programs offered to newly registered nurses in NSW

Supervisor(s): Dr Nicole Blay (Principal Supervisor)
Dr Steve Frost, Deputy Director CANR (Second Supervisor)

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Project description

Background

Many hospitals in Australia fund and operate GradStart programs (GSP) also known as Transition to Practice Programs (TPPs) for newly registered nurses. The concept behind such programs is to provide a supportive environment for the newly registered nurse (RN) to transition from university to the clinical environment (Healey and Reed 2015).

GSPs (however named) are not regulated in Australia and therefore vary considerably between host organisations. Hospital-based programs range from 6-12 months duration and consist of clinical practice in one or more clinical areas with two rotations being common (Postgraduate Medical Council of Victoria Inc). Further, Clinical Streams are offered by some organisations meaning that clinical experience is gained in related specialty areas for example, rotation between two surgical or two critical care areas.

For the most part, hospital-based GSP participants are employed on a full-time basis although some public organisations offer a limited number of part-time positions although several private sector organisations only offer GSP positions on a part-time employment basis (St Vincent's Private Hospital Sydney n.d., Mercy Health 2017). An interesting feature is that the duration of the GSP does not appear to be commensurate with Full-time Equivalent status, meaning that on completion of the GSP part-time participants will have undertaken fewer hours compared to their full-time colleagues.

Most hospital-based GSPs include orientation to the hospital or ward environment. An exploration of host organisation websites indicated substantial variation with orientation lasting between 0.5 to 5.0 days, sometimes followed by a period of supernumerary practice. Study days and/or on-line forums were often incorporated into the GSP to supplement clinical practice (Smyth, Pianta, and Perkins 2018, Healey and Reed 2015) but again, the number of days and format varied.

Alternatives to the 'traditional' hospital-based TPP are also emerging. One Australian university has introduced 'experiential and practice focussed' courses that aim to support new graduate nurses to becoming proficient practitioners and develop a professional portfolio. Available for study on-campus or online, expectations are that the graduate is also enrolled in a hospital-based GSP (University of Tasmania 2019a, b).

Published evidence on the efficacy of GSP to assist newly graduated nurses to transition from university to proficient practitioner is lacking. This is despite questions being posed over a decade ago as to whether the structure and design of the GSP (or equivalent) was aiding graduate nurses' transition to professional practice (Levett-Jones and FitzGerald 2005). This Summer Scholarship project will form a component of a larger project that aims to quantitatively measure the efficacy of the GSP in South Western Sydney Local Health District (SWSLHD). The Summer Scholarship recipient will assist this project by

identifying and then contacting New South Wales (NSW) hospitals offering a GSP. Hospitals who demonstrate interest in the project will be forwarded an electronic survey with the intent to compare program structures, participant numbers and outcomes.

Project Aims

To compare the design and structure of GradStart programs (however named) for newly registered nurses in public and private hospitals in NSW

Project Methods

Design

A quantitative exploratory design will be employed for this study.

Method

NSW hospitals offering GradStart or Transition to Practice Programs will be identified from nursing career and independent websites. The relevant Directors of Nursing will be contacted by telephone and invited to participate. Following verbal consent to participate, a pre-designed electronic survey will be forwarded via survey monkey to the nominated contact person. The survey will be available for a limited period only with email electronic reminders being sent after one week. If no response has been received after three weeks a paper-based survey will be forwarded.

Summer Scholar Responsibilities

The Summer Scholar will aid the research by assisting with identification of hospitals offering GSP or TPP programs. He/she will then be integral for contacting relevant sites, inviting participation and coordinating access to the electronic survey. In the interim period, the scholar may also be exposed to database development in conjunction with the lead researcher.

Opportunity for Skill Development

The Summer Scholarship recipient will be involved with all aspects of this project from inception to completion. It is anticipated that the Summer Scholarship recipient will learn the principles of research methods, develop research coordination and communication skills; and under guidance, will be involved with database design and possibly analysis.

During the data collection period, it is anticipated that the student will have the opportunity to develop or enhance their report writing skills by drafting the method sections of a draft report i.e. to document their role in the process.

Students are required to have the following skills/meet the following pre-requisite(s) to apply

It is essential that the successful recipient has effective verbal communication skills and the capacity to write in a grammatically correct manner.

A nursing student who has successfully completed 'Research for Nursing and Midwifery' (401208) would be ideal for this position.

Project 70: The oral health of children in out of home care: their needs and the role of foster carers.

Supervisor(s): Dr Stacy Blythe (Principal Supervisor)
A/Prof Ajesh George (Second Supervisor)

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Project description

Dental decay in early childhood is the most common chronic childhood disease, with 48% of Australian children experiencing this preventable condition. This is concerning, as dental decay can lead to pain, swelling and hospitalization among children and can also negatively impact their learning, speech and growth development. As a result, numerous interventions have been implemented in Australia to reduce the prevalence of dental decay in childhood.

However, these interventions may not be meeting the needs of the more vulnerable groups of children, including those living in out-of-home care. Children living in out-of-home care have been shown to have higher risk of poor physical health, increased rates of developmental difficulties, poor mental health, and lower likelihood of accessing preventative care. In terms of oral health, studies have indicated there may be a higher prevalence of dental decay among children in out-of-home care when compared with other children. Further, a high proportion of foster carers may not be recognising dental decay among the children they are caring for. With the impacts that oral health can have on physical health and development, and the higher likelihood that children in out-of-home care are not accessing regular dental care, it is vital to investigate and address the specific oral health care needs of this population group.

Although studies endeavour to determine the health disparities and needs of this vulnerable population group, few studies have a focus on their oral health needs. Further there are no existing literature reviews in this area. Thus, this project will involve conducting a scoping review to summarise any existing evidence surrounding the oral health status, needs and interventions for children in out-of-home care.

Project Aims

This project aims to summarise the existing literature surrounding the oral health needs of children in out-of-home care, and the role of foster carers in meeting these needs. Specifically this project aims to explore:

1. The oral health status of children in out-of-home care, and how this compares to other children who are not in out-of-home care
2. Any barriers children in out-of-home care experience in maintaining oral health and receiving adequate oral health care
3. The role foster carers have played in promoting or maintaining oral health care for children in out-of-home care, including any existing interventions or recommendations to improve the oral health of these children

Project Methods

A scoping review will be conducted to allow exploration of the range of evidence available regarding the oral health of children in out of home care, and identify any gaps in the literature. It is anticipated that the student will participate in the majority of this review as follows:

Stage 1

- Receive training in conducting literature searches, use of EndNote software and accessing online journal databases
- Literature search: Of databases including PubMed, CINAHL, Scopus, Embase, ClinicalKey, Cochrane, and Google Scholar using key terms and Medical Subject Headings (MeSH)

Stage 2

- Liaison with study investigators to evaluate all studies found according to inclusion/exclusion criteria
- Appraisal of the quality of studies found with guidance from supervisors
- Presentation of search findings in PRISMA diagram

Stage 3

- Extraction of study results
- Presentation of results in summary tables
- Writing of final report of findings
- Dissemination of findings in a peer-reviewed journal

Opportunity for Skill Development

The successful candidate will:

- Receive formal librarian training in conducting systematic literature searches, including use of key words, Boolean operators, MeSH terms and online databases
- Receive training in various research study designs, including the methodology of literature reviews
- Receive training in critical appraisal and assessment of study quality
- Receive training in use of new software as required, including EndNote
- Assist the development of a publication for a peer-reviewed journal
- Work in the Ingham Institute for Applied Medical Research – a multidisciplinary research facility that provides endless opportunities and networks such as their weekly seminar series
- Engage in the vibrant and supportive research culture of COHORT – receiving mentorship and support in building a potential future career in research
- Receive the opportunity for ongoing engagement with COHORT such as co-authorship on upcoming publications and conferences anticipated to result from this project
- Have opportunities to liaise with potential stakeholders for future expansion of this project

Students are required to have the following skills/meet the following pre-requisite(s) to apply

Essential skills:

- Currently enrolled in an undergraduate degree at WSU in the areas of Nursing, Health Sciences or Medicine
- Computer literacy (Microsoft Office, Internet, WSU Library)
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills ;
- Proven ability to work as a team member or independently as required, including the ability to prioritise tasks and meet strict guidelines;
- Demonstrated report writing experience.

Desirable skills:

- Completed a research unit
- Basic understanding of conducting and writing literature reviews

Project 71: Safewards: Conflict and Containment in Acute Mental Health Wards

Supervisor(s): Geoffrey Dickens (Principal Supervisor)
Spasija Volcevaska (Second Supervisor)

Supervisor(s) contact information: g.dickens@westernsydney.edu.au
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Project description

Seclusion, the ‘deliberate confinement of a person in a room or area that he or she cannot freely exit’ and restraint, ‘the restriction of an individual’s freedom of movement by physical or mechanical means’ are non-therapeutic interventions intended for use only as the very last resort to guard against serious and imminent threats to health and safety in mental health settings. NSW Health has a clear expectation to reduce and potentially eliminate seclusion and restraint within its mental health services. Robust research indicates that seclusion can be reduced by around a third, and reductions achieved in restraint and other conflict and containment events, through the application - at ward level - of Safewards a systematic, organised programme of 10 mental health nurse- initiated and delivered activities, practices and approaches. Commencing in April 2019, Safewards was implemented across all 11 adult and adolescent mental health admission wards in SWSLHD. As part of evaluation a Patient-Staff Conflict Checklist, modelled on the original Safewards evaluation tool, was introduced across the District. The tool is intended for completion by the nurse-in-charge on each shift (i.e. 3x per day). Across the 16-week evaluation period the participating wards will generate a maximum of 3,696 PCCS and completion rate is currently running around 70%. As a result, an opportunity exists to use these data to answer separate but related research questions about conflict and containment across SWSLHD.

Project Aims

The overall project aim is to conduct an examination of data from the Patient Staff Conflict Checklist (PCC) as implemented as part of the Safewards Project. The specific objectives will be:

- Conduct a brief literature review of previous studies that have used the PCC as their primary outcome measure [this is known to be limited in scope and will not require extensive and exhaustive searching]
- Collate descriptive statistics from the project database including calculation of rates of conflict per patient day and compare these with figures from objective 1. Above
- Conduct specific hypothesis-testing to examine the relationship of selected independent variables (site, shift, proportion of non-regular staff on duty, % ward occupancy, and managerial stability (NUM in post >6-mo/1-y)) to selected conflict outcomes (total conflict, total containment, use of prn, use of restraint and seclusion).
- Produce a final report detailing findings, identifying clinical implications, and making recommendations

Project Methods

This will be a descriptive and correlational study of existing, routinely collected longitudinal data from the Safewards project across SWSLHD. Data collection is currently in progress and there will be substantial numbers of PCCs when the student commences

the scholarship. The project will therefore essentially be desk-based, but the student will be encouraged to share their ongoing work with key informants in order to inform their findings. Study participants are essentially nurses working on wards in SWSLHD but the data pertains to conflict and containment between nurses and patients. Procedure: The student will be required to define and select an appropriate sample of PCC data, clean and manage the data including generation of any new codes or categories to aid analyses. Descriptive statistics (frequencies, proportions, means or non-parametric equivalents) will be used to describe the sample. The student will also have the opportunity to use graphics to visually represent interesting data. Hypothesis-testing will be conducted using multiple regression. The student will be given as much support and advice as required. A general level of comfort with quantitative data is probably a prerequisite but we do not expect any level of expertise.

Opportunity for Skill Development

- The student will have the opportunity to improve skills in management of a large dataset of existing research information
- Improve skills related to development of testable hypotheses in consultation with the supervisory team
- To hone skills related to searching, selection, and appraisal appropriate literature
- Gain experience and knowledge in appropriate data analyses in line with study hypotheses and objectives
- Gain improved skills in succinct and comprehensive reporting activity

Students are required to have the following skills/meet the following pre-requisite(s) to apply

Other than those skills listed as essential criteria in the guidelines, please indicate if a student will be required to have a specific skills set, be enrolled in a particular degree or be at a certain stage in that degree to undertake this research.

Good level of basic statistical understanding (e.g. descriptive statistics, central tendency and dispersion, correlation) required. Some experience of knowledge of Excel and/or SPSS desirable but not essential

Project 72: Understanding cardiovascular risk in Indian Women: a literature review.

Supervisor(s): Hind Elmir (Principal Supervisor)
Bronwyn Everett (Second Supervisor)

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Project description

South Asians have a higher atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease (ASCVD) risk compared with other populations and a higher proportional mortality rate from ischaemic heart disease compared with other Asian ethnic groups. In an analysis of more than 10 million national death records of Asian Indians (the largest subgroup of South Asians) in the United States between 2003 and 2010, proportional mortality rates were highest in Asian Indian men (1.43) and women (1.12). The overall increased risk of mortality is up to 40%, with evidence that this is even higher in younger age groups and in women. Furthermore, the onset of cardiovascular disease including first acute myocardial infarction (AMI) occurs at a younger age contributing to the premature mortality seen in this group, with Asian Indians experiencing the greatest years of life lost from heart attacks (and stroke).

Addressing this burden of disease on women requires an understanding of the knowledge, attitudes, health behaviours, practices and cultural beliefs of Indian Australian women in relation to CVD and its associated risks. It is also important to understand the impact of being at increased risk of developing or being diagnosed with CVD given the premature onset of CVD in Indian women who may still be of working age and have carer responsibilities.

A literature review will be undertaken to identify the knowledge, attitudes and practices of Indian women in relation to CVD and its risks. This will inform a larger research project that will use a mixed methods approach to explore Indian Australian women's understanding of CVD.

Project Aims

This project aims to summarise the existing literature surrounding Indian women and cardiovascular disease. Specifically this project aims to explore:

1. the knowledge, attitudes, and practices of Indian women regarding CVD risk factors
2. the health beliefs (i.e. perceived susceptibility, perceived benefits and barriers) of Indian women regarding CVD
3. the role of cultural beliefs in relation to CVD knowledge, attitudes, and practices of Indian women
4. the experiences of Indian women diagnosed with CVD.

Project Methods

This project will involve conducting a literature review and will engage the student in the

following activities:

- Training in the use of EndNote software and management of an EndNote library
- Developing a search strategy in consultation with a librarian.
- Electronic literature searches of library databases including SCOPUS, MEDLINE, CINAHL, PubMed, EMBASE, Google Scholar and grey literature
- for both qualitative and quantitative data
- Critical appraisal of study quality
- Extraction of data and presentation of results in summary tables
- Drafting report findings
- Dissemination of findings in a peer-reviewed journal.

Opportunity for Skill Development

The student will be guided in the development of a number of skills:

- Literature searching using a number of databases – including the development of a search strategy
- Use and management of an EndNote Library
- Understanding a variety of research methodologies
- Critically appraising research and extracting data from the literature
- Assist in developing a manuscript for publication in a peer-reviewed journal.

Students are required to have the following skills/meet the following pre-requisite(s) to apply

- Currently enrolled in an undergraduate degree at WSU in the areas of Nursing and Midwifery, Health Sciences or Medicine
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team, including ability to prioritise tasks and meet deadlines
- Computer literacy (Microsoft programs, internet, library, outlook)

Desirable:

- Completed a research unit
- Basic understanding of conducting and writing literature reviews
- Experience with report writing

Project 73: Western Sydney Clinical Frailty Registry

Supervisor(s): Dr Caleb Ferguson (Principal Supervisor)
Professor Richard Lindley (Second Supervisor)

Supervisor(s) contact information: C.Ferguson@westernsydney.edu.au
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Project description

Frailty (decline in strength and physiological reserve) is a major public health problem of the aging population and has emerged in the published data as an important estimate of outcomes in older adults with cardiovascular risk factors. It is associated with poor health-outcomes including disability, hospitalization, mortality, and more recently dementia, with significantly higher healthcare utilization and related economic cost. Western Sydney has one of the highest rates of Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) in Australia and is one of the biggest challenges we face in the aging population.

Frailty is a major public health issue in older adults and is a major burden on the health care system. Based on the expected rise in the number of patients with frailty as the population ages, it is likely that the use of hospital resources will continue to increase. Detailed data on frailty status and associated comorbidities of patients admitted to Western Sydney hospitals are therefore of considerable interest, including physical and cognitive frailty conditions. The proposed research study will address the above issue by collecting and analysing frailty associated data in patients admitted to Blacktown Hospital Geriatric Wards.

Project Aims

Western Sydney Clinical Frailty Registry is a prospective cohort study of patients who are admitted to the Blacktown Hospital (Western Sydney Local Health District (WSLHD)) Geriatric Medicine Services. This study is designed to facilitate a local approach to understanding frailty status and associated conditions and improving outcomes, the Western Sydney Clinical Frailty Registry will provide detailed representative data on frailty status and outcomes of patients admitted to Blacktown Hospital.

To facilitate a local approach to understanding frailty status and associated all cause rehospitalisation and mortality status and improving outcomes, the Western Sydney Clinical Frailty Registry therefore, sought to provide detailed representative data on frailty status and outcomes of patients admitted to Blacktown Hospital.

The Western Sydney Clinical Frailty Registry is designed:

- To obtain a representative cross-sectional view of patients with frailty and their management in Blacktown Hospital Geriatric Medicine Service.
- To establish a clinical profile of patients admitted to Blacktown Hospital Geriatric Medicine Service over a five year period.
- Describe the rate and outcomes of frailty among patients admitted to the Blacktown Hospital Geriatric Medicine Service.

Project Methods

We wish to establish a long-term large, prospective observational clinical cohort of patients who are admitted to the Blacktown Hospital Geriatric Medicine Wards over next 5-year period of time. The study subjects will be followed-up for 12 months following their index hospital admission to collect rehospitalisation and mortality data.

Patients admitted to Blacktown Geriatric Medicine wards (C 51, C 52 and C 53) (Western Sydney Local Health District).

Approximately seven (7) participants to be enrolled each week from Department of Geriatric Medicine (wards C 51, C 52 and C 53), Blacktown Hospital.

However, there are no specific total number of participants that can be given for this endeavour. Such collection will allow us in the future to study specific patient subsets such as those patients with diagnosed physical and cognitive frailty (at screening stage) as compared to those that do not. Hence, putting specific numbers, limits the scope and potential outputs of the study, which cannot be predicted.

The study is anticipated to commence in Sept, 2019 and will be carried over for next 5 years. Each study subject will be followed-up for 12 months including baseline visit (index admission to Geriatric Medicine wards (C 51, C 52 and C 53), Blacktown Hospital) and 3rd, 6th and 12 months follow-ups via telephone interviews.

A key objective of the summer scholar student will be to support participant screening, and patient level data collection (under supervision from the research team). Further, they will have the opportunity to gain skills in data entry, data management and some basic analysis skills. Students will also have the opportunity to gain skills in presenting to academic and clinical audiences and in academic writing whilst mentored in the WSNMRC. It is hoped that the applicant will gain an appreciation of multidisciplinary research collaboration in the context of aged care and an appreciation for clinical registry research methods.

Opportunity for Skill Development

The student will have the opportunity to learn the following skills while at the WSNMRC:

1. Participation and roles in a research team
2. Critical appraisal of research evidence
3. Ethics & operationalising of clinical registries
4. Conceptualization of frailty and its consequences
5. Greater appreciation of clinical research
6. Transdisciplinary research collaboration in aged care context
7. Patient level data collection
8. Research data management and basic analysis skills
9. Writing for publication
10. Presenting at department meetings, grand rounds and wider audiences.

Students are required to have the following skills/meet the following pre-requisite(s) to apply

Confidence with accessing library resources, attention to detail, time management skills and the ability to maintain clear consistent communication via progress feedback to the supervisory team.

Project 74: Frailty among surgical patients and clinical variation

Supervisor(s): Dr Steven Frost (Principal Supervisor)
Dr Kaye Rolls (Second Supervisor)

Supervisor(s) contact information: s.frost@westernsydney.edu.au
Kaye.rolls@westernsydney.edu.au

Project description

Worldwide the population is ageing and consequently an increasing proportion of patients in acute care facilities are aged more than 65. The elderly have an increased risk of hospital acquired complications, including delirium, falls, new incontinence, pressure injury and loss of function, with the clinical condition of frailty a significant contributing risk factor. Current data suggests that up to 50% of elderly surgical patients may be frail (Hewitt et al., 2018) however, at this time clinical frailty is not routinely assessed in Australian health care setting. Three recent systematic reviews have identified a growing body of evidence demonstrating a link between frailty and variation in common clinical outcomes in elderly surgical patients (Darvall et al., 2018, Hewitt et al., 2018, Watt et al., 2018). There are serious short- and long-term consequences when a elderly patient experiences a complication, including increased mortality and disability, leading to loss of independence and admission to nursing homes. This study is an inception cohort study which comprises phase one of a two part study, the second phase will be a case control study. The objective is to understand the prevalence of frailty among elderly surgical patients and the subsequent clinical variation, especially hospital acquired complications. This will help develop models of care or interventions to reduce the impact of frailty on clinical outcomes for surgical patients including pre-admission clinics, pre- and in-hospital rehabilitation programs and surgical pathways.

Project Aims

This project has two main aims: to describe

1. incident prevalence of frailty among surgical patients; and,
2. the variation in clinical outcomes of frail patients compared to no-frail patients undergoing surgery in the acute hospital setting including acquired hospital complications (pressure injuries, delirium, incontinence, falls and functional decline), length of stay, discharge destination, readmission within 30 days and inhospital mortality.

Project Methods

This study is an inception cohort study which comprises phase one of a two part study, the second phase will be a case control study. The inception cohort will enrol 30 patients each from 12 wards across the acute care facilities of SWS-LHD. A clinical lead from each ward will be responsible for enrolling 30 consecutive admissions and assessing their level of frailty using clinical frailty index. The student will be responsible for data collection using a standardised form, in particular in-hospital complications and discharge disposition.

The sample size is based on a meta-analysis of the prevalence of frailty among surgical patients undertaken by Hewitt et al (Hewitt et al., 2018) that estimated an approximate rate of frailty among surgical patients of 23%, using the, method suggested by (Meagher et al., 2008):

$$n = Z_{\alpha/2} pq / L^2$$

where $Z_{\alpha/2}$ is the normal standard deviate 1.96 (0.05), p = proportion, and $q = 1 - p$, and L is the precision. Therefore, using the above 23% estimate of the prevalence of frailty, and a margin of error of 5%, 273 patients are needed across the LHD twelve surgical wards included in the project (approximately 23 patients per ward).

Opportunity for Skill Development

The student will develop the following research skills: 1) data collection and management skills using a standardised form and access data base; 2) data analysis skills using SAS or R (depending on students existing skill set); 3) how to participate in research group; and 4) manuscript development skills.

Students are required to have the following skills/meet the following pre-requisite(s) to apply

1. Successful completion of a minimum of 2 years (or full time equivalent) of a bachelors degree in a health discipline OR enrolled in a post graduate program in health discipline
2. Strong written and oral communication skills and computer (microsoft word)
3. Computer skills: highly competent in using microsoft word and experience in using Microsoft Excel and/or Access. Any experience with statistical programs, such as SPSS, SAS or R, will be highly regarded
4. Experience using NSWHealth EMR2
5. Experience in reading clinical notes
6. Demonstrated high professional and ethical standards

Project 75: Developing and piloting oral health promotional resources for people with cardiovascular disease and stroke

Supervisor(s): Ajesh George (Principal Supervisor)
Paula Sanchez (Second Supervisor)

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p.sanchez@westernsydney.edu.au

Project description

A growing body of evidence suggests that periodontal disease increases the risk of atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease (CVD), which is one of the leading causes of chronic disease morbidity and mortality in industrialised countries. One of the complications of CVD is stroke which can significantly affect an individual's ability to swallow or brush their teeth, and increase their risk of developing aspiration pneumonia, a life-threatening complication post-stroke. Recent studies have found that over 80% of people with cardiovascular disease in Australia have a problem relating to their oral health. Despite the prevalence in oral health problems, 41% did not see a dentist in the previous 12 months, and only 10% received oral health information in the cardiac care setting. Yet research supports that people with cardiovascular disease are five times as likely to access oral healthcare if they receive oral health information.

The Centre for Oral Health Outcomes & Research Translation (COHORT) is currently undertaking two separate projects focused on developing models of care designed to improve the oral health of people with CVD and people with stroke. Findings from the cardiovascular oral health project (CARDIOH) highlights that while cardiac care providers have limited knowledge and do not routinely promote oral health, they were receptive to promoting oral health with the adequate support. The second project, exploring integrating dental care after stroke (IDEAS), has revealed that many stroke clinicians do not have the adequate knowledge, resources and training to administer oral health in the acute and rehabilitation stroke settings.

One of the supportive strategies that has emerged from the CARDIOH and IDEAS research includes the need to develop specific evidenced based oral health resources for stroke or CVD patients to facilitate oral health promotion in the health care settings. This project seeks to collaborate with a range of stakeholders including policy makers, professional organisations and consumers to develop and pilot test resources to support oral healthcare among individuals with CVD and stroke. COHORT has a strong track record in developing evidence based oral health resources that have been endorsed statewide and has strong links with NSW health and other professional organisations which will greatly inform this project.

Project Aims

This project aims to develop and pilot test the appropriate resources to promote oral health among people with cardiovascular disease and individuals who have had a stroke in consultation with a range of internal and external stakeholders. It is anticipated that the student will participate in this project as follows:

Project Methods

Stage 1

- Receive training in the use of EndNote, accessing journal databases, and in basic design
- Search through literature and existing resources nationally and internationally
- From these searches, collate and synthesise the results to identify key oral health messages for people with cardiovascular disease and people with stroke
- Ensure that messages are adapted to be an appropriate level of reading for the general public
- Liaise with the study team to design and draft these resources in consultation with a graphic designer

Stage 2

- Liaise with stakeholders (including local health district representatives, academics, other organisations such as the Stroke Foundation and the Heart Foundation) to obtain feedback in terms of the content and layout of the resources
- Liaise with study team to pilot test the resources with consumers

Stage 3

- Student will collate feedback and undertake revisions that need to be made on the resource
- Liaise with study team to seek endorsement from stakeholders (NSW Health and professional organisations)

Training and support will be provided in each stage of the project

Opportunity for Skill Development

- The student will be guided in the development of a range of research skills which include but are not limited to:
- Engaging and coordinating with a range of academic, government and non-government organisations as well as consumers
- Develop public health resources to be distributed by NSW Health
- Literature searches (including grey literature) – accessing databases, developing search strategies
- Use of EndNote software, including management of an EndNote library
- Develop skills in relation to public speaking and oral research presentations, with the opportunity to present findings at the SWSLHD Research Showcase in 2020 and at other conference presentations

Students are required to have the following skills/meet the following pre-requisite(s) to apply

Essential:

- Enrolled in their second or third year in an undergraduate degree
- Proficient computer and communication skills (including proficiency in Microsoft Word, Excel and Outlook)
- Prepared to be involved in a significant amount of stakeholder engagement and consultation (through face-to-face, phone and e-mail), which may involve accompanying another research team member to various other sites

- Taking initiative and being able to work independently
- Be prepared to spend time working at COHORT, the Ingham Institute for Applied Medical Research in Liverpool

Desirable:

- Enrolled in a Nursing/Health-related undergraduate degree **OR** in a Design-related degree (e.g. a Bachelor in: Design, Design and Technology, Creative Industries, Graphic Design, Design-Visual Communication, etc.)
- Experience in graphic design

Project 76: The intersection of sexual diversity and healthcare: A scoping review of the literature

Supervisor(s): Dr Paul Glew (Principal Supervisor)
Dr Brahm Marjadi (Second Supervisor)

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Project description

Research on gender and sexual diversity has identified the need for healthcare professionals to understand the unique health and social needs of people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex, asexual or aromantic (LGBTQIA). However, LGBTQIA individuals can experience significant barriers in accessing healthcare with these impacting on their care seeking behaviours and resulting wellbeing. The World Health Organisation has identified that the factors of marginalisation, discrimination and social stigma encountered by LGBTQIA people are compounded by a lack of understanding of their diversity and may negatively influence their mental health and wellbeing.

Frontline healthcare professionals require adequate knowledge of LGBTQIA people beyond an illness-based focus to provide person-centred care that holistically addresses their physical, emotional, psychological and spiritual health. Although an understanding of these minority groups has increased with some changes to laws that have improved recognition of the rights of gender and sexually diverse people, disparities in their care may still exist in healthcare delivery and its systems. There is a need to examine evidence based practice in healthcare in relation to the care provided to people with gender and sexual diversity. This project seeks to understand the experiences of LGBTQIA people in accessing healthcare, and discover models of best practice adopted in nursing and medicine which support their health and wellbeing. As a preliminary search of the literature on this topic did not yield many publications, the project aims to use a scoping review to examine the literature on the healthcare experiences and perspectives of LGBTQIA people and evidence-based practices in healthcare which support the inclusion of people with gender and sexual diversity. This scoping review approach will aim to identify what has been done in providing holistic person-centred healthcare for LGBTQIA individuals and their communities and identify gaps in knowledge for further research.

Project Aims

This scoping review will examine research literature on the healthcare experiences and perspectives of people who identify as LGBTQIA, and studies on inclusive practices used in healthcare for treating and caring for people who identify as gender and sexually diverse. The review will identify the research approaches used to examine the topic, summarise findings from the literature and identify gaps in knowledge on the topic. The scoping review will inform the development and refinement of the following preliminary research questions for investigation:

1. What are the range of experiences and perspectives of LGBTQIA people who receive medical treatment and nursing care in healthcare systems?
2. What models of inclusive healthcare address the physical, emotional, psychological and spiritual needs of LGBTQIA people?

Project Methods

This project will involve a scoping review of the literature based on the five-stage framework by Arksey and O'Malley (2005) including the processes proposed by Levac, Colquhoun and O'Brien (2010) for each stage as recommended by the Joanna Briggs Institute (Peters et al., 2017). This framework will include:

1. Identifying the research questions - Clarifying and linking the purpose and research question;
2. Identifying relevant studies - Balancing feasibility with breadth and comprehensiveness of the scoping process;
3. Study selection - Using an iterative team approach to selecting studies and extracting data;
4. Charting the data - Incorporating a summary and qualitative thematic analysis; and
5. Collating, summarising and reporting the results: Identifying the implications of the study findings for policy, practice or research

The scoping review will be limited to published studies on the experiences and perspectives of LGBTQIA people and the inclusive practices healthcare professionals in treating and caring for them, which are written in English and published between 2000 and 2019. The scoping search will be conducted using MEDLINE, CINAHL, Scopus, and Google Scholar and databases identified as relevant by the student in engaging with WSU librarians to develop the literature search strategies. The supervisors will provide support and guidance for the student with the content, methodological knowledge and report writing. Data extraction, charting and thematic analysis will be done by the student and cross-checked by the supervisors, and any disagreement will be resolved through discussion until consensus is reached.

Opportunity for Skill Development

The student will learn how to:

- Conduct a scoping review of the literature
- Formulate research questions
- Conduct systematic, advanced searches for the literature using information literacy
- Use Endnote reference management software
- Extract data from the literature
- Understand academic vocabulary used in describing research methodologies
- Summarise and analyse research reports
- Write a scoping review report.

These research skills would be transferable to other future research projects including those undertaken for an Honours or Higher Research Degree Program.

Students are required to have the following skills/meet the following pre-requisite(s) to apply

A student interested in the project should be enrolled in an undergraduate degree with an interest in healthcare and gender and sexual diversity. The student would be required to demonstrate:

- a high level attention to details;
- be able to work independently following a brief;
- maintain regular communication with the supervisors; and
- be able to meet deadlines.

Failure to utilise these skills would be reflected in the progress report. It is essential that the student understand this opportunity would involve cross-disciplinary collaboration in the disciplines of nursing and medicine and would require the capacities to review the literature across disciplines. It is expected that the student will have completed a unit on research skills within their degree. The principal supervisor will guide the student to ensure development and application of the skills required for the scoping review, and the analysis which is critical to the development of the review.

Project 77: Where are the silences? A scoping review of child participatory research literature in the context of the Australian service system

Supervisor(s): Dr Rebekah Grace (Principal Supervisor)
Dr Kelly Baird (Second Supervisor)

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Project description

The proposed project is a scoping review of child participatory research conducted in Australia between 2000-2018 and published in non-peer reviewed formats (i.e., grey literature). This forms the basis of the companion article to the scoping review of child participatory peer-reviewed research that has been accepted for publication in Children Australia, and is an important paper in terms of the writing and dissemination plan for the ReSPECT project.

The proposed project fits within the ReSPECT project – a mixed-method, multi-phase, innovative project that aims to trial a model of youth engagement, professional development and service innovation that will inform practice in diverse Australian communities, and contribute to service reform that honours participatory methods and acknowledges young people as key stakeholders and decision makers in service contexts. The ReSPECT project, funded by the ARC, is a collaboration between leading researchers from Western Sydney University, Macquarie University and University of Melbourne and industry partners, Uniting, Winangay Aboriginal Resources and Carers NSW.

The proposed project involves conducting an extensive literature search across eight service sectors (child protection and family law; community; disability; education; health; housing and homelessness; juvenile justice; and mental health) to identify research designed to engage with children and young people in the development, implementation and evaluation of services. In addition, the research would be reviewed against Shier's participation matrix, a tool for examining the level of child and youth participation across the phases of a research project.

Project Aims

The proposed project scopes the landscape of participatory research on service policy, design, implementation and evaluation in Australia across eight service sectors. More specifically, it aims to:

- Identify where child and youth voice is being sought and where it is silent
- Identify the extent to which the current research reflects a diversity of cultural and other life experiences
- Identify the level of child and youth participation based on the Shier participation matrix
- Compare the findings of this scoping review with those from the scoping review of peer-reviewed Australian research

Project Methods

The purpose of the proposed project is to scope a body of literature, identify knowledge gaps, and assess the conduct of the research (i.e., the level of participation by children and young people). To do this, the project follows Arksey and O'Malley' methodological framework:

- Identifying the research question
- Identifying relevant studies
- Study selection
- Charting the data
- Collating, summarising and reporting the results

In the proposed project, the student will be engaged in every phase of this methodological framework except for the first step (identifying the research question) as this has already been established. The student will be guided on how to identify relevant studies and in the selection of studies to be included based on inclusion/exclusion criteria. As this project parallels the published scoping review of journal articles already conducted, the student will be provided with a pro forma for charting the data (e.g., table format to document key variables such as topic area, methods used, number of participants, age range and diversity, nature of child and youth participation) as well as in the collation and summary of the results.

Opportunity for Skill Development

It is anticipated that the student would further develop and enhance a number of academic skills, including the ability to:

- Effectively conduct literature searches using relevant inclusion/exclusion criteria
- Identify key variables in terms of research participants and methods used
- Summarise research literature
- Critically reflect on research methodologies and the extent to which children and young people are engaged in the research process
- Write a methods section for publication
- Increase in their academic writing skills generally.

It is expected that the student would be able to complete the scoping review within the 8-week research period. Following this, the student will be given the opportunity to co-author the scoping review article with the ReSPECT research team.

Students are required to have the following skills/meet the following pre-requisite(s) to apply

This cross-disciplinary project would suit a 3rd year student studying social work/social science, education, psychology or a health-related discipline.

placement models impact on capacity building or their benefit to students that has been undertaken in nursing or other health professional education programs nationally or internationally. Hence, this project seeks to comprehensively review the models of clinical placement that are being used within nursing and other health professional programs.

Project Aims

This project aims to explore clinical placement models currently being used in nursing and other health professional education programs nationally and internationally. Specifically, this project seeks to answer the following research questions:

1. What types of clinical placement models are being used in nursing and other health professionals education programs in higher education?
2. What factors determined the use of the models?
3. What were the reported barriers and facilitators to the various models?
4. How effective were the models in meeting student satisfaction and learning needs?
5. What were the models impact on capacity building?

Project Methods

Stage 1

- Student will receive training in the use of EndNote and accessing journal databases
- Student will liaise with the librarian to receive training in literature searches and developing a search strategy
- Literature search: Databases to be searched include but are not limited to: CINAHL, ScienceDirect, Scopus, Academic Search Complete, Education research Complete, ERIC

Stage 2

- Once the search is completed, a meeting with investigators will be held to come to a consensus on which articles should be included in the analysis.
- Extraction of data
- Appraisal of the quality of studies found
- Present search findings in a summary table

Stage 3 (if the student accepts the opportunity to become a co-author)

- Writing of the Methods section of the report
- Dissemination of findings in peer-reviewed journals

Training and support will be provided in each stage of the project

Opportunity for Skill Development

The student will be guided in the development of a range of research skills which include but are not limited to:

1. Literature searches (including grey literature) – accessing databases, developing search strategies and appraisal of articles
2. Use of EndNote software, including management of an EndNote library
3. The methodology of literature reviews
4. If the student accepts the opportunity to be a co-author, then skill development related to writing for publication is an anticipated outcome.

Students are required to have the following skills/meet the following pre-requisite(s) to apply

- The student will need computer skills (including proficiency in Microsoft Word, Excel and Outlook)
- Enrolled in undergraduate degree in Nursing or related disciplines
- The student will be offered the opportunity to be a co-author on publications that arise as a result of this project and thus will need a moderate level of writing skills
- The student will also need to be prepared to spend time working at Hawkesbury Campus and the Centre for Applied Nursing Research in Liverpool.

Project 79: The use of drama in healthcare: A review of the literature

Supervisor(s): Dr Diana Jefferies (Principal Supervisor)
Dr Anne Jamison (Second Supervisor)

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Project description

Research methodologies and disciplines traditionally associated with the arts are becoming increasingly popular in healthcare disciplines as a means of research and for disseminating the results of research projects. The arts have the potential to tell the story of illness from the patient's point of view enabling the audience to appreciate and empathise with the person. These approaches take a more holistic view of the person's illness as they explain how their physical, emotional, psychological and spiritual selves are affected. This is a stark contrast with more scientific models of healthcare, that often focus on the presenting signs and symptoms of illness, thereby reducing the person's experience to what can be explained by an understanding of disease processes. The goal of this project is to develop a better understanding of how a specific arts based method, such as drama, can be used in healthcare to develop a more holistic understanding of the person's experience of illness, treatment and care.

Project Aims

This literature review will examine how the arts can inform healthcare by using the example of drama. This will include examining the following questions:

1. Can a literary analysis of plays depicting the lived experience of illness produce fresh insights into how our patients experiencing illness understand their treatment and care?
2. Can drama and performance, either as a play, TV show or a film, act as a vehicle to raise awareness about specific health conditions when shown to healthcare professionals and/or the community?
3. Can acting skills be used to teach nursing and medical students specific skills required in their future professional life, such as good communication?

The outcomes of this project include:

1. A better understanding of how drama can improve student engagement in learning in disciplines such as nursing, midwifery, medicine and other allied health professions.
2. New techniques in making simulation more realistic and effective.
3. Understanding how drama/ plays/film and theatre can be used to raise awareness about health conditions and promote a greater community understanding of health issues.
4. New insights into the role of cultural understandings of illness and how this may affect patient care.

Project Methods

This project will conduct a review of the literature..

Research Design:

This is a qualitative systematic review that will consider the qualitative evidence found in both qualitative and mixed method papers.

Inclusion Criteria: This systematic review will consider studies examining the role of drama in healthcare published between 2009 and 2019 in the English language.

Search Strategy:

A scoping search of studies found in CINAHL, MEDLINE, Scopus, Google Scholar, Modern Language Association (MLA) and JSTOR has been conducted using the following key words: Drama, performance, Theatre, Healthcare, nursing. The research team is currently examining the titles and abstracts of papers identified in this initial search to expand the keywords and index terms used to describe the study. The databases will be searched again when these key terms are identified.

Assessment of Methodological Quality:

Papers selected for retrieval will be assessed by two individual reviewers for methodological quality prior to inclusion in the review using standardised critical appraisal instruments from the Critical Appraisal Skills Program (CASP). Any disagreements between reviewers will be resolved through discussion or a third party reviewer.

Data Collection/Extraction:

Data will be extracted from papers included in the review using an extraction tool developed by the researchers based on the phenomena of interest.

Data Synthesis:

Qualitative research findings will, where possible, be pooled by the aggregation or synthesis of findings to generate a set of statements that represent that aggregation, through assembling the findings rated according to their quality, and categorizing these findings on the basis of similarity in meaning. These categories will then be subjected to a meta-synthesis in order to produce a single comprehensive set of synthesized findings that can be used as a basis for evidence-based practice.

Where textual pooling is not possible the findings will be presented in narrative form.

Opportunity for Skill Development

This project will provide the student with supervision in the development of knowledge and skills related to conducting literature reviews. The student will work with researchers to appraise studies that will be included in the systematic review, extract and synthesise the evidence from studies, and will have the opportunity to assist in drafting the systematic review document. Other skills will include:

- advanced scholarly information literacy;
- ability to refine research criteria to obtain useful results and summarise effectively those results;
- understanding of scholarly vocabulary essential for describing appropriate methodologies for higher degree research in literary studies which are also used in preparing Masters and Ph.D. proposals;
- advanced critical and analytical skills.

The research activities will provide the student with valuable skills that will be relevant to a research project they may undertake in an Honours or Higher Research Degree Program.

Students are required to have the following skills/meet the following pre-requisite(s) to apply

Students interested in this project should be enrolled in an undergraduate degree and have an interest in healthcare. This is an exciting opportunity to engage in cross-disciplinary research and the student should be able to read research and review research literature across a number of disciplines. Therefore, the student should have completed a unit about research in their degree.

The supervisors will work alongside the student to ensure that they develop the required skills such as literature searching and critical analysis inherent in the development of a literature review.

Project 80: Surveying the met and unmet information needs of carers' of cancer patients in the outpatients waiting rooms: a quantitative pilot study

Supervisor(s): Assoc. Professor Laretta Luck (Principal Supervisor)
Mr. Harrison Ng Chok (Second Supervisor)

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Project description

Background

In Australia, approximately 144 713 people were newly diagnosed with cancer in 2019 (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2019). Previous studies found that up to a third of cancer patients suffer from prolonged psychological distress and anxiety that is attributed to the transition and adjustments to the disease (Sellick & Edwardson, 2007). This distress not only affects cancer patients but their supportive network such as their partner, families and carers (Nijboer et al., 2000). Carers are also more likely to feel uncertainty about their role and have heightened anxiety along the cancer patient's journey (Burrige, Barnett, & Clavarino, 2009; Chapman & Rush, 2003; Morris & Thomas, 2002). The increase of cancer survivorship, cancer-related admissions and re-admissions has pushed healthcare systems to discharge cancer patients early, which in turn has places an additional demand for cancer patient's supportive care from carers at home and in the community (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2019; DeSantis et al., 2014). In 2015, the Bureau of Health Information (BHI) partnered with the Cancer Institute NSW (CINSW) to develop the Outpatient Cancer Clinics Survey, which explored the experiences of people with cancer attending outpatient cancer care clinics. The report describes the shift from traditional inpatient chemotherapy treatments to outpatients (Bureau of Health Information, 2016). Patient's involvement in triaging their symptoms and being actively involved in self-care strategies in their home has been encouraged (Cancer Institute NSW, 2016). The impact on the roles and responsibilities of the carer as a result of this shift has not been researched except the focus on involvement of the carer as emphasized in the National Framework for consumer involvement in Cancer (Cancer Australia, 2011).

For cancer patients, carers play an important role in providing non-medical and medical support for them along the cancer care continuum which historically was seldom reported (Carter, Lewin, Gianacas, Clover, & Adams, 2011; Morris & Thomas, 2002). Increased studies and strategies to develop positive patient experiences and satisfaction for cancer patients and their carers has led to carers taking on an information gathering and management role (Skalla, Bakitas, Furstenberg, Ahles, & Henderson, 2004; Soothill et al., 2001).

A UK systematic review (n= 32 articles) about information needs of carers of cancer patients (Adams, Boulton, & Watson, 2009) reported that the studies that did not meet carers 'information needs' (n=7) was based on poor future expectations; psychological impact; transition through the cancer trajectory; sexuality and intimacy; and treatment related information. Most of the studies (n=27) did not provide information beyond diagnosis and initial treatment for cancer patients along the cancer continuum. The study also reported that apart from information about prominent gender specific cancers such as breast and prostate cancer, information about other cancers was poorly resourced and not given as much attention.

The study by Morris and Thomas (2002) reported that a lack of information about carers of people with other cancers for instance lung cancer has been found to lead to differing levels of satisfaction and higher anxiety among carers. However increased exposure in clinical settings boosts carers confidence about their role and with their cancer family member (Morris & Thomas, 2002). A UK nursing study of the continuity of care views and experiences of carers of women with breast cancer found that relational, informational and managerial continuity is crucial to improving cancer service delivery (Lafferty et al., 2011). Overall the literature on studies about the information needs of carers of cancer patients describes the level of support, effects of caring and recommendations for further improvement. The use of technological devices as a common, timely and useful approach to gathering health and cancer related information among carers was reported in a recent Australian study (Heynsbergh, Botti, Heckel, & Livingston, 2019; Heynsbergh, Heckel, Botti, & Livingston, 2018). This study will implement an online survey (using a digital tablet and hardcopy option) to carers supporting cancer patients at the Nepean Cancer Care waiting rooms and Inpatient Haematology/Oncology ward (W4C). The survey will explore carers' met and unmet information needs.

The NSW Carers Strategy 2014-2019 define carers as people who provide unpaid support to those who, because of their disability, medical condition (terminal and chronic illness), mental ill-health, dementia or frail age are unable to do so. Moreover “carers support people to live independent lives, to remain in their own homes and in their own communities. This care is fundamental to family life and our community wellbeing” (NSW Government, 2014, p. 1).

Project Aims

Describe the formal and informal needs of carers of cancer patients.

Project Methods

The summer scholar will be situated at the Center for Nursing and Midwifery Research which is a conjoint center between the School of Nursing and Midwifery and the Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District based a Nepean Hospital. As a function of working at the CNMR the summer scholar will be exposed to many aspects of research.

Literature Review

The Summer Scholar will undertake an integrated literature review on met and unmet information needs of carers of cancer patients. The review will focus on the information needs of carers beyond the cancer diagnosis, initial treatments and time points along the cancer care continuum. Literature from all cancer specialties will be included.

Data collection

The Summer Scholar will be involved in recruitment and data collection. This will entail visiting the Nepean Cancer Care waiting rooms and Inpatient Haematology/Oncology ward (W4C) and approaching and recruiting Carers to participate in the study in conjunction with one of the research team. Data will be collected via the survey that has been uploaded on to an iPad tablet or a hardcopy paper version. The research team members will be available to support and debrief with the summer scholar during data collection.

Other research activities

In conjunction with the support of the supervisors, the summer scholar will have access to the WSU School of Nursing and Midwifery Librarian to learn advanced literature search skills. This will include learning how to enter data and manage large amounts of retrieved literature. The Summer Scholar will also be supported to learn how to use Endnote. Part of this opportunity will be to learn the skills to critically and systematically appraise literature using commonly used appraisal tools (such as PRISMA, CASP). The summer scholar will also be able to work with the research team to write a journal article based on the results of the integrated review.

Opportunity for Skill Development

1. Literature Review

Learn to search relevant data bases and retrieve literature.

Learn to manage large amounts of literature.

Learn to use Endnote.

Learn, and apply, methodologically appropriate tools to critique the literature, i.e. PRISMA, CASP.

Learn how to present the findings of an integrated review in table format.

Be part of the team writing up, and authoring, a journal article.

2. Data collection

Learn how to approach and build rapport with carers from the hospital to invite them to complete the survey.

Learn how to collect data using the online survey using an iPad as well as distribute the hardcopy version of the survey to participants across two clinical areas.

3. Other skills

Have the opportunity to work at the CNMR and experience working in a research team.

Have the opportunity to work with and be supported by the Clinical Nurse Consultant (Cancer Care).

Students are required to have the following skills/meet the following pre-requisite(s) to apply

The student would ideally be a nursing student completing the second or third year of the Bachelor of Nursing (Advanced) or Bachelor of Nursing program in 2019. This would ensure the student has completed an introductory research unit and has had clinical placement. Students from other disciplines would be considered.

Project 81: A quantitative analysis of awareness and response to intimate partner violence among faith-based leaders of migrant and refugee background.

Supervisor(s): Dr Olayide Ogunsiji (Principal Supervisor)
Ms Hind Elmir (Second Supervisor)

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Project description

Migrants and refugees are among the groups reported to be disproportionately affected by intimate partner violence (Yeon-Shim & Hadeed, 2009). Yeon-Shim & Hadeed (2009), through literature review connected social isolation, lack of social support, acculturation stress and the experience of intimate partner violence among the Asian migrants in the United States of America. Moreover, significant studies have shown that migrant and refugee women are less likely to report incidences of domestic violence and abusive relationship. They are least likely to access preventive and other formal treatment services for a number of reasons that range from socio-cultural, language and institutional barriers. Empirical research point at faith-based leaders as important resource utilised by culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) women living with intimate partner violence (IPV). Yet, they are underrepresented in the literature on their level of awareness and little is known about the strategies they use in responding to intimate partner violence. Often, they have limited knowledge about IPV and are not trained to address or intervene effectively when presented with it (Behnke, Ames & Hancock, 2012; Dixon, 1995). This mixed method study fills the gap in knowledge and literature by exploring the awareness and response to intimate partner violence among faith-based leaders of migrant and refugee background.

Project Aims

- Using a mixed method approach, the aim of this study is to explore awareness and response to intimate partner violence among faith-based leaders of migrant and refugee background.
- Quantitative data entry into SPSS and descriptive statistical data analysis will determine awareness, experiences and response of faith-based leaders (of migrant and refugee background) towards intimate partner violence.

Project Methods

This study is a mixed method study (Whitehead & Elliott, 2007) using a self-report survey and interviews. The quantitative survey will be distributed at 20 faith-based centres in Sydney the address of which will be sourced from Google. The interviews will be conducted after the survey with those faith-based leaders who volunteer. The interviews will be qualitative with an underpinning philosophy that people who go through a particular experience are in the best position to explain the nature of the experience (Heidegger, 1962). The faith-based leaders who have had the experience of responding to their members with intimate partner violence experience are in the best position to provide insight into

their awareness and approach to response. Two hundred and fifty faith based leaders will be engaged in self-report survey while twelve of them who further consent will be engaged in face-to face digitally recorded interviews. Successful student for this application will be required to complete the 250 questionnaire data entry, conduct preliminary analysis of this quantitative data and findings for Conference presentation with student's name on the conference presentation and subsequent publication.

Opportunity for Skill Development

Working on this project will provide the student with the opportunity to develop research skills in the area of completing questionnaire data entry, conduct preliminary analysis of this quantitative data and findings for Conference presentation, with student's name on the conference presentation and subsequent publication. The student will also gain some insight into the issue of IPV and faith-based leaders awareness and response.

Students are required to have the following skills/meet the following pre-requisite(s) to apply

Students need to be at least in their second year second semester with a minimum 5.2. Needs to have the basic computer skills in word document and entry of data into excel or Spreadsheet. Some knowledge of SPSS and Critical analysis skills will be beneficial.

Project 82: Psychosocial wellbeing of young people with cancer

Supervisor(s): Sheeja Perumbil Pathrose (Principal Supervisor)
Associate Professor Lucie Ramjan (Second Supervisor)

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Project description

The emotional impact of cancer during adolescence and young adulthood (AYA) is enormous, in part due to the constant need to re-adjust to different phases of the cancer journey (diagnosis/treatment/post treatment), and identity formation in adolescence. Post-traumatic stress, anxiety, depression and poor quality of life are common in young people with cancer and substantially contribute to the burden of disease. Research tends to focus on cancer care issues in the pediatric or adult population, however psychosocial needs and challenges of the AYA age group are unique. While a cancer diagnosis is likely to have a devastating effect at any age, there is increasing recognition of the major physical, psychological, and social impact it has during the AYA years. Anecdotal evidence suggests that in some areas the AYA's cope and adapt better than the other population groups. Thus this project aims to explore the psychosocial wellbeing of young people with cancer in terms of quality of life, mindfulness, stress and depression. This is part of an ECR research project which aims to identify whether a web-based mindfulness intervention, using a self-help workbook, will be feasible and acceptable to young people with cancer to manage challenges/stressors and potentially prevent adverse effects on psychological wellbeing.

Project Aims

1. Explore psychosocial wellbeing in terms of quality of life, mindfulness, stress and depression.
2. Examine the association between demographic variables and psychosocial measures

Project Methods

Young people between the ages of 14-29 years who have or have had a diagnosis of cancer will take part in this study. 30 participants who meet the inclusion criteria will be recruited through flyers on the CanTeen website, support group newsletters and social media advertisements (Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn etc.). Flyers will direct the participants to the qualtrics based questionnaire including; 1) A demographic data sheet; 2) Child and Adolescent Mindfulness Measure (CAMM)-10 items; 3) PedsQL 3.0 Cancer Module Scale-27 items; 4) Patient Health Questionnaire-2 items; 5) The Perceived Stress Scale (PSS)-10 items; and 6) K 10 for measuring anxiety and depression symptoms.

The data collection will begin in August 2019 and will be completed by December 2019. The project will provide the prospective student the opportunity to develop their learning of quantitative software (Qualtrics). The student (under supervision) will learn to download the data from the qualtrics and will assist in cleaning and analyzing the data with researchers. The prospective student will also assist in conducting a literature search for the preparation of a manuscript, and will assist in writing the manuscript for publication; and thus a named co-author. These opportunities will enhance the student's analytical and critical thinking skills and provide the student with valuable research skills that can be transferred to future projects or research studies.

Opportunity for Skill Development

This project will provide the prospective student with an opportunity to gain valuable experience in research methodology. Involvement in this project will enable the student to gain an understanding of the **quantitative research design** as this project has adopted a quantitative research methodology. Skills that will be learnt will include: managing survey data using **Qualtrics**, data pre-processing, analysis of the data, which includes using **SPSS** software, gaining an understanding of **descriptive statistics** such as frequency, percentage, and presenting the data in bar diagrams/charts. The student will develop some understanding of **inferential statistics** such as chi square test to test associations and understand the use of the 'p' value in research.

In addition, the student will learn to systematically **search the literature** with the help of a librarian in preparation of a co-authored manuscript. This opportunity may motivate him/her to pursue a research focused career advancement pathway or further research studies such as Honours, Masters, PhD.

Students are required to have the following skills/meet the following pre-requisite(s) to apply

Students interested in this project should be motivated and interested in learning more about research. Ideally the student should be enrolled in an undergraduate degree in a health-related discipline and should preferably have completed a research unit/similar. This opportunity would suit someone keen to learn more about quantitative research methods, processes and analysis, such as an Advanced student (however this is not essential). The student would be supported by supervisors in skill development.

Project 83: Integrating oral healthcare into the undergraduate nursing curriculum: An scoping review (The IONIC Project)

Supervisor(s): Yenna Salamonson (Principal Supervisor)
Jacqueline Rojo (Second Supervisor)

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Project description

It has been suggested that missed nursing care, whereby the care delivered is being omitted or significantly delayed, may be just as important to patient safety as hospital errors of commission. In a multisite study on missed nursing care, patients reported higher prevalence of omitted care in the basic nursing care domain – 50.3% of this omission was related to mouth care. In addition to its impact on patient’s quality of life, poor oral hygiene is linked with systemic diseases, including nonventilator hospital-acquired pneumonia, an under-reported adverse event that has been estimated to cost 8 lives, \$1.72 million and 500 extra hospital days per year in the USA. Of importance, this cost could be averted through investing resources (including upskilling nurses) into oral care.

Although oral health care practices of nurses in the hospital settings have not been extensively reported, a recent qualitative study reported that nurses often conveyed to patients that oral hygiene was optional, the care provided was highly variable and not evidence-based, and oral hygiene was not embedded into bedtime nursing care routines. These findings is perhaps not surprising as historically, oral health has not been emphasised in nursing education or in nursing practice, which was validated in the findings of Kuramoto, Watanabe who reported that only 30% of nurses had received training related to oral hygiene.

With the growing body of evidence linking oral health to systemic health, preparing all health professionals, including nursing students to provide evidence-based oral health care is becoming a priority. In the United States, for more than a decade, the Institute of Medicine has emphasised a need for enhanced training and education, to improve patients’ oral health care. While there are isolated studies that have reported successful integration of oral health education into undergraduate curriculum within Australia, it is not known the extent to which oral health care has been integrated into undergraduate nursing or other health professional education programs in Australia and beyond. Hence, this project seeks to comprehensively review the integration of oral health care into undergraduate nursing and health professional programs, and the approaches taken to embed this content into nursing and other health professional programs.

Project Aims

This project aims to assess the extent to which oral healthcare education is integrated into the nursing and other health professional education programs in Australia and beyond. Specifically, this project aims to answer the following research questions:

1. To what extent has oral healthcare education been integrated into nursing and health professional educational programs in higher education?

2. What pedagogical and curricular approaches were used to integrate oral healthcare content into the curriculum; and
3. What were the reported learning outcomes of these integration of oral healthcare content into the programs?

Project Methods

Stage 1

- Student will receive training in the use of EndNote and accessing journal databases
- Student will liaise with librarian to receive training in literature searches and developing a search strategy
- Literature search: Databases to be searched include: CINAHL, ScienceDirect, Scopus, Academic Search Complete, Education research Complete, ERIC

Stage 2

- Once search is completed, meeting with investigators to come to a consensus on which articles should be included in analysis.
- Extraction of data
- Appraisal of the quality of studies found
- Present search findings in a summary table

Stage 3 (if the student accepts the opportunity to become a co-author)

- Writing of the Methods section of the report
- Dissemination of findings in peer-reviewed journals

Training and support will be provided in each stage of the project

Opportunity for Skill Development

The student will be guided in the development of a range of research skills which include but are not limited to:

1. Literature searches (including grey literature) – accessing databases, developing search strategies and appraisal of articles
2. Use of EndNote software, including management of an EndNote library
3. The methodology of literature reviews
4. If the student accepts the opportunity to be a co-author, then skills development related to writing for publication is an anticipated outcome.

Students are required to have the following skills/meet the following pre-requisite(s) to apply

- The student will need computer skills (including proficiency in Microsoft Word, Excel and Outlook)
- Enrolled in undergraduate degree in Nursing or related disciplines
- The student will be offered the opportunity to be a co-author on publications that arise as a result of this project. To this end, the student will need a moderate level of writing skills
- The student will also need to be prepared to spend time working at Campbelltown Campus and the Ingham Institute for Applied Medical Research in Liverpool, where the "Centre for Oral Health Outcomes & Research Translation "(COHORT) is located.

Project 84:“MY SUPPORT”: Postnatal care plans to improve maternal and newborn health

Supervisor(s): Prof Virginia Schmied (Principal Supervisor)
A/Prof Ann Dadich (Second Supervisor)

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Project description

Following birth, many mothers and their newborn children experience physical and mental health problems (Cooklin et al., 2018, Furuta et al., 2014, Schmied et al., 2013a, Woolhouse et al., 2014). Research also suggests that mothers do not always receive the support they need to breastfeed (Burns et al., 2013), and many infants receive formula, before they are discharged from hospital (Biro et al., 2011). Perceived and actual social support from partners, family members, peers, social media (informal support), and health professionals (formal) are a **key** mediator of positive maternal physical and mental health outcomes (Leahy-Warren et al., 2018; Nicholson et al., 2006) and exclusive breastfeeding (Burns and Schmied, 2017). Conversely, limited social support can compromise health and wellbeing (Pao et al., 2019, Leahy-Warren et al., 2018).

Our team recently commenced a study to design, implement, and evaluate an individualised postnatal care plan for women birthing at Blacktown Hospital that focuses on enhancing their access to informal and formal support. There are several phases to this study. During phase 1 (currently underway), we are designing the postnatal care plan with clinicians and consumers. Phase 2 will involve using the plan, following staff training. Phase 3 (to be conducted as part of this summer scholarship) will involve evaluating the effectiveness of the plan. We are using a pre- and post-test design to determine if the postnatal care plan improves women’s level of social support in the first month to six weeks after birth. The evaluation will also involve interviews and focus groups with women and clinicians.

Project Aims

The aim of this study is to design, implement, and evaluate an individualised postnatal care plan for women birthing at Blacktown Hospital. The ‘MY SUPPORT’ postnatal care plan will be co-designed by consumers and clinicians to assist new mothers to identify and use informal (family/peers) and formal (professional) social support to meet their needs and those of their baby in the first month following birth. In using these sources of support, new mothers are expected to:

1. Experience improved confidence in maternal parenting
2. Breastfeed more often (both exclusive and mixed)
3. Experience better physical health
4. Experience better mental health

Towards the study aim, this summer scholarship will provide an appropriate candidate with opportunity to:

1. Determine women's perceptions of the postnatal plan, particularly those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds
2. Determine clinicians' perceptions of the postnatal plan, particularly re its usability, its strengths, and its limitations
3. Review relevant literature

Project Methods

This is a three-phased mixed methods study, described as follows:

Phase 1: Pre-implementation stage (Jul. to Sep. 2019)

A sample of 150 women receiving current care will complete an online survey prior to the implementation of the postnatal care plan. Additionally, three focus groups will be conducted (1 focus group with consumers and community representatives; 1 with antenatal staff; 1 with postnatal staff), to determine the current state of affairs, and how a postnatal care plan can address current issues. Focus group data will be analysed to describe the current experience of postnatal care and report perceptions of social support and outcomes related to breastfeeding; parenting confidence; maternal physical and mental health.

Phase 2: Postnatal care plan implementation (Sep. to Nov. 2019)

Phase 3: Post implementation (Mar. 2020)

A second group of 150 women will be surveyed and focus groups with women and clinicians will be facilitated. In the post survey, we will capture information on use of the postnatal care plan; women's satisfaction and use of informal (family) and formal (professionals in hospital and community) postnatal support; breastfeeding practices; parental confidence; as well as maternal physical and mental health.

Analysis

Descriptive and inferential statistics will be used to determine differences between pre and post-implementation groups in terms of perceived and actual social support and associations with maternal parenting confidence; breastfeeding rates; maternal physical health and recovery and maternal mental health.

Qualitative data will be analysed thematically to determine key themes related to women's experience of motherhood and the social support she had available and accessed. Data will also be analysed to determine women's and staff' satisfaction with and use of the postnatal care plan.

Mentored by the research team, the candidate will:

- Support the recruitment of women to complete post-test surveys (under supervision from the research team)
- Gain skills in conducting interviews and facilitating focus groups
- Gain skills in reviewing and critiquing literature for a refereed publication
- Gain data management and basic analytical skills
- Present findings to academic and clinical audiences, verbally and in written form

Opportunity for Skill Development

Supported by the supervisory team, the student is expected to:

- Work as a research team member
- Develop communication skills, particularly when interacting with clinicians and presenting to different audiences
- Critically appraise literature
- Develop skills in the collection, management, and analysis of qualitative and quantitative data
- Develop skills in academic writing

Students are required to have the following skills/meet the following pre-requisite(s) to apply

This project is suitable for a student who:

- Is in their final-year of an undergraduate degree
- Is studying, has studied, or has an interest in the discipline(s) of: nursing, midwifery, management, medicine, health and/or social policy, social science, psychology, sociology, the humanities, and/or health science
- Has excellent communication skills and confidence in their basic writing skills

Project 85: Improving genitourinary and sexual health for women with breast cancer: current evidence and implications for Breast Care Nurses

Supervisor(s): Dr Mariana Sousa (Principal Supervisor)
Dr Nicole Blay (Second Supervisor)

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Project description

The concept of a specialist breast care nurse occurred in 1975 with the national breast cancer support services. In 1997, the Breast Cancer Distance Education program replaced the National breast cancer support services training. Nurses to graduate from this course became known in the Australian context as breast care nurses/navigators (BCNs). While research into the role of BCN's have highlighted the importance of their role in providing support, guidance and information for women during their breast cancer journey from initial diagnosis through to completion of treatment, the role of BCNs in assessing genitourinary and sexual issues in these women has not been clearly defined.

Genitourinary and sexual problems are common following treatment for breast cancer and may contribute to noncompliance with treatment, potentially increasing risk of recurrence and death. BCNs are in an excellent position to help increase awareness about genitourinary and sexual health. This project will aim to review, identify and define the scope of practice of BCNs, their role in supporting women who may be experiencing genitourinary or sexual health concerns, and current training or education opportunities for BCNs regarding health related adverse effects of adjuvant endocrine therapy.

Project Aims

To review, identify and define the scope of practice of Breast Care Nurses, their role in supporting women who may be experiencing genitourinary or sexual health concerns, and current training or education opportunities for BCNs regarding health related adverse effects of adjuvant endocrine therapy.

Project Methods

A comprehensive and structured search of both electronic databases and grey literature (including reports, policies, clinical guidelines, consensus statements, cancer agency websites, etc.) will be conducted to source the role and scope of practice of BCNs. To examine the current evidence in Australia and internationally, a scoping review following the methodology as outlined by Arskey and O'Malley will be undertaken. This framework will be utilised to provide guidance and structure to the review, and to assist in the investigation of the extent, range and nature of the research into the role and scope of BCNs. Utilising this method of review will allow for a broader investigation of available research or grey literature which may have been limited by use of a more rigorous systematic review methodology. Furthermore, using a scoping review will allow for the redefining of study aims and search strategies based on the initial findings allowing greater flexibility for the researcher and a more intuitive unrestricted exploration of the current

research and literature in this area.

Opportunity for Skill Development

The student will have the opportunity to work collaboratively with clinicians and academics and further improve research literacy by developing skills in conducting systematic literature search, critically appraising the quality of papers and summarising the evidence as well as in writing up a manuscript for a peer reviewed journal. It will also provide the student with the opportunity to use some computer applications used for research, particularly in relation to bibliographies, citations and references management and reporting.

Students are required to have the following skills/meet the following pre-requisite(s) to apply

It is essential that the successful recipient has effective verbal communication skills and the capacity to write in a grammatically correct manner. A nursing student who has successfully completed 'Research for Nursing and Midwifery' (401208) would be ideal for this position.

Project 86: Sterile water injections for relief of back pain in labour – a qualitative study

Supervisor(s): Associate Professor Virginia Stulz (Principal Supervisor)
Dr Elaine Burns (Second Supervisor)

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Project description

Nepean hospital introduced sterile water injections as a new procedure for women experiencing severe back pain during labour, in October, 2017. The aforementioned studies have provided evidence of significant findings from randomised controlled trials that have compared using sterile water injections with other methods of pain relief. There is a current gap in the literature regarding women's subjective experiences of using sterile water injections for pain relief during labour. Only one study (Lee, Kildea & Stapleton, 2017) in Australia has investigated the qualitative aspects of using this form of pain relief during labour. This aforementioned study is different to the one we have proposed as we have included midwives in our study and the women are a sub set of a randomised control trial whereas this study is qualitative design and includes both women and midwives' experiences. The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence Guidelines (NICE, 2017) suggest that there is a dearth of evidence pertaining to individual women's experiences of using sterile water injections during labour and this project addresses this gap. Our search of the literature also revealed that there is no literature exploring midwives' experiences and perceptions about administering sterile water injections as a form of pain relief for back pain during labour.

Project Aims

The aim of this research is to obtain women's and midwives' views and perceptions about the experiences of using sterile water injections as a method of pain relief for back pain during labour.

Specific objectives of the study for women include:

- To explore the woman's experience and expectations using sterile water injections as a form of pain relief during labour and the effect on her in the postnatal period
- To identify the level of pain scale prior to receiving the sterile water injections, during administration and post administration
- To explore the likelihood that the woman would use this form of pain relief in a subsequent pregnancy and whether she would recommend this form of pain relief to other women experiencing back pain in labour
- To explore the women's perceptions of sterile water injections' effect on birth outcome and length of labour

Specific objectives of the study for midwives include:

- To explore midwives' perceptions about introducing or suggesting sterile water injections as a form of pain relief for back pain during labour
- To explore midwives' level of confidence in administering the sterile water injections
- To explore midwives' own personal use of sterile water injections as a method of back pain relief during labour

Project Methods

This is a qualitative exploratory study that explores women's experiences and level of satisfaction and / or dissatisfaction about using sterile water injections as a method of pain relief for back pain during labour. Women who have read the flyer, and have agreed to be approached for participation, will be approached by a member of the research team who has not been involved in their care. Women will be approached soon after birth and before discharge from the service. If the woman has already been discharged, an information statement and consent form will be posted in the mail. Women will be provided with opportunities to ask questions before signing the consent form.

Women will be invited to participate voluntarily and provided with further information about the opportunity to participate in an in-depth interview about their experiences if they use sterile water injections for back pain relief during labour.

For the recruitment of midwives, flyers will be displayed in the Nepean and Anzac Memorial hospital's birthing unit. Midwives will be invited to participate voluntarily about the opportunity to participate in an in-depth interview about their experiences if they administered sterile water injections for back pain relief for women during labour.

Demographic data will be collected from the Maternity database- E-Maternity detailing birth and perinatal details, for example, age, length of labour, mode of birth, other methods of pain relief if used during labour, perineal status and baby's outcome. At the in-depth interview women will be asked about the level of pain experienced prior to the injection, during the administration and post administration. Field notes will also be collected by the researcher to enhance the depth and understanding of the women's and midwives' experiences.

The student will participate with the primary supervisor in recruitment of midwives to be involved in the project at Nepean, Katoomba and Lithgow hospitals and organise times for interviews. The student will be able to sit in on the in-depth interviews and participate in transcribing the interviews.

Opportunity for Skill Development

The student will develop skills in literature searches that extend beyond the preliminary literature search attended in 2017. It is hoped that this will result in a publication that will be co-authored by the student. The student will develop skills in recruitment of both women and midwives for this study and the organisation and times of in-depth interviews to be conducted in an ethical manner. Development of skills in qualitative research include how to conduct in-depth interviews and learning thematic analysis and the use of data software such as Quirkos to assist in thematic analysis. Development of data entry skills will

be developed and maintaining integrity within a password protected database. The student will be able to learn skills in quantitative statistic calculations in a statistical package such as SPSS, such as analysing and presenting descriptive statistics results as well as T-tests to determine pre and post score results with womens' pain scores prior to and following the sterile water injections. The student will develop skills in presenting the results in both qualitative and quantitative methods.

Students are required to have the following skills/meet the following pre-requisite(s) to apply

The student will be required to be an undergraduate midwifery student in second or third year.

Project 87: Preoperative dental preparation for adults undergoing valvular surgery: an integrative review of the literature.

Supervisor(s): Rochelle Wynne (Principal Supervisor)
Ajesh George (Second Supervisor)
Caleb Ferguson (Third Supervisor)

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Project description

American Heart Association (AHA) guidelines state that dental evaluation and treatment before cardiac operation may prevent late prosthetic valve endocarditis. Dental extraction is considered to be a minor procedure by this group with a risk of death or myocardial infarction of less than 1%. The evidence to support increased risk of infection in this group of patients is sparse at best but the consequences associated with infective endocarditis warrant precautionary measures. As such, the assessment of dentition and treatment of problematic teeth prior to cardiac surgery is a well established component of patients preoperative preparation. There are however no definitive evidence based guidelines to support the the management of preoperative dentition and anecdotal evidence indicates substantial variability in approaches to preoperative management.

Patients who require valve surgery are a complex group that theoretically are at increased risk of poor outcome associated with anaesthesia and surgery, subsequent to valve related cardiopulmonary dysfunction. There is evidence to indicate a relationship between postoperative stroke, postoperative myocardial infarction and preoperative dental procedures. The largest case series of patients who underwent dental extraction prior to valve surgery (n = 205) over a 10 year interval at the Mayo Clinic, found patients had a definite delay in time to surgery after referral, higher risk related acuity (5.5% to 15% above expected baseline), an increased length of postoperative stay, and an increased risk of major morbidity (8%) and mortality (3%), than patients without preoperative dental extraction.

To date no evidence based clinical practice guideline for preoperative dental preparation has been located. Anecdotally, in the clinical context all patients who require valvular intervention need to provide evidence of dental review prior to their procedure date being confirmed. How dental referral, review and treatment is managed and communicated is not clear. The objective of this project is to review relevant literature and establish existing evidence for preoperative dental preparation prior to valvular surgery in adults.

Project Aims

The aims of the project are to:

1. Systematically explore the evidence for preoperative dental preparation
2. Develop an integrative review of the literature for publication in the Annals of Thoracic Surgery or the European Journal of Cardiovascular Nursing, premier cardiothoracic surgery journals
3. Use the findings from this review to guide planning the development of a program of research that will
 - a. Inform evidence based clinical nursing practice,

- b. Underpin preoperative practice guideline development and translation,
- c. Underpin preoperative patient education interventions for testing in future research,
- d. Improve patient outcomes by reducing risk associated with preoperative dental treatment

Project Methods

This integrative review of the literature will be conducted in accordance with a modified version of Cooper's five stage integrative review research method reported by Whitemore and Knaffle (2005). This approach involves undertaking a systematic process of problem identification, data collection (search findings), data evaluation and analysis, interpretation and presentation. The research problem will be discussed and the student supervised in developing a research question to underpin the search using the PICO Framework. The student will lead the search, managing search findings, categorising findings by research design, evaluating the quality of the findings and sorting the findings into key themes.

The search strategy will be developed with supervisors and the Blacktown Clinical School Librarian who can support the student in learning advanced literature searching skills. A comprehensive search of the Cochrane Library Database, Medline, PubMed, CINAHL, PsychINFO, Academic Search Complete (EBSCO), Web of Science, Scopus (Elsevier), Proquest, Embase, Health Collection and Grey Literature will be undertaken. The primary supervisor has a review planner template to guide the process for the student and a review checklist to ensure a systematic approach to conducting the review, documenting the search, screening the findings using relevant assessment tools such as PRISMA and managing the findings in Endnote.

Opportunity for Skill Development

The student will have the opportunity to learn the following skills while at the WSNMRC:

1. Participation and Roles in a Research Team
2. How to develop a researchable question using the PICO Framework
3. How to use Search Operators with online resources
4. How to systematically search literature
5. How to use Endnote
6. How to manage search findings in Endnote
7. How to identify elements of research design; experimental, observational, descriptive (qualitative) and systematic reviews.
8. How to critique literature using relevant assessment tools
9. How to categorise findings according to themes and develop a summary table
10. Participation in generating outputs such as a presentation or publication from the study
11. Skills in public speaking and oral presentation via the opportunity to present findings in the clinical setting (Westmead Cardiothoracic Surgery Department), at a WSLHD NMRC Network and Nibbles event, and the SWSLHD Research Showcase in 2020.

Students are required to have the following skills/meet the following pre-requisite(s) to apply

Confidence with accessing library resources, attention to detail, time management skills, the ability to maintain clear consistent communication via progress feedback to the supervisory team and an interest in being an active participant in the translation of study

findings to a broader audience.