

Celebrating 10 Years of an Academic-Practice Partnership: The University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa School of Nursing & The Queen’s Health System

The University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa School of Nursing & Dental Hygiene (SONDH) and The Queen’s Health System (QHS) are celebrating ten years of a thriving academic-practice partnership that developed, implemented, and disseminated collaborative projects to improve healthcare through research and evidence-based practice. This innovative partnership is a successful endeavor that bridges education and practice in our community, while developing research capacity in both institutions. Indirectly, the partnership facilitated academic progression of QHS nurse participants.

Structure

Preliminary discussions about building a research partnership began in 2006 with a vested interest by the SONDH’s Dean, Dr. Mary G. Boland, and QHS’s Chief Nursing Officer, Cindy Kamikawa. Other key stakeholders included SONDH’s Associate Dean for Research, Dr. Jillian Inouye and the Director for Community Partnerships, Stephanie Marshall; and QHS’s Director of the Queen Emma Nursing Institute, Rene’e Latimer. Over the course of six months, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was created, outlining roles and responsibilities, the funding mechanism, and goals of the partnership: (1) To provide evidence that research collaboration and mentoring are instrumental in shaping nursing infrastructure and capacity, and (2) To provide evidence of consultative and mentoring activities that will effectively engage faculty and staff nurses in an Academic-Practice Research partnership. Application requirements and research priority areas were also delineated; the MOU was executed at a public signing (Boland, Kamikawa, Inouye, Latimer, & Marshall, 2010).

Process

Ms. Latimer, Ms. Marshall, and Dr. Debra Mark, Associate Professor, were named as co-directors who were responsible to (1) provide partnership oversight; (2) develop and distribute an annual Request for Proposals (RFP) outlining the purpose of the partnership, commitments needed, expected end-products, eligibility, support available, deadlines, and application requirements; (3) coordinate scientific and programmatic reviews of each proposal; and (4) select proposals for funding. The original model partnered staff nurses with UH faculty members with mutual research or evidence-based practice interests. The nurse-faculty pair responded to the RFP by developing a proposal that was then scored by researchers from both sites. The partnership integrated with QHS’s Nursing Research Fellowship program, where QHS and UH faculty mentors provide didactic and consultative services to teams of staff nurse researchers who are interested in generating new knowledge about QHS priority areas (Latimer & Kimbell, 2010). The original six-month curriculum expanded to two years and provides education and support for the successful completion of projects. The first year consists of six monthly didactic sessions that culminate in complete proposals ready for submission to QHS’s Institutional Review Board. The second year consists of nine monthly didactic sessions to facilitate implementation, analysis, and dissemination.

Outcome

To-date, a total of 16 SONDH faculty members, including a psychologist & DrPH, and 42 QHS staff members, including one physical therapist, have participated/are participating in the partnership. Twenty-four studies were reviewed, approved, & supported. Of the 24 studies, 13 were completed, six are in progress, and five were not completed. Dissemination products directly related to this partnership include 34 publications and presentations: three publications, 23 podium presentations, and eight poster presentations delivered at local, national, and/or international conferences. Findings from seven of the 13 completed projects were translated to practice. Recognizing the need for manuscript preparation support, partners from the Hawai‘i State Center for Nursing, QHS, and SONDH developed a biennial writing workshop offered in six monthly didactic sessions (Kooker, Latimer, & Mark, 2015) resulting in, to-date, the preparation of 23 manuscripts, submission of 22 manuscripts, and publication of 16 manuscripts.