



L-R: Professor Kathy Dracup and A/Professor Donna Waters

RESEARCH WEEK INSPIRES

Nursing and midwifery students who are shaping the future of health care through research had the opportunity to exchange ideas and meet world-renowned nursing scholar Professor Kathy Dracup, Dean of Nursing at the University of California San Francisco, when Sydney Nursing School hosted its annual Research Week at the end of June.

Professor Kathy Dracup delivered the Research Week keynote address and masterclass. She provided nursing and midwifery students and academic staff with an inspiring insight into her professional career which includes 35 years' experience in cardiovascular nursing and university professorships. She is recognised nationally and internationally for her research into the care of patients with heart disease and the effects of this disease on spouses and other family members. Kathy highlighted the benefits of an interdisciplinary approach to research, including bringing together a diversity of knowledge and skills and increased access to funding sources.

WATCH, LEARN, GO: MULTIMEDIA

A large grant through the Teaching Improvement and Equipment Scheme (TIES) has enabled the production of a multimedia learning resource to support clinical and communication skills development.

A team of academic staff at Sydney Nursing School, led by Dr Murray Fisher, has produced a series of seven short videos designed to support our pre-registration nursing students with their clinical and communication skills.

The seven videos, around 8–15 minutes long and professionally produced, cover a suite of primary, fundamental core skills in health care, including hand hygiene, wound management, oral medication, male and female catheterisation, and patient

interviewing and communication skills.

According to Dr Fisher, "We undertook the project because the teaching resources available didn't meet the clinical requirements for the NSW context, particularly in the areas of the safe administration of oral medications and hand hygiene."

The videos use real actors, rather than mannikins, which give students the opportunity to properly identify anatomy that's not possible with a mannikin. "This," Murray says,

"portrays how nurses should really deal with patients' bodies, especially taboo areas."

The videos are now available to students through the eLearning platform and some are already embedded in units of study. In the future we hope that students can access them as they practise in the clinical labs. Their value as a teaching aid are also being evaluated as part of a larger project evaluating all audiovisual teaching aids used in the School.

RESEARCH WEEK

CONTINUED

Kathy shared her wisdom and experience about interdisciplinary approaches to nursing and midwifery research: "I hope that students learn how important it is to be inclusive, to invite people in from other disciplines to join their team, because they will be important contributors to their research," she said.

Research Week helps to develop a strong research community among research students and staff and to encourage cross-disciplinary and collaborative research.

"How often do you get a whole week to just sit and listen to all the wonderful and exciting things your colleagues are doing, to participate in thoughtful feedback and critique, and have the time to think about your own research and how it might be improved," asked

A/Professor Donna Waters, Associate Dean of Research.

The breadth and depth of research being undertaken by students at Sydney Nursing School reflects their extensive knowledge as health practitioners in Sydney Nursing School's key research streams, including maternal, perinatal and women's health, cancer and palliative care, chronic disease and co-morbidities, mental health and intensive care, emergency and trauma.

Research Week is very much part of student research training as they are mentored and guided in presenting their own research to an audience. And importantly, our higher research degree students appreciate the value of Research Week as an opportunity to network and be inspired.

According to Peta McVey, who is in the final stages of her PhD, "Often when you're studying in isolation you go through periods when you may have lost your motivation. But coming to

Research Week actually bumps you up again and gets you motivated to get on with it."

The next Research Student Workshop will be held 1–3 November 2010 with special guest Associate Professor Cheryle Moss from Monash University. Until then enjoy the Research Week highlights: http://sydney.edu.au/nursing/video/research_week_news.mp4



Professor Kathy Dracup delivers the keynote address at Research Week.

DEAN'S MESSAGE



In July this year I celebrated 30 years of academic life in nursing and midwifery education. Of course so much has changed in this time and so it's fitting

that this 30th anniversary coincided with my appointment as inaugural Chairperson of the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council (ANMC), representing the Deans of Nursing and Midwifery (Australia and New Zealand).

The Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council's endorsement of a Nursing and Midwifery Board Australia (NMBA) decision to appoint a restructured ANMC as the nursing and midwifery professions' independent accrediting body is, I believe, recognition of the ANMC's unparalleled reputation, skills and experience in the development of professional standards.

I congratulate Amanda Adrian who has been appointed CEO of the ANMC. With her many years' experience in the health industry I am confident that she will steer a strong and steady ship for the ANMC's exciting time ahead.

I'm also thrilled that Sydney Nursing School's Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner) program has been formally accredited by the Nurses and Midwives Board NSW for a period of five years and approved by the University of Sydney Academic Board. This program presents a great opportunity for registered nurses with advanced practice experience to undertake further study to become both autonomous and collaborative health care providers. We now welcome students to apply.

We were really pleased to welcome Professor Kathy Dracup, Dean of Nursing at the University of California San Francisco, for Sydney Nursing School's Research Week 2010. I know everyone who had the opportunity to meet and hear Kathy during Research Week was so impressed with her generous spirit and her energy and enthusiasm for nursing and midwifery education and research. Also with plans moving apace for the University of Sydney's Centre for Obesity, Diabetes and Cardiovascular Disease this was a great opportunity for Kathy to meet with our colleagues at Sydney Medical School to discuss interdisciplinary research opportunities in these important fields.

In August I will be spending two weeks in Viet Nam to teach our pilot midwifery program and then on to China to deliver a keynote address at the Peking Union Medical College (PUMC) School of Nursing conference which Sydney Nursing School is co-hosting. In September graduation ceremonies for our Singapore and Malaysia students will be taking place and we wish them all well for their futures ahead.

A/Professor Donna Waters and diabetes expert Adjunct Professor Marg McGill will lead a delegation to the Shanghai World Trade Expo. This visit will also coincide also with Professor Kate White and Moira Stephens' return to teach the cancer nursing program at Shanghai Jiao Tong University.

From August through to October we welcome prospective students to Sydney Nursing School during for the University's Open Day, Graduate Options Expo and our own post-registration information evening. If you're a prospective student we look forward to meeting you and hope you'll agree that Sydney Nursing School is a great place to study. See you then.

– Regards, Jill White

OUT AND ABOUT

CASE BOOK LAUNCHED

On 3 June 2010 co-authors Professor Mary Chiarella and Amanda Adrian's 2nd Edition of *Professional Conduct - A Case Book of Disciplinary Decisions Relating to Professional Conduct Matters* was launched by Her Excellency, the Governor of New South Wales, Professor Marie Bashir AC, CVO. This book will be a valuable resource for nurses, midwives, educators, the legal profession and the public.

ARC LINKAGE GRANT

Congratulations to A/ Professor Yun-Hee Jeon and co-investigators Professors Hal Kendig, Judy Simpson and Lynn Chenoweth on being awarded an ARC-Linkage Grant in the latest funding round announced 23 June 2010. Their project title is: *Optimising the residential and community aged care workforce: the evidence-based development of clinical leadership in middle managers in aged care.*

HAWAIIAN ISLANDS TRAUMA SYMPOSIUM

Dr Kate Curtis gave the keynote lecture at the Queens Medical Centre Trauma Symposium, 23–24 July, on the topic *Critical Aspects of Trauma Nursing Care: What does the Evidence Support?*

Kate also hosted a visit by NSW trauma clinical nurse consultants who, as part of a professional development initiative, participated in a library session on literature searching, specific to their trauma projects.

BREAST CANCER COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

Dr Cannas Kwok has launched a program to evaluate the impact of a breast cancer support group for Chinese-Australian women with the Australian Chinese Community Association. There are eight two-hour information sessions specially tailored for women with breast cancer from Chinese-speaking backgrounds.



Sydney Nursing School has enjoyed attending the RCNA Nursing and Health expos in Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra and Brisbane. Above Liz Leonard talks to NSW Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer Debra Thoms

HEATHER MCKENZIE: A MATTER OF LEARNING AND TEACHING

With new and revised curricula across both pre- and post-registration programs we talk to Dr Heather McKenzie about her views on learning and teaching at Sydney Nursing School.



Dr Heather McKenzie has seen a lot of changes in teaching, research and scholarship in her 10-year association with Sydney Nursing School.

Now in her role as Associate Dean Learning and Teaching Heather believes we are at a very exciting time in the life of the School.

"We are deeply engaged in implementing our new and revised curricula across both pre- and post-registration courses. It think this is very satisfying for both staff and students. At the same time we are also thinking ahead by developing a new suite of courses with a primary health care focus. Also, we're working closely with our partners and colleagues in Singapore to revise our current post-registration Bachelor of Nursing program for 2011 and explore new learning and teaching opportunities there."

Along with her colleagues in the Learning and Teaching team, Heather has been negotiating clinical opportunities for our pre-registration students within Sydney Medical School's clinical schools.

"Perhaps the most important benefit is that students have a sense of belonging as they come to know, feel connected to and valued within their clinical home. One of the problems we face in clinical education is the fractured nature of student clinical experiences, and this new approach is designed to address that problem. Also extremely important are the opportunities for interdisciplinary learning that this approach will facilitate, and we know that our colleagues in other health disciplines are as excited about these opportunities as we are."

Heather is recognised as a 'quiet achiever', but there's no doubt you'll hear more from her and her team as we continue to deliver innovative teaching and learning programs for our nursing students.



Sydney University Open Day on 28 August promises to be a great day. Join us for lectures and tours of Sydney Nursing School. Chat with our students and get a health check in the Quadrangle.

CANCER COLLABORATION WITH SHANGHAI JIAO TONG UNIVERSITY

With the University of Sydney a gold sponsor of the Australia pavilion at the 2010 Shanghai Expo, Sydney Nursing School has established new links for cancer nurse academics and researchers between Australia and China.

Sydney Nursing School and the School of Nursing at Shanghai Jiao Tong University have recently commenced an exchange program to support the development of cancer curriculum for Shanghai Jiao Tong University. The collaboration involves academic exchange, partnership to develop and deliver the cancer curriculum at Shanghai Jiao Tong University, and fora to establish links



for higher degree cancer research students.

In May, Professor Kate White, Chair in Cancer Nursing at the Cancer Nursing Research Unit, and Moira Stephens, Lecturer in Cancer and Haematology, visited Shanghai Jiao Tong University to begin work on developing the cancer curriculum.

Kate and Moira will return to deliver the initial program in September 2010. They will meet with clinical nurses and also host workshops with research students. Dr Zhang, senior academic from Shanghai Jiao Tong University, who will be leading the implementation of the cancer curriculum, visited Sydney Nursing School in June.

YOUR DIARY

OPEN DAY – 28 August 2010
9.30am–4pm

A great day for school leavers and prospective pre-registration nursing students.

GRADUATE OPTIONS EXPO – 22 October 3–8pm

An opportunity for students thinking about the graduate entry Master of Nursing program or our postgraduate coursework programs.

POSTGRADUATE INFORMATION EVENING – 13 October 6–8pm

Join us for an informative evening about our postgraduate coursework specialty programs. There are prizes to be won and you can apply to enrol on the night!

RESEARCH WEEK WORKSHOP
1–3 November

**POSTGRADUATE COURSE-
WORK ENROLMENTS**
Applications close 1 December.

NEWS FROM THE LAB

QUIET ON THE SET ... If you happen to be watching the ABC co-production *Rake*, you might just recognise our clinical labs with actor Richard Roxburgh sitting up in Bed Seven. On 7 July our clinical labs were transformed into a set for this TV drama.

ADVANCED VIDEO SYSTEM
We now have our advanced video system (AVS) up and running in the SimMan laboratory. This includes seven cameras and two monitors to record students' activities in the SimMan laboratory for student review, feedback and debriefing.

**SYDNEY NURSING
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