



Global Research Nurses: building a community of practice to support nurses leading and working in research

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Background and aims

Nurses are the largest global healthcare profession. Nurses, and midwives, are at the heart of the health care delivery, health promotion, disease prevention and treatment. Leading and working in research brings in a powerful mechanism for raising the profile of nurses and midwives. Harnessing their critical role in health care delivery and unique perspective, nurses can identify research questions to address their local health challenges. Global Research Nurses (GRN) aims to give nurses and midwives, involved-in or conducting their own research, a voice. Nurses who lead health research become change agents and improve health outcomes. By undertaking pragmatic research into clinical issues nurses face in their practice, nurses are instrumental in transforming the health of their communities.

Method

GRN is a network setting to build a community of practice by nurses for nurses. This community enables nurses to engage, learn and seek opportunities to work in health research, and ultimately develop and lead their own studies. GRN is led by regional faculty leads who are research nurses in Africa, Asia and Latin-America. These faculty leads organise research capacity strengthening workshops, twinning programs, develop supportive learning strategies and skill-sharing activities in their regions.



Get involved in research!

Results and Conclusion

Through these activities, GRN have reached thousands of nurses and midwives providing them with the best tools, training and guidance to engage and lead in research. Regional leads have enabled a community of research nurses in their local regions. Workshops and webinars have shared best nursing and midwifery research practices.

It is imperative that nurses and midwives in low resource settings engage in health research. By engaging in research, nurses and midwives will enhance their career and bring evidence-led changes to health outcomes within the communities they work within.