RCN Research and Development Co-ordinating Centre


In the first monthly report about the RCN Research and Development Co-ordinating Centre, Dave O’Carroll and Ann McMahon outline its work and highlight some useful research networks.

I N 1998 THE RCN launched its Research and Development (R&D) Co-ordinating Centre, the main focus of which was a website that allows nurses to access extensive R&D-related information on a range of topics (O’Carroll and McMahon 1998). The website is still a prominent feature of the R&D Co-ordinating Centre, but as many nurses still do not have easy access to the internet, these regular reports will ensure the centre meets its primary aim, which is to disseminate up-to-the-minute information on research and practice development to as wide an audience as possible.

RCN research strategy

The website has developed in response to users’ comments, the home page contains general information about the website, its structure, and future development. This month the spotlight is on some of the UK-wide research networks that are listed on the website. More information is available from: The RCN R&D Co-ordinating Centre. School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting University of Manchester, Gateway House Piccadilly, Manchester M60 7LP. Tel: 0161 237 2171 Fax: 0161 237 2620 Email: rcn@man.ac.uk Website: http://www.man.ac.uk/rcn/

Research networks

OVERARCHING NETWORKS

RCN Research Society The RCN research society exists to promote research in nursing and to support
nurses in whatever capacity they work. The concerns
and functions of the RCN Research Society include:
- Promoting good practice in research.
- Working with other groups in recognition that
  research underpins and cuts across all RCN mem-
  bership activity.
- Promoting a research culture and commitment to
  research.
- Disseminating research findings and new under-
  standing about research methods.
- Providing a mechanism for networking among
  group members.
To join the RCN Research Society, phone RCN
Direct: 0345 726 100.

Association for Women in Science and
Engineering
This network aims to advance the par-
ticipation of girls and women in all areas, and at all
levels in the sciences and engineering. Further infor-
mation from the AWiSE National Office, 59 Portland
Place, London W1N 3AJ.
Tel: 01647 221 316. Fax: 01647 221 316.
Email: awise@wellcome.ac.uk

CLINICAL FIELDS OF PRACTICE
Child health
RCN Research in Child Health Network
The aims of the group are to:
- Develop strategies for research in child health nursing.
- Encourage nurses to use research to challenge
  existing practices and to provide evidence for new
  clinical developments.
- Develop a pool of research expertise in the field of
  child health.
The RCN Research in Child Health Network can be contacted as follows: Sarah
Neill, RICH Network Co-ordinator, Centre for
Healthcare Education, Nene University College,
Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust, Billing
Road, Northampton NN1 5BD.
Tel: 01604 434 700 ext. 5468. Fax: 01536 330
445. Email: sarah.neill@nene.ac.uk

Mental health
National Forensic Nurses R&D Group
This aims to promote the contribution of nurses and nursing in
research for the development of forensic mental health care in a wider
multidisciplinary setting. Contact: Dr David Robinson, Senior Nurse Research
and Development, Rampton Hospital, Retford, Notts
DN22 0QP. Tel: 01777 247 245. Fax: 01777 247 221.

Network for Psychiatric Nursing Research
This is a UK-based service which offers a comprehensive
search and information service for health profession­
als and academics working in mental health nursing
research. For further information, please contact:
NPNR, RCN Institute, Radcliffe Infirmary, Woodstock
Road, Oxford OX2 6HE.
Tel: 01865 228 489. Fax: 01865 246 787.
Email: mental.health.network@rcn.org.uk

HIV
National HIV Nurses Association (NHIVNA)
The aims are to provide a national network for all nurses
working in the care of people with HIV throughout the
UK. Contact: NHIVNA, c/o The Foundation of
Nursing Studies, 32 Buckingham Palace Road, London
SW1W 0RE.
Tel: 0171 233 5750. Fax: 0171 233 5759.

Transcultural nursing
Transcultural Nursing and Healthcare Association
To promote awareness of research in Britain and devel­
opments elsewhere in the transcultural issues in health­
care. For membership enquiries contact Christine Hogg,
Lecturer in Nursing, Department of Nursing, University
of Salford, Peel House, Albert Street, Eccles, Manchester
M30 0MM. Tel: 0161 295 5000.
Email: c.hogg@nursing.salford.ac.uk

Primary care
Centre for Community Nursing – University of Hull
The centre was established to provide for the
exchange of ideas and information about community
nursing, and to promote evidence-based community
nursing practice. Contact: College House, East Riding
University of Hull, Beverley Road, Willerby, Hull
HU10 6NS. Tel: 01482 466 987 (Professor Ros
Bryan). Fax: 01482 466 047.

National Primary Care Research & Development
Centre (NPCRDC) The purpose of NPCRDC is to
improve primary and community health care in the
NHS through the generation, dissemination
and application of knowledge and ideas relevant to
the funding, organisation and delivery of health ser­
vices. Contact Maria Cairney on Tel: 0161 275
7633. Fax: 0161 275 7600.
Email: maria.cairney@man.ac.uk

APPLIED RESEARCH
Collaborative Action Research Network (CARN)
This network involves professional practitioners in a
process of generating and testing new forms of
action, enabling them to reconstruct the theories that
guide their practice. From an action research per­
spective, professional practice is a form of research
and vice versa. Contact: Lucila Recart, CARN, Centre
for Applied Research in Education, University of East
Anglia, Norwich NR4 7TJ.

CLINICAL RESEARCH
Clinical Research Nurses Association (CRNA)
This association supports nurses interested or involved in
any form of research that relates to patient or client
organisation and aims to provide an organisation to dissem­
inate research findings. Contact: Karen Lowton,
Membership Secretary, 28 Warrford Road, Chelsfield,
Kent BR6 6LV.

Association for Clinical Research in the
Pharmaceutical Industry (ACRPI) Formed in 1978
to provide a forum for both education and sharing of
best practice among clinical research professionals.
Contact: Judi Reader, ACRPI, PO Box 1208,
Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 3GD.
Tel: 01628 829900. Fax: 01628 829922.
Email: info@acrpi.com

PRACTICE DEVELOPMENT
National Lecturer Practitioner Forum
This forum aims to establish and maintain a national database of
lecturer practitioners and to create the opportunity
for networking and information exchange. Contact:
Pat Fairbrother, University of Sheffield, School of
Nursing and Midwifery, Winter Street, Sheffield S3
7ND. Tel: 0114 222 5779.
Email: p.m.fairbrother@sheffield.ac.uk