

Faculty Research Week

July 2008 Program

Day One – Tuesday 15 July

8.30 – 9.00 **Tea and Coffee**

Plenary Session

9.00 – 10.00 Professor John Daly

10.00 - 10.30 **Morning Tea**

Workshop Sessions

10.30 – 11.00	Michael Roche	Jann Foster
11.00 - 11.30	Tom Buckley	Suellen Allen
11.30 – 12.00	Julia Poole	Sally-Anne Brown
12.00 – 12.30	Andrew Moors	Lynn Sinclair

12.30 – 1.30 **Lunch**

1.30 – 2.30 **Doctoral Assessment**

Dianne Wepa

Workshop Sessions

2.30 – 3.00	Laurel Hixon	Nihaya Al-Sheyab
3.00 – 3.30	Colette Blockley	Kefalotse Dithole
3.30 – 4.00	Chanel Burke	

3.30 – 4.30 **Student meeting – Bachelor Honours students**

4.00 – 5.00 **Student meeting – PhD students**

Plenary Session

Professor John Daly

Building capacity for nursing and midwifery research in Australia: Some issues and challenges

This presentation will include an analysis of the current status of research in nursing and midwifery in Australia, barriers and facilitators to building and sustaining capacity and strategies underway to enhance and further develop capacity.

Professor Daly is the recently appointed Dean of the Faculty. He began his academic career at UTS 23 years ago, at the then NSW Institute of Technology. Since this time he has built an international reputation and published extensively in research fields spanning cardiovascular health, palliative care and aged care.

Professor Daly is the Chair of the Council of Deans of Nursing and Midwifery (Australia and New Zealand); Deputy Chair/Chair Elect of the Global Alliance for Nursing Education and Scholarship; and an appointed member of the Nurses and Midwives Board, New South Wales (a nominee of the NSW Minister for Health). He is also an Adjunct Professor with the University of Texas, El Paso, USA as well as with James Cook University, Queensland, and is an Adjunct Research Fellow at Curtin University, Western Australia. Professor Daly was an invited participant in the Federal Government's recent Australia 2020 Summit, chosen to help shape the national health strategy.

Before his appointment as Dean of the Faculty of Nursing, Midwifery and Health at UTS, Professor Daly was Head of the School of Nursing at the University of Western Sydney. He has recently been awarded the title of Emeritus Professor by the University of Western Sydney in recognition of his significant contributions to the university's work.

Workshop Sessions

Michael Roche – PhD: Nursing

Christine Duffield & Edward White

Sampling and Access Issues in the Mental Health Nursing Work Environment Study

This investigation is an exploratory quantitative study into factors present in the work environment of inpatient mental health nurses in New South Wales, Australia. The study examines the relationship of these factors with the capacity of nurses to engage therapeutically with patients. In many nursing settings, factors in the work environment such as autonomy, leadership, relationships with doctors, resource adequacy, skill mix and workload have been linked to changed outcomes for nurses and their patients. Similar work is rare in mental health nursing. This paper will discuss issues of sampling, access and response that influence this and other studies that seek to obtain survey responses from nurses working in the hospital ward environment.

The Implementation of Nurse Practitioner Roles in New South Wales

In 1991, New South Wales (NSW) was the first state in Australia to consider the potential for the nurse practitioner (NP) role. The NP title was guaranteed protection following NSW Amendment (Nurse Practitioner) Act 1998. In December 2000, the first two NPs were authorised by the Nurses Registration Board of NSW. The advent of the NP role in Australia signified an historic development with the expansion to the scope of professional nursing practice.

A descriptive exploratory study is currently being undertaken to explore the development and implementation of the role in NSW.

Data were obtained using individual in-depth interviews with pioneer nurse practitioners and key stakeholders and document review. Key historical events that shaped the NP role in NSW were also recorded as they evolved during the course of the research. Some preliminary findings from the research will be presented.

Tom Buckley – PhD: Nursing *Final presentation*

Sharon McKinley, Geoff Tofler & Roger Bartrop

Evaluation of Cardiovascular Health in Bereavement

This study links a growing body of evidence supporting psychosocial stress as a risk factor for cardiovascular disease. Bereavement is a major stress that has both chronic manifestations that can lead into depression, and acute sequelae. In the 6 months post-bereavement, an increased risk of acute myocardial infarction (AMI) or sudden cardiac death has been previously reported. However, although bereavement is experienced by most individuals at least once, often by older individuals already at increased cardiac risk, the physiological changes occurring acutely with bereavement have not been well studied. Thus, the mechanisms related to increased acute cardiovascular risk are poorly understood, and there is little information to guide the care of bereaved during this known high risk period.

This study of bereavement aims to describe physiological changes (hemodynamic, haemostatic, inflammatory), psychological state (anxiety, depression and anger) and lifestyle changes (diet, smoking and alcohol consumption) in recently bereaved spouses/partners or parents that may result in acute cardiovascular events. The relationships between psychological state and physiological changes will be described to identify the most at risk and identify differences between anticipated and unanticipated bereavement.

Suellen Allen – PhD: Midwifery

Caroline Homer & Mary Chiarella

Understanding the safety culture in a NSW maternity service

Adverse events resulting in harm to women and babies are relatively common but often avoidable events in maternity care. Literature suggests it's necessary to understand an organisation's safety culture to make improvements to safety. There's little knowledge about the safety culture in the Australian maternity setting. This knowledge gap is the basis for a PhD study. This study aims to describe and to identify whether measuring the safety culture within a maternity service is a useful method to develop strategies to improve the safety culture.

This presentation will focus on the qualitative data I have collected for this study. This will include my experiences and the things that I have learnt about how to manage and write up the qualitative data.

Julia Poole – PhD: Nursing

Sharon McKinley, Lynn Chenoweth & Sarah Hilmer

Was the analysis the easy part?

The results have been analysed from a before and after eighteen-month intervention action research study, focussing on patients with dementia. The patient groups were well matched and there was a significant difference in the after intervention group in the use of one-to-one nurses, the availability of a communication aid and in the pharmacological management of pain.

The nursing groups were fairly well matched and the after intervention group showed a trend for more specific dementia or aged care education and a significantly higher rate for delirium education. However, there was little change in expressed strain in the care of delirium, levels of burnout and knowledge of dementia. There was a trend towards improved use of social interactions with patients in the after intervention period and the relatives, though unaware of these efforts, were mostly satisfied with the care. Why so little change?

Sally-Anne Brown – PhD: Midwifery

Sally Tracy

Capturing a process of activism: A community of remote rural women working together to influence local birthing services through participatory action research

The research project explores the experiences of a group of women affected by the routine practice of transfer from a remote rural community to regional and metropolitan settings to give birth. This practice contravenes the numerous government reports that have recommended one-to-one midwifery care be provided in local community settings for the majority of women, highlighting the need for this care to be implemented across remote rural Australia.

The loss of a local maternity service resulted in this group of women reclaiming their local birthing services through a series of community initiatives. As a researcher I was embedded in this participatory action research process and fully engaged in the cycles of community activism that ensued. The primary focus for this presentation is an overview of the qualitative data and thematic content analysis undertaken to date in this participatory action research project. The women identified major themes and sub themes including the concept of power and control of birth and the themes of political activism, community, culture and reclamation.

Andrew Moors – PhD: Nursing

Jane Stein-Parbury & Diana Slade

Metonymy in the language of mental health nursing: a cognitive linguistic description

Language is an important tool for mental health nurses. Nurses need to be aware of the impact of the language they use with clients. They also need to be attuned to the language clients use to describe their experiences. Fifty years ago Peplau drew attention to the way language reshapes experience, but currently there is an under-emphasis on the importance of language in the preparation of undergraduate nurses.

Metonymy is a figurative language process, where one term is substituted for another, the relationship between the terms being *A stands for B*. Cognitive linguists have demonstrated that metonymy is an integral process in everyday language. It can make communication more economic, but it can also alter how meanings are understood. My work will explore the therapeutic potential of closely attending to metonymy in nursing communication.

The House That Lynn Built

I began this research journey with some questions around the optimal level and duration of incubator humidity in the management of preterm infants and its effect on clinically important outcomes. Much of the work over the last semester has included the writing up of initial chapters, the presentation of findings of the Cochrane systematic review at a perinatal scientific meeting and the preparation of a manuscript for publication.

This session will present the work within the 'Homing Device' framework developed by Cheryle Moss, Jackie Crisp and Maralyn Foureur and presented by Cheryle at Faculty Research Week last year.

Doctoral Assessment

Dianne Wepa – PhD Nursing

Cheryl Waters & Michael Carey

The internationalisation of the concept of cultural safety in under-graduate nursing education

Although the concept of cultural safety is not the product of academic theorising, it is grounded in reflections of nurses that have contributed to positive change in the health system of New Zealand. It has captured the imagination of the nursing profession's quest for a new way of working with difference or otherness. It is at the same time unique, and limiting as a critical concept.

Nevertheless educators from Canada and Australia have expressed a keen interest in its implementation within under-graduate nursing programmes. Using a Foucauldian-inspired approach this study will investigate the processes involved in their interest. This presentation is an account of the concept's evolution, my story, justification for a complex method such as Foucault, and ethical considerations including resource implications.

Workshop Sessions

Laurel Hixon – PhD: Health Services

Lynn Chenoweth & Christine Duffield

Predicting service variation in community aged care: The relative roles of client characteristics, client preferences and deliver system characteristics

This thesis examines whether there is an equitable distribution of community aged care services in New South Wales. Put another way, if the allocation of community care services is related to client characteristics and preferences or driven by other factors such as service capacity or case manager characteristics.

There is some evidence that service “architecture,” is a significant variable in explaining service variation. Data from my “Community Aged Care Service Capacity Mapping” grant will be presented. Future data collection will include client characteristics and preferences, and case manager characteristics.

There will be great public policy interest in research that furthers our understanding of equity in the distribution of community aged care sector as “The Way Forward” voiced concern over this issue but without providing a way of implementing reform.

Nihaya Al-Sheyab – PhD: Nursing

Robyn Gallagher & Jackie Crisp

Peer-led asthma education for adolescents in Jordanian schools: results of a cluster randomized controlled trial

A cluster randomized controlled trial with a sample of 251 students with asthma was conducted in four high schools in Jordan to examine the effectiveness of a peer-led asthma education program on quality of life, knowledge of asthma self-management, and self-efficacy to resist smoking among adolescents with asthma. Asthmatic students in the intervention schools reported significant improvements on all outcomes. This trial highlights the potential for using a school-based peer-led approach in changing health-related behaviours among adolescents.

Colette Blockley – PhD: Nursing

Lynn Chenoweth & Sue Nagy

Colette Blockley's '10 commandments of interviewing'

One of the most common methods of gathering data in the social sciences is by interviewing. Nurses are experienced interviewers. Frequently in the course of our work we interview patients, their families, staff and students, often gaining intimate and sensitive information from people at their most vulnerable and within minutes of meeting them. Therefore one would assume that an experienced nurse would not make common mistakes when interviewing participants for her PhD research. Unfortunately not so.

This presentation provides an overview of the interviewing errors I made in the course of seeking information from people who had survived a poor prognosis cancer. What I learnt, how I remedied my errors and advice to new researchers is presented.

The effect of changing communication strategies in intensive care in Botswana on psychological outcomes

Studies have shown that nurses do not communicate effectively with mechanically ventilated patients and that the way they communicate could contribute to patients' psychological trauma. Communication in critical care is reported to be mostly instructional. In most cases nurses do not assess patients' communication nor consider patients' preferences for the choice of communication methods. It is evident that patients need to be orientated, reassured of their progress and be given information with explanation on nursing activities and treatment. On the basis of these findings, investigators recommend communication skills training to enable nurses to understand the importance of communication in reduction of psychological problems. Since psychological problems have affect on the health related quality of life of patients during ICU and after discharge, this study will evaluate the effect of nurse -patient interaction on outcomes as well as the effect of communication on nurse patient interaction.

Chanel Burke – PhD: Nursing

Lynn Chenoweth & Jane Stein-Parbury

Development of the Person-Centred Environment and Care Assessment Tool. The Next step: A Delphi process

Development of the Person-Centred Environment and Care Assessment Tool (*Tool*) has occur over the last two years. The aim of the *Tool* is to assist staff working in residential aged care to assess whether their service has the necessary conditions in place to support person-centred care, and if service provision is person-centred according to Kitwood's (1997) principles. In developing the *Tool* a Delphi panel is being conducted to provide opportunity for expert aged care nurses, health care professionals and researchers to consider the relevance, suitability and acceptability of the *Tool* and the accompanying Guidelines to the Person-Centred Environment and Care Assessment Tool. The review process will continue until the panel members come to a consensus on the questions and scoring system in the Tool prior to its testing in 60 residential aged care services across New South Wales.

Faculty Research Week

July 2008 Program

Day Two – Wednesday 16 July

8.30 – 9.00 **Tea and Coffee**

Workshop

9.00 – 10.30 Associate Professor Marg Fry

10.30 – 11.00 **Morning Tea**

Workshop Sessions

11.00 – 11.30 Soheila Jadidi Jan Wheeler

11.30 – 12.00 Katie Sullivan Betsy Graham

12.00 – 12.30 Rachel Smith Cathy Dickson

12.30 – 1.30 **Lunch**

Workshop Sessions

1.30 – 2.00 Ann Stewart Nancy Buasi

2.00 – 2.30 Lois Berry

2.00 – 3.00 **Student meeting – Professional Doctorate Students**

2.30 – 3.30 **Student meeting – Masters (Honours) students**

Workshop

Associate Professor Marg Fry

Why publish? (Is it worth the effort?!)

This workshop will cover different aspects of publishing for research degree students, including the reasons for publishing, how to begin an article and where and how to publish it once written. Additionally, the workshop will cover the ethics involved in publishing (including co-authorship) and what to expect after you submit. This is a very important topic for research degree students and this workshop will provide practical advice and strategies, based on experience.

Workshop Sessions

Soheila Jadidi – Master of Midwifery (Honours)

Maralyn Foureur & Caroline Homer

Women's expectations, knowledge, experiences and attitudes towards induction of labour

Induction of labour is defined as an intervention designed to artificially initiate uterine contractions leading to progressive dilatation and effacement of the cervix and birth of the baby. Induction of labour is one of the most common obstetric interventions and its rate has been rising.

The purpose of this study is to explore women's expectations and experience of induction and their knowledge of the reasons for induction; process, risks and outcomes of induction of labour. A quantitative methodology will be employed by using a pre and post induction survey. This presentation will discuss the study design and the data collection method.

Katie Sullivan – Master of Midwifery (Honours)

Lin Lock & Caroline Homer

What are the factors which contribute to midwives staying in midwifery?

Understanding the attitudes and beliefs of registered practising midwives, and the ways in which to retain them in midwifery, is essential in achieving an effective workforce. In my Master of Midwifery I am studying the factors which contribute to midwives in one area health service in New South Wales (NSW) staying in midwifery and will provide information on useful and effective strategies to improve the retention of these midwives.

Rachel Smith – Master of Midwifery (Honours)

Caroline Homer & Pat Brodie

Credentialling Midwives

This presentation will provide an overview of the descriptive exploratory research project that examines the experiences of midwives who undertake the mandatory credentialling process in New South Wales. This project is part of my Masters (Hons) degree. The presentation will discuss the chosen methodology, means of data collection and preliminary analysis of the data.

Exploring the Effects of a Pilonidal Sinus Wound on the Individuals' Activities of Living

A pilonidal sinus is a tract under the skin usually found in the sacrococcygeal area. It mostly occurs in males between puberty and forty years of age and frequently requires surgery which often results in delayed wound healing and recurrences. The related literature has been mostly technical and not addressed the individuals' experiences. The aim of the study was to describe the effects a sacrococcygeal pilonidal sinus wound has on the activities of living for 11 individuals. An interpretive descriptive approach was used to assist in a better understanding of the problems surrounding the condition and determine the most appropriate way to assist these people. Interviews have been completed and qualitative content analysis of the interview text is underway. Three themes have emerged from the data: Adaption, Perception and Control.

Lois Berry – Master of Midwifery (Honours)

Lin Lock & Caroline Homer

The challenges of studying at a distance

The experience of studying at UTS whilst living at a distance from the university has presented both unique opportunities and challenges.

In this presentation I will give a brief overview of my research on gestational diabetes mellitus, however, the focus of the session will be the challenges of study/research at a distance and the strategies I have found to be helpful in managing these challenges.

As a group I would like to explore and discuss the ways others have managed their research/study journey.

Jan Wheeler – Doctor of Midwifery

Pat Brodie & Caroline Homer

Midwifery clinical practice interventions and perineal trauma in Asian women experiencing spontaneous vaginal birth

No studies have been found that focus on midwifery clinical practices in relation to Asian ethnicity and perineal integrity for normal labour and vaginal birth. This ethnographic study aims to bridge this knowledge gap by examining shared patterns of behaviour, beliefs, language and values within a specific social context, in order to facilitate understanding.

Current progress to date: Ethics approval; accessing and becoming familiar with the research site; recruitment of Midwives and pregnant women; observation in the birthing room setting and attempting to organise myself.

Potential topics for discussion: What do you document in a study diary? 'Insider' 'Outsider' positioning - relating to participants in the field. Field note documentation during observational sessions – what do you write? When to commence interviews with Midwives? What clothes do you wear in the research setting?

Your input regarding the above topics would be appreciated.

Retaining an Ageing Nursing Workforce: what are the factors which would encourage older nurses to remain in the workforce

In the next 10 years, the nursing workforce while growing, will not keep pace with the growth of the general population. At the same time, the nursing workforce is ageing resulting in an increasing exodus of older nurses. Retention of older nurses may ameliorate increased workforce loss, but there is little research related to this particularly in Australia.

A questionnaire study exploring with older registered nurses in NSW, issues relating to their employment and future plans has identified that the majority of participants will be retiring by 60 years of age and this will occur within the next 10 years. However the vast majority indicated that they could be encouraged to remain for 2 to 5 years longer if several workplace issues were addressed. There is potential for health service managers to review policy in support of the retention of older nurses.

Cathy Dickson – Doctor of Nursing

Lin Lock & Michael Carey

Researching your own students: The Power and the Passion

It is important to consider that in the conduct of any research informing clinical practice as a component of nursing education, involving nursing students as participants is essential.

Historically, undergraduate students in many disciplines have been seen as ideal participants in research studies conducted by their lecturers. The students' time was often rewarded by inducements such as extra marks, or admonishments for non participation such as a fail grade. Apparently, student participants were not identified as being a vulnerable population, or as lacking autonomy in the researcher/participant relationship. Ethical dilemmas, however, arise within research design. These include where the researcher is known to the students as their lecturer and those arising because the researcher is identified as having a dual role or a position of dual agency

Ethical issues involved in this dual role will be discussed in relation to; informed consent, confidentiality/anonymity freedom from harm/fair treatment and unequal power relationships.

Nancy Buasi – Doctor of Midwifery

Caroline Homer & Nicky Leap

The Implementation of Support in Labour Utilising Practice Development

“Practice development is a continuous process of developing person centred cultures. It is enabled by facilitators who work with teams to blend personal qualities and creative imaginations with practice skills, practice wisdom and an evolving authentic self. Learning through engagement with body, heart, mind and soul brings about transformations of self and work practices. This is sustained by embedding both processes and outcomes in corporate strategy”(McCormack, Manley et al. 2004).

Support in labour has been proven by researchers globally to have so many benefits. The benefits include, less use of analgesics, shorter length of labour, fewer epidurals, caesarean sections and a positive birth experience by birthing women.

The study therefore aims to implement support in labour at the Port Moresby General Hospital using practice development.