

# NEWSLETTER

## *Research Utilization in Nursing*



This is the first issue of our project bulletin. We will compile and distribute information about the progress of our study, and its future directions on a regular basis. This first issue will briefly describe the project and some of its recent activities.

### PROJECT UPDATE

Recently, we have completed a "blitz" of collecting quantitative data on three of the four units. Data was collected on nursing workload, environmental complexity, unit characteristics, and pain management.

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION



The underlying question in this study is: What influences nurses' use of research or knowledge? Specifically, how do we increase research use to improve patient outcomes?

Pain is being used as the clinical context because it is a good example of the issues and problems associated with research use. This area also provides us with a well-developed body of knowledge and a specific context from which to study research use in the practice setting.

Our Research Associates, Shannon Scott-Findlay (Edmonton), Fay Warnock (Edmonton), and Elaine Gort (Toronto), have been on your nursing units over the past weeks to months. They are present to observe the daily activities of your unit, to understand your workload, and to gain nurses' and other health care professionals' perspectives on pain and its management. Overall, they will try to understand if and how research influences nurses' practice.

### WHAT'S NEXT?



In the upcoming weeks, we hope to resume data collection on the second Toronto unit.

Research Associates will begin to interview nurses and other health care professionals in a more focused way about their views on using research. At the same time, they will continue to observe nurses and ask questions about their clinical practice and the kinds of knowledge they need for practice.

### RESEARCH CORNER



The Pediatric Pain list serve is a good resource for 'new information' and updates in the pediatric pain field. You can post questions and get advice on pain-related topics. This list is open to anyone with interest or expertise in the area. Messages sent by a subscriber are forwarded to everyone on the list.

To subscribe, email [MAILSERV@ac.dal.ca](mailto:MAILSERV@ac.dal.ca) with "subscribe PEDIATRIC-PAIN" in the first line of your message. To unsubscribe, send "unsubscribe PEDIATRIC-PAIN" in the first line.



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### **THANK-YOU!**

The Research Associates and everyone here on the research team would like to extend a big thank-you to all patients and staff involved during this period of data collection. Since each of you is crucial to this project's success, your support and participation is greatly appreciated. **THANK YOU!**

As far as we know this is the first nursing study of this kind to try to understand how your environment and the way your work is structured affects how you use information for practice. With your input, we hope to learn more about how nurses can use research in their practice.

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

If you have any questions about the project, please feel free to ask the Research Associate on your unit. You can also contact:

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