CAREER PATHWAY FOR CLINICAL RESEARCH NURSES

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PRESENTATION OBJECTIVES

At the end of this presentation, participants would understand the:

What?	Why?	Why Not?	Who?	How?

Clinical (Nursing) Research

OUTLINE

- What? – Introduction, Definitions
- Who? – who is a clinical research nurse?
- Why? - Importance, Nursing Implications
- Why not – Barriers/Challenges
- How? – Becoming a Clinical Research Nurse
- Conclusion
- Q & A

WHAT IS CLINICAL NURSING RESEARCH?

- **Nursing research** is:
    - a **systematic inquiry** designed **to develop knowledge**
    - **about issues of importance** to the nursing profession,
    - including nursing **practice**, **education**, **administration**, and **informatics**.

- **Clinical Nursing research**
    - research that provides evidence
    - designed to guide and support nursing practices
    - helps to develop and refine nursing theories and principles needed to improve the health and quality of the life of clients – **EBP**

WHY CLINICAL NURSING RESEARCH?

- to review:
  - service rendered/received
  - conditions of the services
  - clinical outcomes of the service
  - other information concerning those services

It enables the researcher to:

- **answer** relevant questions,
- **evaluate** outcomes and
- **make predictions** about future probabilities and trends.

WHY CLINICAL NURSING RESEARCH?

- Academic Requirement
- For promotion/ career progression
- Quest to make relevant contribution to nursing

The **ultimate aim** is to

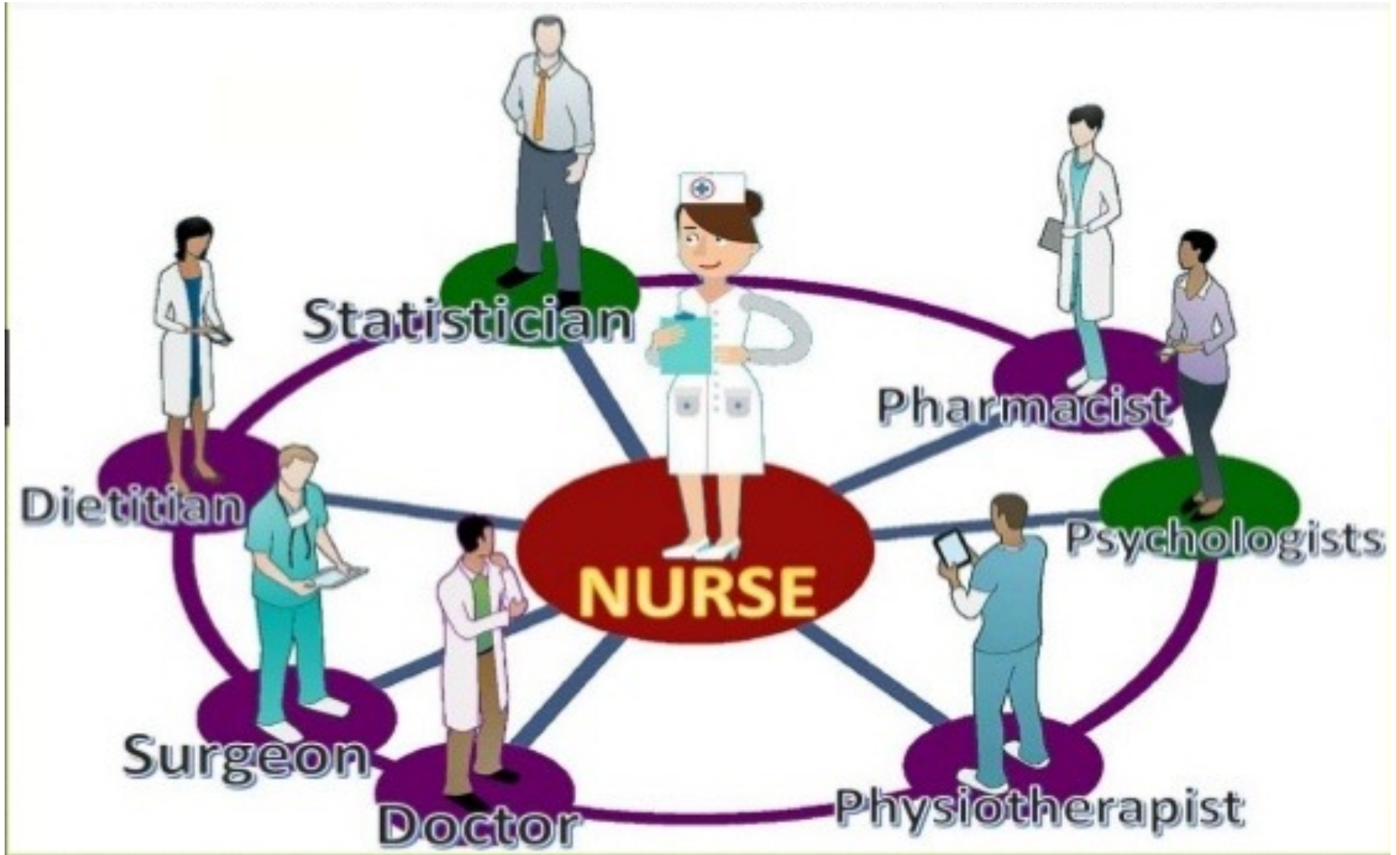promote health, prevent diseases and improve the quality of care rendered

BARRIERS TO CLINICAL NURSING RESEARCH

- little interest in conducting studies
  - no connection between the research and the nurses' activities
  - No perceived need for scientific change
- lack of sufficient time
  - for conducting research
  - for implementing the new ideas
- lack of adequate facilities to implement the ideas
- lack of authority to change the methods and patterns of care

WHO IS A CLINICAL RESEARCH NURSE?

WHO IS A CLINICAL RESEARCH NURSE?

Overtime nurses have assumed different roles in research

- Identifier of researchable problems
- Member of a research team
- Evaluator of research findings
- User of research findings
- Patient/client advocate during studies
- Subject/participant in studies
- **Principal Investigator –**
  - we tend to play our roles actively in **all except this**

The Clinical Research Nurse

Requirements

- Knowledge
- Experience
- Training
- (Desirable) Qualifications
- Skills

THE CLINICAL RESEARCH NURSE

SKILLS

- reliability,
- organization,
- communication,
- (self)motivation, self-discipline
- critical thought
- problem-solving
- decision-making
- project management – develop protocols, manage resources

- writing....

HOW?
BECOMING A CLINICAL RESEARCH NURSE

- The career path of a clinical research nurse is both **rewarding** and **challenging**.

  - Academic path
  - Technical path
  - Professional path and

- **or a unique blend of the three**

HOW?
BECOMING A CRN

- **Academic Path**
  - RN
  - Post-Basic
  - BNSc.
  - MSc.
  - PhD/DNP (US)

- **Assume a major role in the conduct of research.**
- **To:**
  - Generate nursing knowledge in a selected area of interest
  - Extend scientific basis
  - Develop methods to measure nursing phenomena

How?
Becoming a CRN

- **Professional Path**

- Assumes **a full researcher role** and has a funded program of research
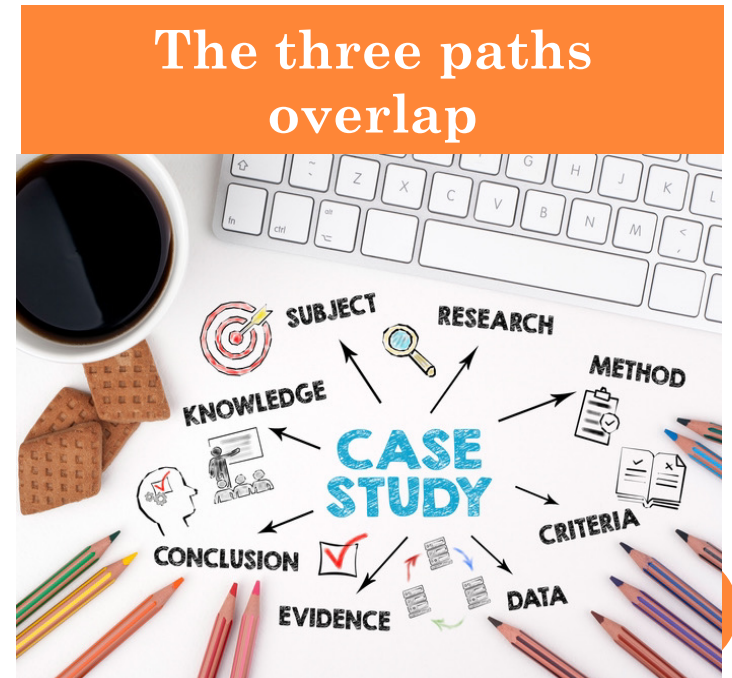- Develops and coordinates **funded** research programs

HOW?
BECOMING A CRN

- **Technical Path**
  - The Nurse gathers information in order to **answer a question** and **solve a nursing problem**

  - **e.g.**
    - Efficacy of a nursing care approach – patients' responses to medical or Nursing Intervention (EBP)
    - outcome achieved with the provision of health care services.
    - Patients satisfaction with the health outcomes care received and the health care provider.

The three paths overlap

THE CRN ROLE
BENEFITS AND DRAWBACKS

Benefits	Drawbacks
The opportunity to: ■ use analytical and research skills ■ Conduct research to international standards ■ Travel to investigator meetings and conferences nationally and internationally ■ Discuss research projects and network with others in this field ■ Enhance academic career development ■ Improve treatments for patients ■ More regular hours – no shift work	■ Dealing with research jargon ■ Less contact with colleagues and frequently work in isolation ■ Other nurses might view the CRN as a data collector ■ Short-term contracts ■ Sometimes need to arrange annual leave around studies in progress ■ Less direct patient contact

THE CRN ROLE
PAY SCALES/ FUNDING

- $65,000 – $96,000/ annum ($31-46/hour)

- **Grading**

  - **is based on** the individual's clinical expertise, responsibilities, accountability, autonomy, management/ supervisory position and educational qualifications.

  - **negotiation** on grading is possible between clinical research nurses and their employers.

- **CRN roles are financed by:**
  - Grants
  - income generated by clinical therapeutic trials
  - **Self sponsorship**

TO WRAP UP…

- It is time to reevaluate our roles in clinical research
- Principal investigators
- It is high time to **actively participate** in grand rounds with other healthcare team members on a regular basis **(Nurses: A voice to lead)**.
- Form an EBP committee within your unit or facility.
- Start a nursing journal club
- Research is not a "waste of time"
  - Need it for evidence-based practice – confidence in your practice, improve client outcome
  - Need it for professional relevance
- Change the narrative – publish your work

CONCLUSION

Nurses do
a lot of Work
It is time to let it show…
Because
if we don't
Who Will?

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING

QUESTIONS PLEASE?

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