Future Visions of the Research for Our AHNA Community

Guest Editorial: Marty Downey, PhD, RN, AHN-BC, CHTP, CNE, Chair, Research Committee

As the new Chair of the AHNA Research Committee (RC), I wish to begin this editorial by acknowledging the outstanding work of Dr. Sue Robertson. For the past 4 years Sue has championed research for the AHNA as Chair of the RC with style and grace. She leaves a legacy of initiatives, programs, and resources that continue the vision of her predecessors with the outstanding heartwarming wisdom and support of legendary leaders and members such as Colleen Delaney, Rorry Zahourek, Michalene King, Cindy Barrere, Pamela Crary, and Sue Roe. These, among many others with the amazing assistance of Terri Roberts, have brought research forward into the AHNA with a strong light. It is a high mark to meet the standards and mission of these leaders. Working closely with the Vice Chair, Margo Halm, and the motivated scholarly members of the RC it is my intention to continue and expand this momentum shining the light on all things holistic with special emphasis on holistic nursing. Research/QI, Webinars, Journal Clubs, Research e-News publications, Student Corner will all continue. Thankfully, this support, passion, and wisdom continues to be offered in a heartwarming manner by Sue Robertson, Colleen Delaney, and Rorry Zahourek.

It has always been a joy to see AHNA members promoting research through publications and presentations at the conferences each year. One of the highlights of my work in research has been promotion of research by undergraduate nursing students and Research Fellowship nurses through poster presentations at the AHNA conference over the years. A memorable conference in 2012 at Snowbird, UT was highlighted by a "Flash Mob Dance" with some of these lovely nursing...
students, research fellowship mentees, and other AHNA members! Now that I am Emeritus Associate Professor and adjunct faculty at Boise State University these projects and participation may shift to other endeavors through my continued association and mentoring of nurses at St. Luke’s Health System Center for Nursing Excellence Research Fellowship program. My vision is to encourage and support these research activities within the AHNA membership as well as from other holistic nurse resources. I hope to provide more endorsements of nursing programs who support undergraduate and graduate nursing research presentations at the AHNA conference and welcome ideas to move this vision forward.

The joy of sharing Florence Nightingale’s birthday brings a special holistic nursing light to my life. As I take on this new Research Chair role, I channel Florence’s early research through detailed statistics with her quote *Never lose an opportunity of urging a practical beginning, however small, for it is wonderful how often in such matters the mustard-seed germinates and roots itself.* And, an extra heartfelt thanks to Charlie McGuire for her light guiding us from within and rippling outward…I have a sense that she is proud of the forward movement of the Research Committee.

With gratitude from my heart to your hearts.

**Your Help Needed**

There is a need for new mentors for our Research Mentoring program. If you are interested, please contact Margo Halm at margo.halm@salemhealth.org

**Pre-conference proposals** Would anyone like to work on a preconference workshop on helping people to develop research proposals? This would be for the 2017 conference. If interested, please contact Margo Halm at margo.halm@salemhealth.org

Volunteers are needed to complete 5 annotated bibliographies from an assigned list. If interested contact Terri Roberts, Executive Director at director@ahna.org

We are always looking for contributors to this research e-newsletter—Research Profile, Research Term, Student Corner, etc. If interested please contact Michalene King at kingm@rmu.edu or michalene1@comcast.net

**Importance of Holistic Nursing Research**
Rorry Zahourek, PhD, PMCHNS-BC, AHN-BC and AHNA Member speaks on the importance of proper research in the world of Holistic Nursing.

Promoting Research and Quality Improvement in Holistic Nursing through Consultation Service

AHNA Research Consultation Service
The AHNA Research Committee is now offering a program for those nurses who want to conduct research or are working on a quality improvement project, but need some guidance. If you are a new researcher who would like some assistance, the AHNA Research Consultation Program is for you.

For AHNA members, this service is provided for $20 for one research consultation and $50 for three, and can be purchased online at www.ahna.org/shop. Consultations are expected to be less than one hour, and will be most productive when the Consultation Request Form is thoughtfully completed. For example, providing your area of research interest and other descriptors will enable the program manager to better match you with a consultant. After purchasing your consultation service, you will receive an email receipt that guides you in the process for your consultation. This program is managed by Cindy Barrere, who can be contacted at cynthia.barrere@quinnipiac.edu.

The AHNA Research Committee is very excited to make this service available to the members, continuing their focus to promote and support future researchers in holistic nursing.

Research Profile: Margo Halm, PhD, RN, ACNS-BC, NEA-BC
What is your current area of research?

My area of research interest focuses on integrative modalities, both for symptom management in acute care populations, and for self-care. Currently I am collaborating with colleagues on quality improvement projects evaluating the impact of Reiki with patients, families and staff on our oncology service line, and the diffusion of essential oils in the work environment on staffs’ stress in critical care units.

Tell us how you got started in research and how it has evolved over the years.

I caught the research bug in my nursing master's program. As a critical care staff nurse and clinical nurse specialist, I was passionate about shaping the patient's experience by the inclusion of families at the bedside. I had the opportunity to be part of a family intervention research team that conducted studies on visiting practices in intensive care, including testing a standardized protocol to support children who wished to visit a critically ill loved one. So my roots as a holistic nurse emerged from my view of the patient and family as a whole system, and desire to include this support system in the patient's recovery in a high acuity setting. From those early days, my research has evolved to focus on the use of integrative modalities, such as music therapy, acupressure and essential oils, on symptom management in acute care patients.

What are some of your biggest challenges, surprises, and joys in conducting holistic nursing research?

Some of the biggest challenges I've faced as a clinician and researcher have been during the implementation of research findings phase. Urging colleagues to adopt a holistic practice or integrative modality can be challenging, even when the science confirms it effectively improves well-being, symptoms, or quality of life for a certain condition in a particular population. So a surprise for me was the need to step back and help others open up to new ways of being with and intervening on the behalf of patients/families. Despite the challenges, the ultimate joy of conducting holistic nursing research is discovering innovative ways that improve health outcomes. Knowing that research generates the knowledge we need to transform the lives of patients and families ---that is what fuels me.

What advice would you give new holistic nurse researchers?

Question your practice. Find like-minded clinicians and researchers to discuss practice issues. Share your ideas, challenge ideas, and be open to new ideas. Collaborate. Seek out a mentor. Join or form a research team. Follow your passion, and believe your work will make a difference!
What excites you about the future of holistic nursing research?

We have known for decades that consumers rely on alternative and integrative practices to address their biopsychosocial needs. And now the health care landscape is opening even more. It excites me that we have endless opportunities to continue to test and validate how our holistic philosophies and models of care, and accompanying modalities impact health across the lifespan, from birth to death.

Research Term:
Rigor in Qualitative Research

By Maryann Abendroth PhD, RN

Scholars vary in their determination of criteria for scientific rigor / integrity in qualitative research (Charmaz, 2006). Rigor in this type of research is based frequently on Guba and Lincoln’s (1989) established evaluative criteria for qualitative research. The term trustworthiness is used in place of rigor, and it includes the evaluative criteria of credibility, transferability, dependability and confirmability (Guba & Lincoln, 1989).

The criterion of credibility parallels to internal validity in the quantitative world. Employing strategies that enhance credibility ensure that research results are believable from participants' perspectives. Several strategies exist to illustrate credibility. For example, researchers can use the strategy of prolonged engagement, which is the investment of sufficient time to learn the culture of a research environment. Likewise, they build trust with research participants which can be accomplished through the extensive interview process. Peer debriefing, another strategy to build credibility, is a formal or informal discussion with professional peers to help clarify aspects of a project that may otherwise remain implicit in the researcher’s mind. An example of this strategy can be working jointly with a qualitative data analysis group that includes researchers from different and complementary disciplines. Finally, member checking is yet another way to establish credibility. Researchers use this strategy when they check their interpretation of the data with feedback from research participants. This activity can occur at the end of an interview or during informal meetings (Guba & Lincoln, 1989). These are just a few of the many strategies used to strengthen credibility (Guba & Lincoln, 1989; Lincoln & Guba, 1985).

The criterion of transferability can be thought of as parallel to external validity/generalizability. Transferability refers to the degree that results may be applied to other settings. A way to achieve this in the qualitative world is to provide a thick description (i.e. very detailed description) of the data. Providing such a description can facilitate transferability of judgments in one study to other situations and environments in other qualitative studies (Guba & Lincoln, 1989). For example, transferability can be achieved in a study of caregivers of persons with chronic illness by thoroughly exploring their context of caregiving; however, other researchers who wish to transfer
such perspectives to other contexts would still need to make their own judgments about the sensibility of the transfer (Guba & Lincoln, 1989).

The criterion of dependability can be akin to the quantitative term, reliability, which focuses on the accuracy of data over time. One of the strategies that can enhance dependability is to use a code-recode technique. This activity involves coding a segment of the data and then redoing that coding procedure in two weeks to determine if similar results are achieved (Kreftin, 1991). Another way to ensure dependability is to document in detail the research design, and all the processes within the research study, in order to allow future researchers to repeat the work. Such in depth exploration allows for the evaluation of proper research practices (Shenton, 2004).

Finally, the criterion of confirmability refers to the degree to which research results can be confirmed by others. This criterion is parallel to objectivity in the quantitative realm of research. Similar to objectivity, the goal of confirmability is to assure that the interpretation of the data is rooted in the phenomenon at hand and not based on a fabrication or influence of the researcher’s experience or imagination (Guba & Lincoln, 1989). One of the strategies used to achieve confirmability is using a reflexive journal (Anney, 2014). Such reflexive analysis can be used to identify whether researchers are aware of their influence on the data (Kreftin, 1991). Another important strategy to support confirmability in a qualitative study is to employ audit trails completed by someone external to the study (Lincoln & Guba, 1985). Such audits are an in-depth examination of the research process that includes data collection and analysis. This detailed examination allows readers to see how data and constructs emerged by tracing the course of the research process. Such trails can be represented by diagrams (Shenton, 1991).

Qualitative methods are often used in holistic nursing research. Being aware of the evaluative criteria that enhances trustworthiness (i.e. rigor) in holistic nursing research will maintain our high standards of inquiry.

References


View AHNA’s growing research glossary. To contribute a definition or suggest a term, please contact research@ahna.org.

AHNA Researchers in Action

**Publications**

Full text available free.

Full text available to AHNA members. Learn how.

**Deborah Rae Goldberg, MA, ThD, Diane Wind Wardell, PhD, RN, WHNP-BC, AHN-BC, Noel Kilgarriff, PsyD, MA, MPS, STL, Berney Williams, PhD, David Eichler, MA, PhD, & Paul Thomlinson, MA, PhD**. (June 2016). *An Initial Study Using Healing Touch for Women Undergoing a Breast Biopsy*. *Journal of Holistic Nursing*, 34(2), 123-134.  
Full text available to AHNA members. Learn how.

Full text available to AHNA members. Learn how.

**Mary Ann Friesen PhD, RN, CPHQ** , Jennifer Fabian, BSN, RN, CCRN, Diane Swengros, MSN, RN-BC, Anna Herbst, MSN, RN-BC, & Lucrezia Mangione, MA, LCPC, CMT, CHTP, CHTI. (June 2016). *Examination of the Perceptions of Registered Nurses Regarding the Use of Healing Touch in the Acute Care Setting*. *Journal of Holistic Nursing*, 34(2), 167-176.  
Full text available to AHNA members. Learn how.

Full text available to AHNA members. Learn how.

AHNA members names in bold. We would love to hear about your research. Have you started your dissertation, had a paper published, presented, etc. Send your "Researcher in Action" to research@ahna.org. For publications, click on the article title for link to abstract (if available).

Thank You to the 23 Research Paper Presenters and the 18 Research Poster Presenters at the 2016 Conference

Thank you! So much

Research Paper Presenters
Christine Argenbright, PhD (VA), Christie Bailey, PhD, RN, AHN-BC (FL), Clarice Baker, CCAP, OTR/L, NCTMB, Cindy Barrere, PhD, RN, CNS, AHN-BC, FAAN (CT), Josephine Bodino, DNP(c), MPA, RN, NEA-BC (NJ), Roxane Raffin Chan, RN, PhD, AHN-BC (MI), Colleen Delaney, PhD, RN, AHN-BC (CT), Susan Dyess, PhD, RN, AHN-BC, NE-BC (FL), Katrina Embrey, DNS, RN (GA), Nasrin Falsafi, PhD, RN, AHN-BC, PMHCNS-BC (NC), Catherine Gilbert, EdD, RN (GA), Margo Halm, PhD, RN, ACNS-BC, NEA-BC (OR), Val Harshe, BS, RT(T), Kathy Kemper, MD, MPH (OH), Patricia Liehr, PhD, RN (FL), Doren Marquit, Ruth McCaffrey, DNP, ARNP, FAAN, FAANP (FL), Robin Miller, PhD, RN, CNE (RI), Amy Kenefick Moore, PhD, CNM, FNP-BC, RN, APRN (MA), Angela Prestia, PhD, RN (FL), Helen Taggart, PhD, RN, ACNS-BC (GA), Nel Thomas, MSN, PhD, RN (FL), Rothlyn (Rorry) Zahourek, PhD, RN, PMHCNS-BC, AHN-BC (MA)

Research Poster Presenters
Maryann Abendroth, PhD, RN (IL), Lenny Chiang-Hanisko, PhD (FL), Karlie Christiansen, BS, Christine Coughlin, RN (FL), Elizabeth Dailey, BSN, RN, OCN, HN-BC (PA), Marie Decker, MSN, RN, AOCN, HN-BC, NE-BC (PA), Yan Du, RN, RPH (LA), Cheryl V Elhammoumi, MSN, BA, RN, CCRN (NC), Mary Ann Friesen, PhD, RN, CPHQ (VA), Lee Ann
The 2017 Conference Proposal Solicitation has begun. Click here.

- Pre-Conference Workshop Proposal Deadline is Saturday, October 15, 2016
- Workshop Proposal Deadline is Saturday, October 15, 2016
- Research Papers Deadline is Thursday, December 1, 2016
- Research Posters Deadline is Thursday, December 1, 2016
- Non-Research Posters Deadline is Thursday, December 1, 2016

NEW for 2017: Nurse Coaching and Advanced Practice Tracks
Two dedicated tracks are being added for Nurse Coaching and Advanced Practice to the Conference Workshop Schedule. There has only been one dedicated track for Research and 8 total tracks, so with these additions there will be 10 Educational programs running simultaneously for the 2017 Conference.

Pre-conference proposals
Would anyone like to work on a preconference workshop on helping people to develop research proposals? This would be for the 2017 conference. If interested, please contact Margo Halm at margo.halm@salemhealth.org

Opportunities for Nurses

**Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing-- Call for Abstracts**
Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing has issued a call for Abstracts for its upcoming conference on the topic of Creating Healthy Work Environments. Program objectives are: Develop a supportive environment for health care workers, Recognize and articulate the standards for establishing healthy work environments, and Apply critical elements of skilled communication in the clinical and academic setting. Submissions are encouraged to show a direct link between their research and improving work health standards by following these objects; submissions due on August 24, 2016.

**Call for Abstracts for ICN 2017**
International Congress of Nurses is pleased to release its Call for Abstracts and launch the website for its 2017 Congress: www.icncongress.com. Headlined with the theme Nurses at the forefront transforming care, the Congress will take place in Barcelona, Spain from 27 May-1 June, 2017. Online submission of abstracts opens on May 16, 2016 and will close on October 10, 2016.

Student Corner
Masters and Doctoral students are invited and encouraged to send abstracts of their thesis/dissertations/quality improvement projects and submit to Connections in Holistic Nursing Research for possible publication in the Student Corner. This gives students an opportunity to publish and allow others to gain interest in their work. If you are a mentor or advisor for a graduate student, please encourage them to share with us. Please send your submissions to Dr. Michalene A. King at kingm@rmu.edu or michalene1@comcast.net. We look forward to reading about your scholarly work.

JHN Call for Manuscripts for June 2017
Special Issue: Advanced Practice Holistic Nursing

AHNA announces a call for manuscripts for a special issue of the Journal of Holistic Nursing that will focus on advanced practice holistic nursing. This issue will be published in June of 2017. Mary Enzman-Hines, PhD, RN, CNS, CPNP, AHN-BC will be the Guest Editor of the Special Issue. The deadline for submissions is October 15, 2016.

Manuscripts are sought regarding the advanced practice of holistic nursing that:

- Report research that provides evidence for practice
- Explore and analyze conceptual, theoretical, and philosophical perspectives
- Describe and evaluate methods and approaches that support research, practice, and education and advance knowledge
- Portray and analyze aesthetic representations and methods to advance forms of knowledge

It is critical that all content of manuscripts make an explicit connection to advancing the knowledge and practice of holistic nursing in the realm of advanced practice. Manuscripts should be submitted through the standard process adhering to the guidelines for submission that can be found at: https://us.sagepub.com/en-us/nam/journal-of-holistic-nursing/journal200847#submission-guidelines

Please note in your cover letter that you are submitting your manuscript for consideration for publication in the special issue related to advanced practice. We welcome this opportunity to showcase and report significant advancements in the art and science of holistic nursing.

Call for 2016 Beginnings Articles

AHNA is requesting articles for Beginnings magazine on Holistic Mental Health Nursing for the December issue, due on September 15th.

Please email article submissions to Becky Lara at editor@ahna.org. Submission guidelines can be downloaded at www.ahna.org/submitarticles

Learning With AHNA
Wednesday, August 17, 2016 at 1:00 pm EDT (NOON CDT, 11:00 am MDT and 10:00 am PDT)

Holistic Nursing in the Genetic/Genomic Era
Presenter: Leighsa Sharoff EdD, RN, NPP, AHN-BC
The exponential expansion of our understanding of genetics and genomics is transforming medicine, nursing/holistic nursing and health care as a whole. Holistic nursing must enhance its’ overall knowledge foundation, skills and attitude about genetics and genomics to prepare for the transformation in healthcare that is already underway. The purpose of this presentation is to discuss the integration of the holistic nurses' knowledge, skills and attitudes when caring for patients and families who are affected by genomically-based conditions and explore learning opportunities to enhance the holistic nurses' knowledge base in genetics and genomics.

Register for the 1.0 hour CNE for only $8 for members or sign up for the "Just Listening" webinar for free.

Wednesday, September 21, 2016 at 1:00 pm EDT (NOON CDT, 11:00 am MDT and 10:00 am PDT)

Scientific Validation of Botanical Medicine
Presenter: Ellen Kamhi PhD, RN, AHG, AHN-BC
Registration information coming soon.

Wednesday, October 18, 2016 at 1:00 pm EDT (NOON CDT, 11:00 am MDT and 10:00 am PDT)

Development of Evidence-Based Complementary Approaches to Brain Development in Children
Presenter: Deborah Kramer, EdD, RN, CPNP, FNP
Registration information coming soon.

The American Holistic Nurses Association is accredited as a provider of continuing education by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation. Provider approved by the California Board of Registered Nursing, Provider # 10442

Important Information from AHNCC

Attention Nurse Coaches--We have had a few responses, but still need more help!
If you are a nurse coach Please respond. We do not have enough respondents at this time. Your feedback is critical to being able to complete this process. Please pass this on to any Nurse Coach colleagues. They do not have to be certified by AHNCC. If you have already taken the survey, you do not need to do it again.

I am sending a request for you to participate in the Nurse Coach Role Delineation Study (RDS). If you have already completed it. A big thank you. In order to maintain national accreditation and have ANCC magnet recognition of the Nurse Coach examination and credentials we have to
have a good response rate on the RDS. We recognize that it takes time and effort to complete but it is very important. We don't want to lose our national accreditation due to a poor response rate from our certified Nurse Coaches. Please take time to complete it before July 31st when it closes.

Here is a link to the survey: http://www.ptcny.net/clients/AHNCC/2016rdsurvey_coach/. It should take approximately 20-25 minutes of your time to complete. You will be prompted to create a username and password in the event you are unable to complete the survey in one sitting and need to save it and return to it at a later time. Everyone who completes it will receive an alternative, equivalent CE hour for their efforts.

Retired Certified Holistic Nurse Reminder: The grandfather period for this will end Sunday, July 31, 2016

The American Holistic Nurses Credentialing Corporation (AHNCC) Board of Directors is pleased to announce a new certification category for retired nurses. In recognition of the contributions certified holistic nurses have made to nursing practice, education, and research throughout their careers, AHNCC offers, at the time of retirement, the title of Retired Certified Holistic Nurse.

If you are a certified nurse considering retirement or have recently retired, this new certification category may be of interest to you. As a certified nurse who is retiring or has recently retired you may want to continue to use the designation of certified but not complete the re-certification process. The Retired Certified Holistic Nurse designation may be used on documents such as business cards, curriculum vitae, or a resume. Examples are HN-BC-Retired or AHN-BC-Retired. The designation may not be used after a signature, on patient records, or professional name badges. Original certification credentials also may not be used once they have expired.

As this is a new recognition there will be a phase-in period to accommodate those who have retired and would like to receive this recognition and are past the one year expired renewal date of their certification. The grandfather period for this will begin December 1st, 2015 and end July 31, 2016. During the phase-in period, nurses who have been certified in holistic nursing, but are now retired may apply for the title of Retired Certified Holistic Nurse.

As of August 1st, 2016 the requirements below will be implemented. Thereafter, all nurses seeking the title of Retired Certified Holistic Nurse will need to meet the following qualifications at the time of application:

Be certified in good standing with AHNCC at the time of retirement,
Be retired from nursing with no plans to return to active nursing practice,
Hold a current, unrestricted RN license at the time of retirement, and
Submit an application within one year after expiration of your latest AHNCC re-certification date.
(Note: If your RN license expires, your active certification expires.)

The one lifetime fee for Retired Certified Holistic Nurse certification is $75.00 for AHNA members and $100.00 for non-members. Qualified retired certified holistic nurses will receive a letter of
recognition and a certificate suitable for framing. Candidates may apply through AHNCC. Please feel free to email us at ahncc@flash.net if you have any questions.

**AHNCC Launches New Website**
The American Holistic Nurses Credentialing Corporation (AHNCC) has launched their updated website, improving upon the old design. As a result of the update, the website has become more vibrant and easier to navigate for members. AHNCC hopes that these updates will better provide service to the nurses seeking to become certified or recertify, including prevalent displays for application deadlines and exam dates. Please visit www.ahncc.org to see the new website.

Feel free to share the content in this eNewsletter with your e-mail contacts, list-serves, or favorite discussion boards/blogs. Please just be sure to mention that Connections is a benefit of AHNA membership.

**Connections in Holistic Nursing Research**
Editor-in-Chief:
Michalene A. King, PhD, RN, CNE
Co-Editors:
Pamela Crary, PhD, RN, AHN-BC
Sue Roe, DPA, MS, BSN, RN
AHNA Board of Directors Coordinator for Research:
Margaret “Maggie” O’Brien King, PhD, RNBC, AHN-BC, CNL
Chair of the Research Committee of AHNA:
Marty Downey, PhD, RN, AHN-BC, CHTP, CNE

Although the AHNA supports the concepts of holism, it refrains from endorsing specific practitioners, organizations, products, services or modalities. Opinions expressed in this eNewsletter may not reflect the position of the AHNA.

You are receiving this e-mail from American Holistic Nurses Association because you are a member of AHNA. If this e-mail has reached you in error please contact membership@ahna.org. If you are a member and wish to change your e-mail address please visit "My Profile" at www.ahna.org.

AHNA values your privacy. We never rent, sell or share your email address.

UNSUBSCRIBE if you no longer wish to receive Connections in Holistic Nursing Research.