CNHS Receives Grant to Evaluate Innovation in Nursing Education

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s Evaluating Innovations in Nursing Education (EIN) program has announced a $299,985 grant to the University of Massachusetts Boston, College of Nursing and Health Sciences, to conduct a two-year evaluation of the schools of the “Dedicated Education Unit” model for providing clinical education to nursing students. The grant is one of four awards made in 2009 by EIN to support educational roles to deliver more efficient and effective clinical instruction to nursing students.

In the DEU, a staff nurse assumes responsibility for clinical instruction of one or two students, working with them as a team to provide care to assigned patients.

“We’re very proud of the work we’re doing with PDQ,” says Dr. JoAnn Mulready-Shick, Undergraduate Nursing Program director and clinical assistant professor in the Department of Nursing. “Through this grant we will benefit from a rigorous, independent evaluation of an educational innovation. We expect to learn a lot, and intend to put what we learn to good use with our agency partners. If the evaluation warrants, we hope to use it as a tool to introduce other nursing schools to the model.”

From the Dean

Radical transformation of nursing education has been proposed in the recent book Educating Nurses: A Call for Radical Transformation by Patricia Benner, Molly Sutphen, Victoria Leonard, and Lisa Day and is currently being studied by the Institute of Medicine (IOM) in collaboration with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF). Many of the recommendations for change in the book also apply to our Exercise and Health Sciences (EHS) students. Recommendations that pertain to our entire college include recruitment of a more diverse faculty and student body, provision of more financial aid for students at all levels, development of pedagogies that keep students engaged in learning, use of varied assessments of student performance, promotion and support of learning the skills of research and inquiry, supporting students in becoming agents of change, supporting ongoing faculty development for teaching, supporting faculty in learning how to coach, assist faculty to learn how to use normative pedagogies, and providing faculty with resources to stay clinically current.

The IOM/RWJF two-year initiative has included regional forums on nursing and public health, nursing education, and acute care and will include two technical or policy-related workshops. I had the pleasure of serving as the official blogger at the Forum on the Future of Nursing Education in Houston on February 22, 2010. There were sessions on what, how, and where we need to transition and transform our practice and education to meet the needs of the 21st-century nurse.

IOM/RWJF apprentices also are assisting faculty to learn how to use normative pedagogies, and providing faculty with resources to stay clinically current. The IOM/RWJF two-year initiative has included regional forums on nursing and public health, nursing education, and acute care and will include two technical or policy-related workshops. I had the pleasure of serving as the official blogger at the Forum on the Future of Nursing Education in Houston on February 22, 2010. There were sessions on what, how, and where we need to transition and transform our practice and education to meet the needs of the 21st-century nurse.

2 Featured News
3 Global Health
4 – 5 Focus on Faculty
6 Student Highlights
7 Photo Album

(C’nt on page 4)
Laura Hayman, PhD, RN, FAAN, associate dean for research and professor of nursing, received the Council for Cardiovascular Nursing’s Distinguished Achievement Award from the American Heart Association’s Annual Scientific Sessions in 2009. This award, given every three years by the Council, recognizes individuals who have made substantial professional contributions to the field and to the mission and goals of a specific council within the American Heart Association (AHA).

In presenting the award, Sandra Durban, current chair of the Council on Cardiovascular Nursing, lauded Hayman for her current work, in collaboration with colleagues from the College of Nursing and Health Sciences and Children’s Hospital Boston, focuses on theory-based, technology-mediated interventions designed to promote physical activity and fitness and reduce risk factors for CVD in children. Dr. Hayman has served on numerous national and international interdisciplinary advisory and expert panels relevant to primary prevention of obesity and CVD in childhood and adolescence, and she has contributed to several scientific statements issued by AHA. She has served in numerous leadership roles within AHA, including chair of the Council on Cardiovascular Nursing and liaison to the Atherosclerosis, Hypertension and Obesity in the Young Committee of the Council on Cardiovascular Disease in the Young.

Letter About GoKids

Dear GoKids,

I really like the GoKids program. It’s a program that helps kids deal with being overweight and at the same time educates kids about what they can do to make changes in their lives. What foods are better for you from the smaller portions as to the larger ones! As well as how to exercise your body. You also can use the equipment, the equipment helps you take out what weight. The equipment is always kept clean, never dirty and it feels good to know that when you use the equipment, it’s not dirty from somebody else. The staff are like my family they never make fun of you they are always encouraging you. GoKids is a good place for working out but also gets extra help on your homework.

It’s really important for me to feel safe and feel like I’m not going to be picked on for what I look like. And the program makes me feel safe and welcome. It feels great to know that I’m not alone and there are other kids dealing with the same issues as me.

Billy J. Johnson Jr. | Apr 14

Many special events are happening at GoKids. For more information, please contact Brianna Forde at 617.287.5437 (kids) or by email at Brianna.Forde@childrens.harvard.edu.
Dr. Suzanne Leewelle, a Department of Nursing professor, obtained her PhD in epidemiology from University of Washington. She is studying pain as a risk factor for disability in older adults, part of the WIRCA/Harvard Research Nursing Home Program Project funded by the National Institute on Aging. Dr. Leewelle co-led a study of an online health coaching intervention to improve patient-doctor communication about chronic health problems in primary care. More recently, Dr. Leewelle has been part of a team examining new approaches to patient access to online medical records in order to empower patients for self-management of chronic conditions. In addition, Dr. Leewelle served on the board of directors of the Boston Partnership for Older Adults, a civic coalition of aging services funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation whose purpose is to improve community-based long-term care services of Boston’s older population.

Janice Feast, a Department of Nursing assistant professor, received her PhD in nursing from the University of Pennsylvania. She completed a John A. Hartford Foundation post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania. Her program of research focuses on post-hospital medication management in older adults, which directly stems from her extensive clinical experience caring for older adults. She is currently a co-investigator on two federally funded grants addressing health care transitions affecting older adults.

Lisa Kennedy Shelton, PhD, APN, BC

Lisa Kennedy Shelton is a Department of Nursing assistant professor. She received her PhD in nursing from the University of Utah. Her doctoral dissertation involved a novel approach—a videotaped, simulated cancer patient—to capturing nurse responses to patients’ expression of emotions. She was the researcher for the national PFPN® Team—Putting Evidence into Practice. Awarded by the Oncology Nursing Society to determine the current level of evidence for interventions for anxiety. Currently, she is working with colleagues at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute to explore provider responses to cancer patient cues of distress using videotaped, patient-provider communication obtained during actual oncology visits.

Dr. Ling Shi, a Department of Nursing assistant professor, received her PhD in maternal and child health and her master’s degree in biostatistics from Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health. Her research program focuses on maternal and child health, including reduction of maternal and child mortalities in developing countries, health service utilization, and child growth and nutrition. She is the principal investigator for a randomized controlled trial on infant feeding intervention and for a data analysis research project on dietary and lifestyle factors in adolescents as predictors for cardiometabolic disease in adulthood.

Dana Commessao, MS

Dana Commessao, MA, PhD, APN, BC

Second-Degree Baccalaureate Nursing Option Off to a Successful Start

There is an obvious buzz on the street about the Department of Nursing’s diversity-focused 15-month accelerated baccalaureate nursing degree option for students who already possess a baccalaureate degree in another discipline. The first cohort of 26 students completed their course work in August 2009 and the second cohort of 34 students will complete their course work in August 2010. One strength of the accelerated option is the commitment to high quality, culturally sensitive patient and family-centered care. Another is the use of information technology to deliver course content, such as online courses and blended-format courses.
Patricia Hickey Inducted into the American Academy of Nursing

Patricia A. Hickey was inducted into the American Academy of Nursing in 2009. Dr. Hickey, a recent graduate of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences PhD in Nursing Program, is the vice president of Cardiovascular and Critical Care Services at Children’s Hospital Boston and a recent doctoral graduate of the CNHS PhD Program in Nursing. The themes of her career have been advancing pediatric nursing leadership and improving care for children worldwide.

Dr. Hickey is internationally known for shaping the specialty of pediatric nursing through effective leadership. To address the paucity of nurse-sensitive measures in pediatrics, she led the collaborative development of the Nightingale Metrics for improving care quality and patient outcomes. Through 24 years of volunteer work with Project HOPE, she provided leadership for the world’s largest nurse-sensitive measures in pediatrics, she led the collaborative development of the Nightingale Metrics for improving care quality and patient outcomes. Through her leadership has influenced policy at the state level with the development and execution of an interdisciplinary advocacy model for health policy in Massachusetts.

First-Year Seminar Students Visit Medicine Wheel Exhibit for World AIDS Day

The First-Year Seminar students enrolled in NURSING 107G, Understanding HIV Disease, recently viewed the Medicine Wheel at the cyclorama in Boston’s South End. The art exhibit has been mounted for the last 22 years on World AIDS Day, originally conceived as “the day without art” to highlight the devastating effects of the epidemic on the artistic community. The exhibit was open for a 24-hour-long vigil, with music and other art performances scheduled every hour. When asked to identify what was different about their learning HIV/AIDS content through art, students agreed that art puts a human face on the epidemic and touches the emotions. “The experience certainly enhanced the content of the course,” said Department of Nursing associate professor Amy Rex-Smith, DNSc, RN, ACNS, BC.

Fourth Cohort of Helene Fuld Health Trust Scholarship Awardees Honored

Helene Fuld Health Trust Scholarships were awarded to 10 undergraduate nursing students in fall 2009 at a luncheon in their honor. Provost Winston Langley and College of Nursing and Health Sciences Dean Greer Glazer congratulated the scholarship recipients, who are Deqah Ahmed, Justine Almstrom, Catherine Avellani, Georges Chick, Christiane Deuve, Harriette Green, Lindsay Layton, Fariyda Mulrain, Tereza Rodrigues, and Tyler Warren.