Research Center News

On October 19-20, Dr. Kathleen Bobay came to our college to present on nurse work environment and patient outcomes. Dr. Bobay is a MSN Nursing graduate of the college. During her visit she met with PhD students and faculty members. On October 21 Dr. Bobay also presented at the Sparrow Nursing Research Day. Thank you all who participated in this exciting visit.

Grant and Award News

Dr. Kelly Brittain and Dr. Sandra Spoelstra are recent recipients of the Junior Faculty Fellowship of the Behavioral Clinical Oncology Group. This fellowship is designed to provide promising young behavioral scientists with the opportunity to be mentored in research intensive settings toward the goal of developing careers in behavioral oncology. The training junior faculty receive through the BCOG is viewed as a collaborative endeavor between MSU faculty with linkages to Ohio State University, Indiana University and the University of Michigan. At the recent annual conference both recipients presented an update on their program of research.

If you have any comments, suggestions, or research related activities to report, e-mail your information to Jennifer Labun at Jennifer.labun@hc.msu.edu.
From the Associate Dean of Research and Director of the Doctoral Program

Barbara Given, PhD, RN, FAAN

As we go from Fee Hall to Life Science we notice the continued progress on the new building addition to the CON. We know that in one year we will be preparing to move in. CON faculty will be together in one building for the first time in years!! We look forward to that. Meanwhile, we continue to submit grants and manuscripts. We are excited by the number of papers accepted from our faculty and doctoral students for the Midwest Nursing Research Society. That meeting will be co-hosted by Michigan State University, the University of Michigan and Wayne State in Dearborn, Michigan in April 2012. As November winds down we have lots of presentations at the Gerontological Society which will be reported on in the next issue.

Recent Student Presentations


Research Center News Cont.

Dr. Sandra Spoelstra has been selected to participate in the Care Coordination and Assessment Work Group for the Michigan Department of Community Health’s Integrated Care planning process. This process is a contract that MDCH received from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to develop a plan to integrate the financing and delivery of services and supports for people who are eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid. Dr. Spoelstra is one of 140 stakeholders selected to provide input on the model. She will participate on one of four work groups to provide input.

Dr. Millie Horodynski and former PhD student, Dr. Paula Sherwood, were inducted October 15 as fellows to the American Academy of Nursing. They are among the largest class of inductees totaling 142 nurse leaders. The Academy Fellowship represents the nation’s top nurse researchers, policymakers, scholars, executives, educators and practitioners. Congratulations to the new inductees!

Sparrow Health System Partnership

Dr. Debra Schutte began her role as research consultant at Sparrow Hospital with the beginning of the Academic Year (August 15, 2011 – May 15, 2012). She is providing consultation on a wide variety of clinical scholarship activities, including the work of two evidence-based project fellowship teams. The Sparrow Nursing Research Council hosted their Research Symposium on October 21. This well attended conference included a keynote presentation by Dr. Kathleen Bobay, Associate Professor from Marquette University. Following the symposium, Dr. Bobay, Dr. Schutte, and Janice Hodges participated in clinical rounds, visiting with clinical nurse specialists, nurse managers and staff nurses throughout Sparrow Hospital about current practice questions and innovations. These conversations illustrate the power of linking research to the bedside and community!

Allegiance Health System Partnership

Dr. Rebecca Lehto will serve as a research consultant at Allegiance this academic year.

Allegiance Health nurses recognize that the implementation of evidence-based practice by nursing staff is a key factor for improving patient outcomes and the quality of health care, as well as to increase professional nursing role satisfaction. During the month of October, Allegiance Health System nurses have been busy with research and Evidence-Based Practice (EBP) activities. Under the leadership of research council chairpersons; Leilani Tacia, RN and Karen Biskupski, RN, the nursing staff completed Melnyk’s Evidenced-Based Practice survey. Results from the survey will identify nurse’s perceptions and beliefs, and the extent to which evidence-based practice is being implemented in clinical practice at Allegiance Health. Survey results will be used to guide evidence-based practice implementation strategies in practice and nursing education, and efforts to increase clinician satisfaction and patient outcomes at Allegiance Health.

On October 12, Dr. Barbara Given gave a presentation entitled “Transitioning Research to Practice,” at the Shared Governance Council Day. The presentation was well attended with rich discussion.

Dr. Rebecca Lehto led a journal club presentation using the paper “Identifying primary concerns in patients with lung cancer” published in Oncology Nursing Forum as the article for review.

The mindfulness focus group study conducted at Allegiance Health among patients with a history of lung cancer was completed. Results were analyzed and abstracts of the research were submitted by Dr.’s Lehto, Wyatt and John Sturtevant, RN, MS, to Midwest Nursing Research Society and the American Psychosocial Oncology Society for 2012 conference presentation consideration.
Recent Grants Submitted


Spoelstra, S. “Improving Adherence to Oral Cancer Agents in Patients with Comorbid Conditions.” Submitted to the National Institutes of Health.

Spoelstra, S. “Improving adherence to Oral Cancer Agents.” Submitted to the American Cancer Society.

Recent Presentations


Given, B. (2011, October). PhD Study in Nursing. Presentation to scholars in graduate education at Hope College, Holland, MI.


Dissertation News

This fall Melodee VandenBosch, Lori Houghton-Rahrig and Karen Bergman will be defending their dissertations. Please save the following dates:

November 29, 9-11 a.m., Melodee VandenBosch’s Defense, A230 Life Sciences

November 30, 3-5 p.m., Lori Houghton-Rahrig’s Defense, B109 Life Sciences

December 1, 1-3 p.m., Karen Bergman’s Defense, B109 Life Sciences

Upcoming Campus Events

Intermediate Sample Size Determination for Clinical Research. 106 Farrall Agricultural Engineering Hall 2-5 p.m. Presented by Dr. Alla Sikorski. For information visit http://www.cstat.msu.edu/events/ December 2

Findings from an intervention to Increase Physical Activity Among Middle School Girls. C102 East Fee Hall, 12-1 p.m. Presented by Dr. Lorraine Robbins. To RSVP contact Jennifer Labun at Jennifer.labun@hc.msu.edu December 6

Whose Name Goes Where on the Paper and Whose Data are They Anyway? A230 Life Sciences, 12-1 p.m. Presented by Dr. Jim Pivarnik. To RSVP contact Pamela Thompson at Research.Temp@hc.msu.edu December 16

Conferences and Calls for Abstracts


37th ONS Annual Congress. New Orleans, LA. http://www.ons.org May 3-6, 2012