NURSING AND MIDWIFERY NEWS

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NEW PRIMARY HEALTH CARE MASTER’S DEGREE FOR 2014

Sydney Nursing School is introducing a new Primary Health Care master’s degree in 2014, designed specifically for registered nurses working in or intending to work in primary health care, including community health care and hospital settings.

According to Associate Professor Heather McKenzie, Associate Dean (Learning and Teaching), “Primary health care is becoming one of the main health models in Australia and internationally and there will be many career opportunities for nurses with postgraduate qualifications in primary health care”.

Sydney Nursing School established an external advisory panel comprised of key industry partners with expertise in primary health care to help inform the development of the program and ensure its relevance to registered nurses practising across many complex primary health care settings. The program is also underpinned by the World Health Organisation’s philosophy concerning access, equity, accessibility and affordability to health care services and informed by Australia’s first Primary Health Care Strategy, Building a 21st Century Primary Health Care System.

Dr Jennifer Chipps has been appointed as the Primary Health Care program coordinator. Jennifer has extensive public health and epidemiology experience, having worked in Australia, New Zealand and South Africa as a mental health nurse, lecturer, project manager and public health policy officer and epidemiologist. Students will be learning with Jennifer and a team of educators and clinicians with extensive experience in primary health care.

“One of the things that makes this program unique,” Jennifer says, “is that there are very few primary health care programs that have been developed for nurses by nurses”.


GROUND BREAKING MIDWIFERY FINDINGS

Published in leading medical journal The Lancet, a world-first University of Sydney randomised controlled trial comparing continuity of midwifery care throughout pregnancy with standard public hospital care has found that caseload midwifery reduced interventions in birth and reduced costs.

Led by Professor Sally Tracy, Midwifery and Women’s Health Research Unit, the study recruited 1748 pregnant women, of all risk types, from Sydney’s Royal Hospital for Women and Brisbane’s Mater Mother’s Hospital, and allocated them to receive either caseload midwifery care (871) or standard maternity care (877).

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DEAN’S WELCOME

We have had a terrific year at Sydney Nursing School. Our students have progressed well in their studies and our academic staff have notched up some considerable achievements. As we bid farewell to another cohort of students across our pre-registration and postgraduate coursework degrees I wish them all the very best for their bright futures ahead. With so many of our graduates securing the coveted new graduate positions in public and private hospitals in an increasingly tight market this is telling us that they are graduating with the knowledge, skills and qualities that employers are looking for in the next generation of registered nurses.

There have been many highlights this year. Firstly I congratulate Professor Sally Tracy, Professor of Midwifery, for her midwifery research published in The Lancet in September and accompanied by an extremely positive editorial. I am confident that the work of Sally and her team is going to have significant impact on the way midwifery services are provided in countries like Australia and with real benefits to mums and bubs. Associate Professor Yun-Hee Jeon is also to be congratulated for the aged care symposium she hosted earlier this year. As part of a University of Sydney International Development Professional Fund Grant, Yun-Hee brought together key leaders in aged care, both in Australia and internationally, with some important and potentially fruitful partnerships established as a result of this work.

Sydney Nursing School is extremely pleased to be introducing a new Primary Health Care Masters in 2014, the final piece in our suite of advanced learning masters degrees. Designed specifically for registered nurses working in, or intending to work in primary health care, this innovative program, from graduate certificate to master’s degree, is underpinned by the philosophy outlined by the WHO as far back as 1972 which is concerned with ensuring equity, accessibility, affordability, and making sure that people have access to health care services in a way that is appropriate to them. Our Director of Advanced Learning Masters Programs, Dr Christopher Gordon, has done a terrific job shepherding this program from vision to reality and working with a fantastic external advisory panel to ensure the program delivers the postgraduate educational needs for registered nurses working in primary health care.

Amongst many international engagements this year the Singapore graduation in September at the Singapore Institute of Management (SIM GE) for our Bachelor of Nursing (Post-registration) graduates was again a highlight for us. We’re also pleased to announce an Industry Scholarship Program for the Bachelor of Nursing (Post-registration) from 2014. These scholarships are designed to strengthen the partnership between us, SIM and our industry colleagues in Singapore and support talented and high achieving students to gain an exceptional academic experience and world-class nursing degree.

Hard work aside, it was wonderful to bring together our professional partners, alumni, staff, students and friends for the most fabulous Dean’s Gala Dinner and Challenge in September. This annual event is a way for us say thank you to our alumni and our donors as well as our partners in the Local Health Districts and private health facilities who provide educational opportunities for our students and research collaborations. Three teams lined up for an intergenerational challenge on nursing and midwifery. Along with the audience I laughed and laughed! It was such a great night. Next year’s event will be my last as Dean and I promise it will be good!

In December we will again be hosting another “packing day” with our alumni, staff, students and friends. This year we are taking on a local theme by packing care packs for people who seek the assistance of homeless shelters around Sydney. We have worked with the Matthew Talbot Hostel on this project and with our new Primary Health Care program I think this is timely. And for Sydney Nursing School this is our contribution to the festive season, recognising that as nurses and midwives we can and do make a difference to people’s lives.

I wish you – our students, staff, alumni, professional partners, donors and friends – all the very best for the festive season and a joyous and peaceful new year.

–Warm regards, Jill White

In September a wonderful graduation ceremony for our Bachelor of Nursing (Post-registration) graduates in Singapore and a fabulous Dean’s Gala Dinner and Challenge (L-R) Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer Susan Pearce, Professor Sally Tracy and Anthony Dombins (ADON CCLHD).
Caseload midwifery care versus standard maternity care for women of any risk: M@NGO, a randomised controlled trial

Authors: Prof Sally K Tracy DMid, Donna L Hartz PhD, Mark B Tracy FRACP, Jyal Allen BMid, Amanda Forti RM, Bev Hall MIPH and others

The study found more women in caseload midwifery experienced an unassisted vaginal birth without pharmacological analgesia, while fewer women experienced an elective caesarean.

While the trial findings did not show a significant difference in the rate of caesarean sections between either group, the overall rate fell by more than 20 percent from pre-trial levels.

Newborn infants in both groups achieved similar physical assessment scores (Apgar scores). A slightly lower number of pre-term births and neonatal intensive care admissions among the midwifery caseload group was not statistically significant.

Important secondary findings of the study include:

- 30 percent more spontaneous onset of labour
- less induction of labour
- less severe blood loss, and
- more likelihood of breastfeeding after discharge from hospital.

The study refutes the common misconception that one-to-one caseload midwifery care is expensive.

“Caseload midwifery care has been largely overlooked because of the incorrect belief that the service will be too expensive and that the model is not safe for complex pregnancies, Professor Tracy said.

“Our randomised trial showed that caseload care can achieve similar outcomes to standard care - and it costs the public purse significantly less.

“Given that maternity is one of the most frequent causes of hospitalisation in Australia today, caseload midwifery could play a major role in the future in reducing public health expenditure,” Sally said.

“Our study found that caseload midwifery appeared to alter some of the pathways that recurrently contribute to increased obstetric intervention.

“Caseload midwifery care works on the assumption that women will labour more effectively, need to stay in hospital less time and feel a stronger sense of satisfaction and personal control if they have the opportunity to get to know their midwife at the beginning of pregnancy.”

Co-author and obstetrician, Professor Alec Welsh, Director of the Australian Centre for Perinatal Science at UNSW, said “Policy makers should not view one-on-one midwife care as an expensive, boutique service and pregnant women should be made aware of the benefits of such schemes”.

Professor Sally Tracy (R) lead author of Caseload Midwifery care versus standard maternity care for women of any risk: M@NGO, a randomised controlled trial, with co-author Dr Donna L Hartz, PhD
The Baby Boomers and Generations X and Y battled for supremacy before a stellar intergenerational audience of nurses and midwives.

The Dean’s Gala Dinner and Challenge is now a firm fixture on Sydney Nursing School’s calendar of events - the night of nights - an opportunity to get dressed up and connect with the nursing and midwivery community for a fabulous evening of entertainment in the University of Sydney’s Great Hall.

We had an absolute ball this year and, if you were able to join us, we hope you did too! This event is an opportunity for Sydney Nursing School to say “thank you” – to our alumni and our donors who support us, to our partners in the local health districts and private health facilities, and to our colleagues, staff, students and friends.

This year’s challenge involved an intergenerational battle of wits and minds. In disguise and wearing the fashion of their times the teams were: Baby Boomers (Mary Chiarella, Sally Tracy and Margaret Martin); Generation X (Susan Pearce, Bernie Eather and Anthony Domkins) and Generation Y (Amy Monk, Evin Donahue and Tamera Watling).

Laughter bounced around the Great Hall as the teams were put through their paces by Master of Ceremonies Alan Glover. It was a tight race to the end when each team tried to get their patient, each in a plaster cast and drip, out of their hospital gown and into a wonsie for their families to take them home. Generation Y prevailed, demonstrating their cunning and cheek, and ready to take on their senior colleagues in the nursing and midwifery professions.

Enjoy the video highlights of the Dean’s Gala Dinner and Challenge at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hN1NOCIL1Y&list=PL4BF4A773C6D57095&index=9

The Who’s Who list in Nursing and Midwifery. From Baby Boomers to Generations X and Y it was the Gen Y team that finally prevailed.

NURSING ACHIEVEMENTS

JOHN & DIANA HUTCHISON MERIT PRIZE FOR NURSING

Kelly Lewis (MN) is the inaugural recipient of the John and Diana Hutchison Merit Prize for Nursing, a scholarship of $2500 established in 2013 as a one-off payment. The intention of this prize is to provide the recipient with an opportunity to travel to further their interest in nursing or to further support their study. Kelly is particularly interested in burn injuries.

CSANZ ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING AFFILIATE NURSING PRIZE 2013

Dr Lis Nuebeck, Senior Research Fellow and Adjunct Senior Lecturer, won the 2013 Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand Annual Scientific Meeting Affiliate Nursing Prize for her work “Two year outcomes of the Choice of Health Options in prevention of Cardiovascular Events (CHOICE) replication study”.

NSW HEALTH EXCELLENCE IN NURSING AND MIDWIFERY

NSW Health Minister Jillian Skinner presented PhD candidate Scott Brunero with the Excellence in Education Research and Innovation award at the inaugural NSW Health Excellence in Nursing and Midwifery Awards in September. Scott also received the ACN NSW Nurses Research Grant in 2012.

HOC MAI SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Four of our MN students will head to Vietnam this summer to undertake an additional one-month clinical placement with support from Sydney Nursing School and the Hoc Mai Foundation. Congratulations to Matthew Anderson, Stephanie Lomax, Kathleen Murchie and Susannah Summers.

NHMRC TRIP FELLOWSHIP

Associate Professor Kate Curtis has been awarded an NHMRC TRIP Fellowship, an award designed to allows individuals to conduct a research translation project effectively in combination with their career.
Rebekah’s supervisors are Associate Professors Kate Curtis and Kim Foster. Professor White expressed her gratitude to Josephine and David Skellern. “It is wonderful to find people who understand the relevance of nursing research to positive patient outcomes and at the same time understand the complexity of the lives of the nurses and midwives who are best placed to do this research.”

Beth Spence

Memorial Scholarship

The Seashells Foundation has partnered with Sydney Nursing School to develop the Beth Spence Memorial Scholarship in honour of the late Beth Spence. This scholarship will be offered in perpetuity for a PhD student focusing on the area of care coordination.

The Foundation is named after a child-care group established by the founding family’s late mother Beth Spence, and hopes to be modelled around her caring nature.

To endow the scholarship the Foundation needs your help to raise $700,000. More information: http://www.seashellsfoundation.org
EMERITUS PROFESSOR PORTRAIT

In August 1992 Emerita Professor Jocalyn Lawler was appointed at the University of Sydney as a Professor of Nursing, having previously worked for some years in the New England. In July 1999, Jocalyn succeeded Emeritus Professor R. Lynette Russell, the founding Dean.

In recognition of her period as Dean, a portrait of Emerita Professor Lawler is now hanging at Sydney Nursing School. The artist is Lewis Miller, who was also chosen by former Chancellor, The Hon Justice Kim Santow AO.

Peeping at the bottom of the portrait is also Jocalyn’s dog Finley, a Schnauzer, who would sometimes come to work with her (hidden by Jocalyn in the image below). Reflecting on the experience, Jocalyn noted, “Sitting for the portrait was a unique and intriguing experience as the sitter and the artist ‘eyeball’ each other, generally in silence - the artist deciding how to represent you, while the “sitter” wonders what the artist is committing to the canvas.”

“I like the way he wanted to paint me with my bonnet on because he thought that was such a challenge - and he had not previously had the opportunity to so. I do seem a tad severe, but my face has that look when I am concentrating - a feature that my students got used to over time,” Jocalyn said.

Emerita Professor Lawler continues to be an active researcher. Her most recent paper, “Etre infirmière à l’ère universitaire” was co-authored with Emeritus Professor R. Lynette Russell. This international collection was published in French in September this year. The book focused on the transfer of nursing from hospital schools as this was experienced around the globe.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

PRE-REGISTRATION NURSING INFORMATION AFTERNOON TEA
28 NOVEMBER 2013, 4–6PM
Sydney Nursing School

HOMELESS CARE PACK ASSEMBLING DAY
2 DECEMBER 2013, 9.30–1PM
The Great Hall, University of Sydney

GRADUATION
13 DECEMBER 2013, 9.30AM–12.30PM
The Great Hall, University of Sydney

INFO DAY
3 JANUARY 2014, 9.30–4PM
The University of Sydney Nursing Mini-lectures at 10–11.30am and 1–2.30pm
New Law Annexe
More info: sydney.edu.au/future-students/start/info-day/index.shtml

POSTGRADUATE COURSEWORK DEGREES
31 JANUARY 2014
Applications close 31 January 2014. From graduate certificate to master’s degrees, choose from: Cancer and Haematology Nursing, Clinical Nursing, Clinical Trials Practice (grad cert only), Emergency Nursing, Intensive Care Nursing, Mental Health Nursing, Nurse Practitioner and Primary Health Care (NEW in 2014).


SYDNEY NURSING SCHOOL ORIENTATION
25 FEBRUARY 2014, 9AM–4PM
Sydney Nursing School, lunch provided
Registrations close 18 February 2014. Register at: sydney.edu.au/nursing/current_students/orientation-registration.php

SYDNEY NURSING SCHOOL VIDEOS ON YOUTUBE
http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL48F4A773C8D57095

Check out our latest videos, including the full suite of postgraduate coursework degree videos, the Dean’s Gala Dinner and Challenge and Optimising Leadership Capacity in Aged Care – CLINICAL Leadership in Aged Care (CLIAC).

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