FIND THE EVIDENCE, MAKE IT WORK

Research chairs appointed by the Florence Nightingale Foundation show that practice and academia do mix

Florence Nightingale Foundation (FNF) chief executive Elizabeth Robb says that when she joined the organisation in 2010, the largest number of applications for its awards were concerned with scholarly activities – an aspect of its work the foundation needed to increase its capacity in.

She recalls: ‘I felt there was an opportunity to develop foundation chairs in clinical nursing research who can increase the capacity for research and improve patient care.’

Four chairs in nursing have now been appointed.

‘The foundation trustees see this as a virtual faculty of expert clinical researchers in practice,’ says Professor Robb.

Christi Deaton was appointed to the FNF chair at Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and the University of Cambridge. She qualified as a nurse in the US and worked in many roles before becoming professor of nursing at the University of Manchester and University Hospital of South Manchester NHS Foundation Trust where she led a cardiovascular disease and diabetes research team.

‘As an undergraduate I became interested in research, reviewing evidence for practice and research to improve patient care.’

Professor Deaton is developing research ability among nurses and midwives at her trust. ‘We are chipping away at the old idea of nurses being inactive in research.’

Angela Tod is the first FNF chair in north west England. Currently professor of health services research at Sheffield Hallam University, she has specialised in capturing patient experience in cardiology and obesity, and chairs the National Lung Cancer Forum for Nurses Research Interest Group. ‘In this innovative post, I will be supported by three organisations, the University of Manchester School of Nursing, Midwifery and Social Work, the FNF and Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust,’ explains Professor Tod. ‘I have always been committed to conducting research that can be applied to patient care, nursing and healthcare organisations.’

Since taking up her post as FNF chair of clinical nursing practice research at London South Bank University (LSBU) and University College London Hospitals (UCLH) NHS Foundation Trust, Leslie Baillie has been supporting the research capability of nurses. Earlier this year, UCLH introduced a nursing

**Support network** The RCN peer support network brings together injured, ill and disabled RCN members to help members make mutually supportive connections with peers. Network members include retired nurses who wish to maintain links in the profession, those recently experiencing disability, members who were injured at work, nurses with mental ill health problems and those with an interest in occupational health and/or disability rights. Membership is free and there is also an online peer support discussion zone. Enquiries to mss@rcn.org.uk

**Heart disease** The British Heart Foundation (BHF) has set up a membership network to help raise the standard of care for people with cardiovascular disease (CVD). The BHF Alliance will support practitioners working with people affected by or at risk of CVD by sharing best practice and developing skills. There will be learning opportunities and peer support, mentorship and advice. tinyurl.com/BHFAlliance

**Leadership** GenerationQ is a part-time, fully funded leadership programme for senior leaders in healthcare policy and practice, and the charity sector. The programme, run by the Health Foundation, creates a network of people who can improve quality beyond their immediate sphere of influence. It is delivered with Ashridge Business School and Unipart Expert Practices. Participants gain a postgraduate certificate in leadership (quality improvement) from Ashridge Business School with the option of completing a master’s degree. Applications close on July 15. tinyurl.com/HFGenQ