Creating a 'Learning' Health System

The Institute of Medicine (IOM) Roundtable on Value and Science-driven Health Care update report entitled: The Learning Health System and its Innovative Collaboratives just arrived. The Roundtable leaders seek to develop a 'learning' health system – for generating and applying the best evidence for innovation, quality, safety and value in health care (HC). Eleven reports have been generated on various topics, e.g., Cost and Outcomes, Effectiveness Research and Evidence.

From their analyses of the current state, some striking conclusions include: 1) inadequate evidence to guide care, e.g., < 20% of heart disease management guidelines are based on high level of evidence; 2) using 2009 data, in the U.S. we spent > $6000/capita on HC and were outdistanced in life expectancy by 22/30 countries, most spending between $2000 – $4000/capita; and 3) excess (wasteful) HC expenditures were conservatively estimated at $765 billion!

Summarizing from the 11 reports, a variety of solutions are espoused with a theme related to expanded care technology utilization, e.g., electronic health records (that are also research-ready); sentinel systems for early error identification; remote site diagnosis and treatments; and electronic health information portals. This is balanced somewhat by a theme on individual and systems communications improvement, e.g., patient/clinical communication; cost/outcome transparency; and visible high-value information.

Both themes actually place heavy emphasis on technology. From a nursing perspective, down played is creation of a system to positively influence health-literacy, behavioral resilience/vulnerabilities and environmental resources/risks – individual and population level, e.g., shared patient groups visits or health-related social networking (enface or virtual); engaged communities; and enhanced built environments, human resources or organizational cultures.

Our college as a 'learning' organization has commitment to developing a 'learning' health system and some insights come from reading this newsletter. Suffice to say that the challenges to creating a 'learning' health system are many but the emerging opportunities are great! At the College of Nursing we strive to prepare advanced and entry to practice nurses who can discover, translate and apply innovative solutions to these challenges. Happy New Year and Go Wildcat Nurses!

Joan L. Shaver
PhD, RN, FAAN
Professor and Dean

‘WILDCAT’ NEWS FLASH!

Earn CE Credits!

Celebrate Nurses Shaping Our Future
A Learning Intensive Honoring the IOM ‘Future of Nursing’ Report
for Nurse Alumni, Colleagues, Faculty and Students

March 3, 2012 • 7:30 AM – 4:30 PM
Limited to the First 100 Participants

Registration: $50.00
includes four (4) featured speakers, town hall dialogues, lunch, breaks and flash-drive learning materials
To Register Online:
For More Information:
http://www.nursing.arizona.edu/Alumni_LIH_main.asp

Contact hours provided by The University of Arizona Medical Center Staff Development and Education. Provider approved by The California Board of Registered Nursing, BRN Provider No. CEP 10039 for 7.0 contact hours.
CELEBRATING 'WILDCAT' NURSING LEADERSHIP

Rosenfeld Appointed as New Associate Dean for Research

Anne Gassmann Rosenfeld, PhD, RN, CNS, FAHA, FAAN has joined us as associate dean for research. Besides strategically focused on building our research capacity, her portfolio also will include facilitating our PhD program and ensuring a generative climate for pre- and post-PhD studies.

Dr. Rosenfeld brings a strong national reputation as a researcher (acute coronary syndrome symptom management in women), research mentor and research capacity-builder as well as noteworthy leadership administrative leadership experience. Welcome Anne!
arosenfeld@nursing.arizona.edu

Public Health Nurse Creative Achievement Award

Kathleen M. May, DNSc, RN, PHCNS-BC, clinical associate professor, was awarded from the American Public Health Association (APHA) Nursing Section the 2011 Public Health Nurse Creative Achievement Award. The Public Health Nurse Creative Achievement Award recognizes public health nurses who create innovative approaches to improving the public’s health and educating the public about health.

Young Investigator Award

Gloanna Peek, MSN, RN, CPNP, clinical associate professor and a PhD candidate, was awarded a Young Investigator Award Mentored Research grant from Alex’s Lemonade Stand Foundation. The Mentored Research grant is a two-year award, providing $5,000 per year. The research is focused on examining a theory-based educational intervention aimed at decreasing stress, anxiety and depressive symptoms in parents of children newly diagnosed with cancer.

Welcome New Faculty and Staff Associates!

Mary Beth Lochner, DNP, RN, FNP-C (class of 1999 and 2011), clinical assistant professor, is helping to launch the clinical practices of the UA Nursing and Health Associates (faculty practice group in the College).
mlochner@nursing.arizona.edu

Thomas Farley, MS, RN, ACNP, clinical instructor, as an acute care NP is expert in critical illness evidence-based care.
tfarley@nursing.arizona.edu

Laura D. McRee, MS, RN, APRN, BC, LMT, clinical instructor, is rejoining our faculty with expertise as an acute care NP.
lmcree@nursing.arizona.edu

Julio Loya, BSN, RN, teaching associate, is a clinical nurse leader at University of Arizona Medical Center.
jloya@nursing.arizona.edu

Staff Associates:

Natalie Shue, MEd, BA, senior academic advisor, was advisor in the UA College of Engineering and recruitment coordinator in The UA Honors College.
nshue@nursing.arizona.edu

Jill Attwood, BSN, RN, teaching associate, is an adult oncology, hematology and bone marrow transplantation expert and active member of the Southern Arizona Oncology Nurses Society.
kattwood@nursing.arizona.edu

Elizabeth (Betty) Falter, MS, RN, MS, NEA-BC, adjunct faculty and executive director, Arizona Healthcare Leadership Academy, was honored with the Advancing & Leading the Profession Award.

Amedisys, Inc. has announced that 20-year hospice veteran Bridget Montana, MSN, MBA, APRN, FPCN, (class of 1991), has joined Amedisys Hospice as the division’s chief nursing officer.

Deborah Vincent, PhD, RN, APN-BC, FAANP, associate professor, presented at ‘The Diabetes in Puerto Rican Children and Adolescent: Emerging Epidemic’ conference held in San Juan, Puerto Rico in November. She was one of three speakers who presented on the topic of Culturally Oriented Efforts in Patient Care and Education, Community Outreach and Professional Education.

‘WILDCAT’ NEWS FLASH!

See highlights of research done by Terry A. Badger, PhD, RN, PMHCNS-BC, professor and director, Community and Systems Health Science Division in the UA Cancer Center Investigator Spotlight. http://www.azcc.arizona.edu/node/733

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Mary Louise Rowell Creates New Endowment

Thanks to Mary Rowell, BSN, RN (class of 1992), the College has a new endowment to support PhD and/or DNP students. Upon graduating from the University of Arizona with honors and distinction, Mary began her professional nursing career at what is now called the University of Arizona Medical Center – University Campus. Today Mary cares for children on the pediatric oncology unit at Diamond Children’s Hospital on campus. In memory of her mother, Mary endowed the Florence Lawton Scholarship. What a huge difference this will make in perpetuity for our doctoral students! If you wish to honor someone, please contact Judith Brown, Development Director, (520) 626-6233.

Inaugural LinkIN! Advisory Meeting

The College LinkIN! Community Cancer Connection held its first Professional Advisory Council meeting in December. Representation included providers from Arizona Cancer Center, Arizona Oncology, Arizona Center for Integrative Medicine, Susan G. Komen for the Cure – Southern Arizona, Tucson Chapter – the American Cancer Society, and from independent practice.

Highlights: networking health care providers who hold high commitment to comprehensive cancer care; bridging of conventional with complementary and integrative cancer care; and revealing our informative and engaging cancer resources website for connecting the survivor community with resources.

IPEP Hosted Successful CAB III

In November, the Collaborating Across Borders III (CABIII) Interprofessional conference was hosted in Tucson and locally by the UA Health Sciences (UAHS) Interprofessional Education and Practice (IPEP) leadership group. Attended by more than 750 participants representing 10 countries and with over 80 faculty from UA attending, the conference showcased an extraordinary array of innovations in IP health sciences education and practice. With IP being a strategic theme for continuing development within the UAHS Center, this conference seeded many ideas to be pursued.

Nursing Students Produce Video

Six ‘Wildcat’ Nursing students produced a video designed to help patients use the incentive spirometer, a device for maintaining optimal breathing capacity in the context of illness or recovery from surgery. Under the direction of Kara Snyder, MS, RN, ANP, CCRN, CCNS, College of Nursing adjunct faculty and clinical nurse specialist at the University of Arizona Medical Center, the senior students volunteered their time to write a script for the film. According to Snyder, students provide fresh ideas and solutions because they are new to the hospital environment. To expand the partnership between the College and medical center nursing said Snyder, the medical center nurses are devising ways to become more involved in College activities.

Diabetes Awareness Month

In November for Diabetes Awareness month, the Family Diabetes Study team and Student Nurses at the University of Arizona (SNUA) volunteers conducted blood glucose and BP screenings at El Pueblo Neighborhood Center as part of the outreach efforts with the Arizona Diabetes Alliance.

UA Sarver Heart Center Presents Healthy Heart Conference

Saturday, February 4, 2012 • 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM
The University of Arizona Medical Center • University Campus
DuVal Auditorium
Cost: $15.00
(includes refreshments, continental breakfast and information materials)
For more information and to register: www.heart.arizona.edu

The UA College of Pharmacy students will provide health screenings for blood pressure, diabetes and asthma.

Arizona Healthcare Leadership Academy
Tier I Schedule
February 8th, 22nd and March 7th, 21st
St. Joseph’s Hospital and Medical Center Training Center
3115 N. 3rd Ave., Suite 132, Room 5 • Phoenix, Arizona
Register at www.azhcleadership.org or call (520) 270-1541

The Nursing Endowed Scholarship is Growing!

Due to the generosity throughout 2011 of many of you as our friends, alumni, faculty, and staff associates, the Nursing Endowed Scholarship has surpassed $165,000! Your gifts are helping students today and will provide benefit to many over time as we continue to graduate superlative ‘Wildcat’ nurses. Thank You!
On Friday, December 16th at Centennial Hall, we joyously acknowledged our graduates. Recognized were 52 BSN, four PhD and six DNP graduates.

Awards to Students:

- Mary Opal Wolanin Award
  Sue Anderson
- Pearl Parvin Coulter Award for Excellence
  Lauren MacNeal
- Gladys E. Sorensen Award for Academic Excellence
  Samantha Haines
- University of Arizona Foundation Award
  Jamie Shroyer
- Julia Hubley Award for Clinical Excellence
  Jillian Rogers
- Katherine A. Mason Memorial Award
  Sarah Volk
- College of Nursing Alumni Council Awards
  Melissa Genczo
  Charles Downs

Awards to Faculty:

- Student Nurses at the University of Arizona Award
  Hillary Adams
- College of Nursing Office of Student Affairs Award
  Dawn Kisie

Awards to Faculty:

- Suzanne Van Ort Peer Awards for Teaching
  Pamela L. Cherry, PhD, CMSRN, clinical professor
  Lois J. Loescher, PhD, RN, associate professor
- Excellence in Teaching Award
  Patricia N. Goldsmith, MS, RN, PHCNS-BC, clinical assistant professor
  Leslie S. Ritter, PhD, RN, FAAN, professor

Additional photos are available at:
http://www.nursing.arizona.edu/photogallery.asp