Nursing and Midwifery Research
2010 - 2011
Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery
Welcome Message

Internationally there has been much discussion and strategic thinking about maximising the nursing and midwifery contribution to research with an aim of supporting evidence based practice. As the greatest number of health professionals employed in health services, what nurses and midwives do and how they do it directly influences the cost and the quality of patient care and ultimately the patient’s experience of the health services.

In RCSI, nursing and midwifery has a long history of research participation and today enjoys much success with competitive grant and funding opportunities through the Health Research Board (HRB) and other health service funding agencies. Through a comprehensive, ambitious strategy, the faculty has built up a critical mass of research studies which reflect a collaborative and interdisciplinary approach.

Funding and infrastructure through the RCSI Centre for Nursing and Midwifery Research is central to success and to this end the centre is dependent not only on the execution of research projects but also on vision and forward strategic planning.

Appropriate education programmes on research are essential to consolidating good research practices. In a European context the faculty education programme for Clinical Research Nurses is unique and alongside a range of other post graduate education modules on advanced research methods it represents a significant commitment to developing future generations of nurses for research related activities.

I would like to commend faculty staff, post graduate students and health services partners for their commitment to advancing the nursing and midwifery research agenda.

Professor Seamus Cowman
Head of Department

Mission statement of Centre for Nursing and Midwifery Research

To contribute to the improved health and quality of life of the individual through the conduct of rigorous, high quality, collaborative research which is informed by the bedside and translated into improved patient outcomes.
Developing Best Practice for Day Surgery in Ireland: a consensus approach

Study Team: Prof. S. Cowman (Principal Investigator) RCSI; Dr. G. Gethin RCSI; Mr. E. Mulligan Connolly Hospital and RCSI; Prof. T. Walsh Connolly Hospital and RCSI; Prof. M. Wiley ESRI; Dr. A. Brick ESRI; Dr. B. Meshkat (MD student for this study) Connolly Hospital and RCSI; Mr. E. Clarke RCSI; Mr. K. Tangney RCSI; Ms. E. Daly Connolly Hospital.

Funding: HRB Health Research Awards 2010-2013.

Aims: To achieve, through consensus and international best practice recommendations, trackable, measurable standards, which can be implemented, assessed and evaluated in day surgery in Ireland.

Methods: A mixed methodological approach supported by an action research framework and process redesign has been utilised. A stepwise approach takes the study through a series of rational and deliberate steps in order to achieve the study aims. The steps involve: describing the current practice of day surgery through a national survey and medical chart review (completed); developing a national consensus on what are the standards for the process of quality day surgery through an eDelphi study (completed); implementing these standards in a pilot site; analysing the outcomes from the pilot site through comparison of activity rates with non pilot sites, patient satisfaction, adverse events and economic assessment.

Progress to date: Part one (describing current practice) has been completed and findings published (see pg 15) and presented at conferences. Part two (developing standards for day surgery) has been completed and prepared for publication. Part three (implementing best practice) will commence in January 2012.

Epidemiology of Lymphoedema in Ireland

Study Team: Dr. G. Gethin (Principal investigator) RCSI; Prof. S. Tierney (Co-Principal investigator) RCSI and AMNCH Tallaght; Ms. B. Treston (4th year medical student) Trinity College Dublin; Ms. M. Prendergast AMNCH Tallaght; Ms. H. Strapp AMNCH Tallaght; Prof. S. Cowman RCSI.

Funding: Unrestricted research grant Fannin Ireland.

Lymphoedema is a chronic, debilitating, incurable condition which has a profound impact on the quality of life of the individual. Data on prevalence rates are lacking and consequently the impact of this condition on service provision and clinical practice cannot be determined. This study aims to determine the prevalence of lymphoedema in Ireland. The prevalence of lymphoedema and quality of life among persons attending vascular and wound management services in AMNCH Tallaght has been completed and the findings published (see pg 15). Recently the prevalence of lymphoedema among persons with diabetic foot disease has been completed and has reported a rate five times higher than in the previous study. Results are being prepared for publication and presented at the Conference of the Wound Management Association of Ireland. Further research in this area is being planned.
European Study of Violence Management in Mental Health Services

Study Team: Prof. S. Cowman RCSI; Prof. R. Almvik, St. Olavs University Hospital, Norway, Chair of European Violence in Psychiatry Research Group (EViPRG); Dr. G. Gethin RCSI; Mr. E. Clarke RCSI.

Violence towards staff represents a major challenge in mental health services. Currently, there are no recognised or standardised approaches to staff education and training in violence management and prevention. There is no understanding of different methods and processes employed across Europe. Equally, there is no agreed research agenda or determination of priorities for investigatory work into violence. This study aims to determine, from a European perspective, the priority areas for future research and education in the management of patient violence in mental health services and in addition to identify patterns and trends across the EU in approaches to the management of violence in mental health services.

The study will be completed through a three round online eDelphi approach. The study has been translated into ten languages and includes representatives from seventeen countries. Data collection has commenced and analysis of round one is currently at an advanced stage.

Research Priorities for Clinical Nurse / Midwife Specialist Sexual Assault Nursing

Funding Source: National Council for the Professional Development of Nursing and Midwifery.

The CN/MS (Sexual Assault Forensic Examination) is a new nursing/midwifery speciality and the first eight nurses/midwives have graduated from a specialist education programme at the RCSI in 2009. The CN/MS (Sexual Assault Forensic Examination) are based in the six Sexual Assault Treatment Units (SATUs) in the Republic of Ireland, which are situated in Galway, Waterford, Mullingar, Letterkenny, Cork and Dublin.

A research roundtable was held in October 2010 with the aim of identifying what the key issues for research were under the three headings of patient/client issues; professional issues and health promotion issues. It also aimed to provide an opportunity for this group to come together and network and form professional links. The key research issues for this group were primarily focused on service needs and service analysis. Delegates were interested to determine if the current service is meeting the needs of patients/clients and understanding means through which improvements could be made. In addition, the impact of the sexual assault treatment units on patient/client outcomes needs to be assessed. Delegates also identified the need to raise awareness of sexual assault and of the sexual assault treatment units. The outcomes of the day have been presented to relevant stakeholders and will guide further research in this area.
Role of the Clinical Nurse Specialist in Cancer Care

Study Team: Prof. S. Cowman RCSI; Dr. G. Gethin RCSI; Ms. M. O’Neill RCSI; Ms. S. Lawrence RCSI; Ms. K. Kinsella RCSI; Ms. A. Lavelle St. Luke’s Hospital; Ms. A. Roberts St. Luke’s Hospital.

Funding Source: St. Luke’s Hospital, Cancer Research Fund.

Completed between 2010 and 2011, this mixed methods study generated valuable insights on the role of the Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) in Cancer care. The study showed that the CNS in cancer care is an active member of the multi-disciplinary team and provides specialist nursing care to patients across a range of diagnostic groups at different stages of their treatment plan. These highly trained, knowledgeable and enthusiastic specialist nurses have a clear goal of providing quality patient care through patient education, advice and support, co-ordination of care and follow up post discharge. They are actively engaged in on-going continuous professional development. This study provides policy decision makers with important insights and understandings in formulating nursing developments in cancer care and makes explicit the central and pivotal role of the CNS in the delivery of cancer services.

Describing the Role of the Nurse in Radiation Oncology

Study Team: Prof. S. Cowman RCSI; Dr. G. Gethin RCSI; Ms. M. O’Neill RCSI; Ms. K. Leonard St. Luke’s Hospital; Ms. W. Fair St. Luke’s Hospital; Ms. A. Murphy St. Luke’s Hospital; and steering group members St. Luke’s Hospital.

Funding Source: St. Luke’s Hospital, Cancer Research Fund.

The expectations and demands of patients/clients receiving cancer care and cancer care services are shifting. A significant factor in support of such changes is the creative use of nursing and midwifery expertise and a more effective utilisation of nurses and midwives experience and skills. The participants in this study are highly educated, experienced groups of professionals with a clear goal of providing quality patient care through education, knowledge and support. They have clearly articulated a desire to harness the expertise gained within this specialism and develop this into the future through continuous professional development. There is potential to develop nurse-led services within the discipline of radiation oncology. Such services could play a central role in symptom assessment and symptom management, early recognition and management of side effects. Long term side effects of radiotherapy could be monitored through this service.
The Introduction of E-Portfolio in Nursing and Midwifery Education.

Study Team: Prof. S. Cowman; Ms. S. Lawrence; Ms. C. Watson; Mr. E. Clarke; Prof. M. Carney RCSI; Dr. K. Mac Lellan, Ms. C. Hughes NCNM.

Funding Source: National Council for the Professional Development of Nursing and Midwifery.

This study aimed to develop a prototype e-portfolio for qualified nurses and midwives that would facilitate their learning and serve as a resource for their subsequent career development and to evaluate this e-portfolio.

It was determined that the prototype web-based e-portfolio to be used by nurses and midwives would have two principle functions, namely: to serve as a channel or medium for completing the requirements of an academic programme (i.e., the Certificate in Nursing (Nurse and Midwife Prescribing), and to form the basis of a continuous record of continuing professional development.

Participants in the study found the e-portfolio easy to navigate and well organised, and that it enabled them to save information in a more structured and secure format than previously available. A majority of the participants perceived themselves to be insufficiently proficient in the use of electronically formatted learning materials, and many indicated they would be willing to continue using an e-portfolio for recording their professional development. The findings indicated that there were restrictions in the workplace in relation to access to and use of computers and IT resources.

The findings indicate that there is a willingness among nurses and midwives to engage with ICT and that they recognise its benefits as a tool for learning and teaching, especially in relation to the objectives of a specific education programme. In order to promote and expedite the use of e-portfolios and ICT resources by nurses and midwives, especially those working in the front-line of healthcare delivery, these resources should be provided in a structured and an easy to navigate format.

Dying to Breathe: A Conversation at the Crossroads of Respiratory and Palliative Nursing Care – An Action Research Project

Principal Investigator: Dr. G. Hynes RCSI.

The aim of the project was to develop respiratory nursing practice to address palliative care needs of patients with advanced COPD. This action research project was two-phased in which phase one incorporated structured and qualitative interviews to identify palliative care needs of patients with advanced COPD who were receiving hospital-based care. The second phase was a cooperative inquiry, which is a form of action research. The inquiry sought to make sense of respiratory nursing practice and with the findings from the first phase, to develop an understanding of palliative COPD care in a hospital environment. Integrated analysis of health status and qualitative themes pointed to the interplay of physical and emotional distress, and lifeworld and explanatory responses. For the patient participants, basic everyday
activities were dominated and severely curtailed by breathlessness and overwhelming anxiety. This resulted in an ever contracting world and loss of personhood. Patients experienced frequent admissions, sometimes for relatively long periods and were regular attendants to OPD. This translated into often long term relationships with the respiratory members of the Clinical group. Conflicting disease and illness oriented care narratives in which the former was dominant underscored the local moral world of nursing.

Stroke: Paving the Way to Integrated Care

Study Team: Ms. M. O’Neill (Principal Investigator) RCSI; Prof. S. Cowman RCSI; Prof. D. Williams RCSI.

The Irish National Audit of Stroke (2008) found substantial deficits in stroke services and recommended the development of comprehensive stroke services throughout the country. Moreover, the Irish national nursing home survey of stroke found little structured care for nursing home residents with stroke even though one in six residents had a stroke diagnosis. This study aims to record, describe and develop a greater understanding of the experiences of stroke patients who were admitted to the Stroke Unit and discharged home for follow-up rehabilitation by the Community Rehabilitation Team (CRT) as well as the experiences of their carers. This will build on the results of the preliminary work completed by O’Neill et al., (2009) (see pg 15) which examined the stroke patient journey from hospital admission to discharge.

A qualitative research design will be used for data collection and analysis. Gaining insights and a greater understanding of the experience of stroke patients and their carers will provide valuable knowledge about the issues and concerns that arise when patients are discharged home. The findings will inform the multidisciplinary team in the development of stroke services across care settings. A Stroke Nursing Steering Group will be established to guide the on-going development of the study.

Perspectives and Experiences of Patient Autonomy at End of Life: A Qualitative Study with Patients, Families and Friends - a pilot study.

Study Team: Dr. C. O’Neill RCSI; Dr. R. McQuillan St Francis Hospice, Dublin; Dr. C. Quinlan DCU.

Funding Source: Irish Hospice Foundation.

This study follows from research completed by Quinlan and O’Neill (2009) (see pg 15) on patient autonomy at end-of-life. That research was funded by the Hospice friendly Hospitals programme and was undertaken for the Ethical Framework at End-of-Life (2010). The research established that studies into end-of-life experiences, end-of-life care and patient autonomy at end-of-life frequently focuses on the perspectives of practitioners, or they focus on the experiences of families post bereavement.

This current pilot study investigates the perspectives and experiences of patients, families, and friends with regard to patient autonomy at end-of-life.
Developing Guidelines for the Management of Malignant Fungating Wounds

Study Team: Dr. G. Gethin RCSI; Dr. P. Grocott King’s College Hospital, London; Dr. S. Probst Zurich University; Mr. E. Clarke RCSI; Ms. R. Blackwell King’s College Hospital, London.

Funding Source: European Oncology Nurses Society.

The care of patients with a malignant fungating wound (MFW) differs in many ways from the care of an individual with a chronic wound. While there are a small number of European countries which have guidelines on how to manage MFWs, a pan-European one is lacking. To address this gap in knowledge and practice, the European Oncology Nursing Society (EONS) proposed to develop an educational toolkit to support nurses in best practice to manage MFW. The research project will be conducted with the aim of improving clinical practice in the management and care of patients and their families living with a MFW. This toolkit will incorporate clinical practice guidelines, education material related to the pathophysiology of MFW and wound assessment and education tools to support the clinician in implementing these into clinical practice.

Management of Wound Malodour – an International Perspective

Study Team: Dr. G. Gethin RCSI; Dr. P. Grocott King’s College Hospital London; Dr. S. Probst Zurich University; Mr. E. Clarke RCSI.

Funding Source: Wound Management Association of Ireland.

Malodour is cited by patients and carers as one of the most distressing and socially isolating aspects of chronic wounds. In particular, malignant fungating wounds emit malodour and high volumes of exudate. Current management strategies are ad hoc with a paucity of clinical research data to guide management decision. This International, on-line survey aims to determine current management practices for wound malodour. The study will be available in four languages with data collection commenced in September 2011. The findings will be published and help to guide further research in this area of wound management.

An Economic Analysis Of Repositioning For The Prevention Of Pressure Ulcers

Study Team: Dr. Z. Moore; Prof. S. Cowman RCSI.

Funding Source: Health Research Board.

As part of a larger RCT, economic analysis was conducted to compare the costs of repositioning older individuals in long term care, using 2 different regimes - the 30 degree tilt and 90 degree lateral rotation. The cost per patient was €206.6 (30 degree) and €253.10 (90 degree) (p<0.001). In the 30 degree group 96.6% of participants remained free of pressure ulcers, 88.1% of patients remained pressure ulcer free in the 90 degree group (p=0.030). Projected annual costs of repositioning were estimated for the 53.5% who would require repositioning of all individuals who were hospitalised across the study sites. The annual nurse time cost would be €1.59m (experimental), compared with €2.10m (control), a cost difference of €512,800, equivalent to 21,462 hours of nurse time.
RCSI Research Programmes

Research Based Curricula (Newly Accredited Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery Programmes in Advanced Nurse Practice)

Programme Director: Prof. M. Carney.

The new research based curricula/programmes are evidence based best to International standards. A collaborative model of curriculum development and clinical practice competencies for advanced practice was utilised. The programmes comply with educational developments in relation to An Bord Altranais Requirements and Standards for Post-Registration Nursing and Midwifery Education Programmes-Incorporating the National Framework of Qualifications (2010); European Credit Transfer Systems (ECTS); National Framework of Qualification (NFQ) from the National Qualification Authority of Ireland (NQAI); National Council for the Professional Development of Nursing and Midwifery Frameworks for Advanced Nurse Practice; RCSI Degree Awarding Status (DAS) and National University of Ireland (NUI) accreditation criteria.

These programmes in advanced practice are being delivered by the Faculty at bachelors, post graduate diploma, masters and post graduate certificate levels and meet Bologna European, An Bord Altranais and NQAI recommendations for credit accumulation and transfer from one educational level to another level and for ease of access. Programmes are being delivered through on-line and off-line methods further facilitating student access at a time that is convenient to students.

The MSc Nursing (Advanced Practice) programme is the first programme accredited and offered in Ireland or elsewhere that incorporates the Certificate in Nurse and Midwife Prescribing (approved by ABA in 2008 and delivered in the FNM); MSc Nursing/Midwifery, Advanced Practice and Ionising Radiation prescribing for nurses. The MSc Nursing/ Midwifery (Advanced Practice) builds on the existing MSc Nursing and Certificate in Nurse Prescribing developed by FNM academic staff and offered by the FNM since 2002 and 2008 respectively. The Post Graduate Certificate in Nursing (Advanced Practice) may be undertaken by nurses already holding a masters degree in nursing.

Postgraduate Certificate in Nursing (Clinical Research)

Programme Director: Ms. D. Hyland.

The Postgraduate Certificate in Nursing (Clinical Research) is a Level 9 Minor Award, which has received accreditation from An Bord Altranais. Supported by Molecular Medicine Ireland and RCSI Clinical Research Centre this development is unique in a European context, and is the only educational programme available that is specifically designed to meet the needs of clinical research nurses in Ireland. The programme incorporates three education modules covering all aspects of the clinical research nurses role and the conduct of clinical research, with particular emphasis on the ethical and statutory standards and guidelines that govern practice. Nurses are required to achieve defined competencies in the clinical area with the support of a mentor. Modules can be completed on a stand-alone basis for academic credit. Certificates were presented to the first programme graduates at the annual Conference of the Irish Research Nurses Network (IRNN) in the Conference Centre Dublin in November 2010. Twelve research nurses completed the 2010/2011 programme, with an additional six nurses completing stand-alone modules.
Post Graduate Research Students

Eman Ahmed Tawash, RN., MSc. (PhD student)
Study: Nursing as a career choice in Bahrain.
Funding Source: Bahrain Ministry of Labour, High Council for Vocational Training.
Supervisor: Prof. S. Cowman.

The study aims to identify factors that influence high school students and their parents in Bahrain to choose the nursing profession as a future career. Using a triangulation research approach the study aims to explore strategies to promote nursing as a career in Bahrain. To accomplish this, the study participants include high school students, their parents, school career guidance teachers as well as nursing students.

It is important that the newly established RCSI School of Nursing and Midwifery attracts and recruits candidates to study nursing. In order to enhance recruitment to nursing education among high school students there is a need to understand the factors that influence the attitudes of high school students and their families about nursing.

Suzanne Denieffe, RGN., MSc. (PhD student)
Study Title: The Relationship of Cytokines to Symptom Clusters in Women with Breast Cancer.
Funding Source: Strand III, Council of Directors, Institutes of Technology, Ireland.
Supervisor: Prof. S. Cowman.

The aim of the study is to explore possible relationships between cytokines and the symptoms of fatigue, pain, depression and sleep disturbances experienced by women diagnosed with breast cancer for one year from time of diagnosis. In animals, sickness behaviour symptoms such as fatigue, mood and sleep disturbance have been shown to be as a result of the actions of cytokines. It is proposed that the occurrence of these symptoms as a cluster in women with breast cancer might also be arising as a result of cytokine deregulation.

It is hoped that this study by simultaneously measuring cytokine activity and symptoms cluster activity will add to the currently limited knowledge on the aetiology of symptom clusters in women with breast cancer. Preliminary results were presented at the 2011 30th RCSI International Nursing and Midwifery Conference, receiving an award for best oncology presentation from the RCSI in conjunction with St Luke’s Institute for Cancer Research.

Fathema Kahil, BSc. Nursing, MSc. (PhD student)
Study Title: The impact of ICU liaison nurse on the ward-based care delivered to critically ill patients.
Supervisor: Dr. G. Gethin.

ICU liaison nurse service is an initiative of this study and aims to improve outcomes for patients post discharge from the ICU by reducing the number of preventable readmissions and reducing the acuity of patients that are readmitted. This service will work with the multidisciplinary team to improve the standard of patient care through the provision of clinical and educational support to ward nurses.
Claire Magner, RGN., RCN., BSc. Hons., MSc. (PhD student)

Study: Analgesia and Sedation Management in an Irish PICU; the impact of a changed approach.
Funding Source: The Childrens’ Medical and Research Foundation.
Supervisors: Prof. S. Cowman and Dr. B. O’Hare.

Analgesic and sedative drugs are mainstay in the paediatric intensive care unit (PICU). Failure to provide adequate sedation and analgesia to control the stress response is associated with increased complications and mortality. Research in managing sedation and analgesia in the adult intensive care setting has led to best practice standards enhancing patient care. However, currently in this study setting; no analgesia and sedation guidelines exist to guide practice.

This action research study aims to describe existing practice and determine the impact of a changed approach to analgesia and sedation management in the PICU on patients and staff. A multidisciplinary stakeholder group has been formed to collaboratively develop and implement goal-directed therapy and algorithms. A non-equivalent control-group pre-test post-test design has been chosen to determine the scale of the impact.

Toney Thomas, RGN., MSc. (PhD student) Registering

Title: Natural Honey to Eradicate Nasal MRSA.
Supervisors: Dr. G. Gethin and Prof. H. Humphries.

Background: Honey, and in particular Manuka honey, has shown both in vitro and in vivo efficacy in eradication of MRSA. The advantages of this treatment modality are the low potential for bacterial resistance. This study aims to test the efficacy of Manuka honey to eradicate nasal colonisation of MRSA. Based on routine laboratory screening test results i.e. MRSA present in the nose, 15 patients will be recruited. A questionnaire will be also be used to record the patient’s response to a) ease of application, b) ability to retain honey nasally and c) any unpleasant experience on application or subsequently during the course of treatment.

Babak Meshkat MB., BCh., MRCSI., MSc. (MD student)

Study: Surgical pre-assessment: a comparison of in-patient vs day surgery practices.
Funding Source: HRB Health Research Awards.
Supervisors: Prof. S. Cowman and Mr. E. Mulligan.

This is being undertaken as part of a larger HRB funded Day Surgery in Ireland: Current barriers and developing consensus based best practice protocols. The patient journey of 200 patients from initial presentation to discharge that underwent one of 10 surgical procedures as day surgery in three hospitals have been investigated. The results show significant changes in practice across sites and depending on the grade of staff that assesses the patient. The findings to date have been presented at international meetings including the ISQua annual conference 2009 and BADS annual conference 2011 as well as several national surgical meetings. The MD thesis from this research project was submitted in September 2011.
Elaine MacHale RGN., RCN., BSc. (Hons.) Nursing Management, (MSc. research student)

Study: The impact of a nurse education programme in promoting patient compliance of inhaler use.
Supervisor: Prof. S. Cowman.

As a research nurse in the Clinical Research Centre, Beaumont Hospital, I was working on an inhaler technique study in patients with respiratory disease. Seeing the errors that patients were making in taking their inhalers, I was motivated to assess what impact a nurse education programme would have in promoting patient compliance of inhaler use in patients with asthma. To date, pre-test evaluations have been completed among 21 patients. The study is currently at the intervention stage during which each individual will attend four visits over three months. The study will be completed in 2012.

Eileen Daly RGN., BSc. (MSc. research student)

Study Title: Is there a place for nurse facilitated admission and discharge processes in a modern day surgery unit?
Supervisors: Prof. S. Cowman and Dr. G. Gethin.

This study aims to optimise the admission and discharge processes in a day surgery unit for both service users and the organisation. Through an action research approach, this study will determine current practice, identify barriers and through a collaborative approach develop and implement changes in organisation and practice.

Bryony Treston, Final Year Medical Student, (Research summer student)

Study: Prevalence of Lymphoedema in persons with diabetic foot disease.
Supervisors: Prof. S. Tierney and Dr. G. Gethin.

This summer I am delighted to work with a research group at Tallaght hospital lead by Dr Georgina Gethin and Professor Sean Tierney which is researching the prevalence of Lymphoedema in persons with diabetic foot disease. This placement has given me an opportunity to learn about an aspect of clinical research which is different to what I was involved with during my MSc. I have been given the responsibility of contacting the patient cohort, managing a clinic for the research participants and carrying out both a questionnaire and a clinical assessment on each eligible patient. I am gaining both clinical and organisational training which I believe complements my medical training and I hope will stand to me in whichever career path I choose to follow.

Young Hwa Soon, 2nd Year Medical Student, (Research summer student)

Study: Patient satisfaction and adverse events following day surgery.
Funding Source: RCSI Research Summer School.
Supervisor: Dr. G. Gethin.

I am a medical student in RCSI, currently doing summer research under RCSI’s Research Summer School Programme run by Dr. Sarah O’Neill. The project title is ‘Developing best practice for day surgery in Ireland’ under the direction of Professor Seamus Cowman. My current study is: Patient satisfaction and adverse events following day surgery. This is being completed prior to implementation of the best practice process elements for day surgery in Ireland, which were developed by the research team.
Research Awards

Professor Seamus Cowman became a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing (FAAN) in November 2010. Eligibility for Fellowship of the American Academy of Nursing requires specific evidence of outstanding contributions to the improvement of nursing at national and international level. Headquartered in Washington, DC since 2008, the Academy is positioned to identifying key policy issues and mobilizes its Fellows - along with allied individuals and organizations - to support the Academy's policy agenda and affect change in nursing and health care.

Dr Zena Moore and Professor Seamus Cowman received a Highly Commended Honour for their work on economic analysis of pressure ulcer prevention, at the Wounds UK 2011 Awards. These awards recognise the outstanding achievements of those who are improving standards in wound prevention and management, through research, clinical audit and practice development.

Ms. Catherine Clune Mulvaney was awarded a place on the HRB PhD Scholars Programme in Health Services Research. This structured PhD Programme is a joint initiative of senior academic staff from the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, Trinity College Dublin and University College Cork. The Programme theme is “Integrated healthcare: from research to policy and practice”.

International Nursing and Midwifery Research Conference

The 30th annual international nursing and midwifery research conference took place in February 2011. The theme of the 2011 conference “Promoting Patient Centred Care in Times of Change - the Challenge for Nurses and Midwives” attracted over 200 national and international delegates and speakers who presented 60 posters and 66 free papers. The keynote address was delivered by Prof. Paul Trueman, Professor of Health Economics, Health Economics Research Group, Brunel University, York, UK.

The 31st annual conference will take place on the 22nd and 23rd February 2012, the theme is: Nursing and Midwifery Practice in a Global Community: Collaborating and Networking for the Future. This conference is regarded as one of the highlights in the nursing and midwifery calendar and offers the opportunity for networking and presentation of research work.
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<td>Walsh Sarah</td>
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Research Publications 2009-2011


The Faculty of Nursing & Midwifery
and School of Nursing

Leading in Education and Research for Nurses and Midwives since 1974

The Faculty of Nursing & Midwifery and School of Nursing at RCSI has been delivering post graduate nursing and midwifery education since its establishment in 1974. The programmes range from Certificate level to PhD from level 8 to level 10, with a close alignment to clinical practice.

Since 2009 an innovative ‘Blended Learning’ approach to providing nurse education has been employed. Blended Learning involves Face-to-Face teaching combined with online computer-mediated teaching. Combining these two different learning strategies, using the benefits of each, has resulted in greater accessibility to student learning.

Supporting students
An intensive orientation / ongoing programme in Blended Learning is provided for students in order to develop the necessary skills to actively participate.

Benefits of Blended Learning
- Greater flexibility with open access to online material
- Face-to-Face teaching to support online learning
- Online support throughout programme delivery
- Broader course content for diverse educational & clinical practice needs
- Reduced travel time and expenses
- Enhanced work life balance can be achieved

The following RCSI/NUI accredited education programmes are offered

- **PhD**
- **MSc (Research)**
- **MSc Nursing / Midwifery**
- **MSc Nursing / Midwifery (Advanced Leadership)**
- **MSc Nursing / Midwifery (Advanced Practice) incorporating Nurse Prescribing and Ionising Radiation (X-Rays) (optional module)**
- **Post Graduate Certificate in Nursing/Midwifery (Advanced Practice) incorporating Nurse Prescribing and Ionising Radiation (X-Rays) (optional module)**
- **Post Graduate Diploma/MSc in Nursing (Wound Management and Tissue Viability)**
- **Post Graduate Diploma/MSc in Nursing (Pain Management in Nursing)**
- **Post Graduate Diploma/MSc in Nursing (Infection Prevention/Control Nursing)**
- **Post Graduate Diploma/MSc in Nursing (Respiratory Care in Nursing Practice)**
- **Post Graduate Diploma/MSc in Nursing (Practice Nursing)**
- **Post Graduate Certificate in Nursing (Clinical Research)**
- **BSc Nursing**
- **BSc Nursing Management**
- **Certificate in Nursing (Nurse / Midwife Prescribing)**  
  - Pathway to Post Graduate Diploma (for non-graduate students)

The opportunity exists to progress to MSc following completion of Post Graduate Diploma Programmes. Applicants to Post Graduate Diploma programmes must have a minimum of 6 months post registration experience. The student must also be working in the specialist area of the programme.

The Fellowship of the Faculty of Nursing & Midwifery RCSI (FFNMRCSI) is exclusively offered by the RCSI and is one of the most prestigious professional qualifications awarded to nurses in Ireland.

Further details & Application Forms are available from our website www.rcsi.ie/nursing, or from: Administration, Faculty of Nursing & Midwifery, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, 123 St Stephen’s Green, Dublin 2. Tel: (01) 402 2445/2206, Fax: (01) 402 2465, Email: facnurs3@rcsi.ie Website: www.rcsi.ie/nursing