

2011 STTI Odyssey Conference Summary: San Diego Participants

Marlene Ruiz did a splendid job (Gamma Gamma) of organizing this complex event. This year the research conference was held at the Sheraton Cerritos Hotel on Oct. 20-21. The event was called: "Nursing in Transition: Call to Action". Debbie Craig (Zeta Mu) helped with technology, and Evy Anderson (Zeta Mu) assisted at the front desk. There were 13 chapters participating and involved with registration, research abstracts, exhibitors and sponsors, arranging for keynote and special speakers, etc. Many students volunteered their time also. There was an excellent dissemination of research, innovative, clinical and educational topics. The continental breakfasts, lunches and 'snacks' kept all of us amply nourished!

The keynote speaker on Thursday was Gwen Sherwood, V.P. of STTI and Dean of the Univ. of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; she gave a fine presentation on improving patient safety through quality education of nurses. On Friday, the keynote was delivered by Louise Selanders, Prof. at Michigan State University. Those of us who knew, and were faculty under Dean Irene Palmer, found the topic very reminiscent! As an historian and scholar, she discussed Florence Nightingale in terms of heeding her enduring message as a change agent and professional leader.

Jennifer Roberts, who is a social worker at the V.A. Hospital in La Jolla, mesmerized all of us with her special presentation concerning a woman's veteran program that was mandated in 2010 to improve their physical, mental and environmental care. Some of the topic included working to change the culture of the setting, sexual assault, PTSD, and gender specific community care. The new mandates suggest many areas for interventional research with women and the military.

Darlene Finocchiaro discussed spiritual well-being and quality of life for paraplegics (co-researcher was Patricia Roth). They used a descriptive, correlational design and several instruments to measure the variables.

Linda Urden (along with Laurie Ecoff and Janisse Baclig) presented staff nurse perceptions of the Magnet journey using focus groups at recently designated Magnet hospitals in Southern California; key themes emerged for the findings. A tool is needed to measure the transformation and progress of this designation.

Judy Davidson (Lori Burnell and Nancy Saks) did a study about staff safety concerns; from three surveys, five researchers used thematic analysis to construct a reliable list. Actionable items included creation of a night-time pharmacist position, replacement of broken equipment, and development of a process for physician feedback.

Regina Izu (with Jane Georges) reported a case study about the use of essential oils for fibromyalgia self-care management. Of the 12 symptoms, 6 significantly improved, and 5 other symptoms moderately improved.

Lois Howland (with Cynthia Connelly) reported on the use of guided imagery to reduce postpartum mothers' maternal stress in the NICU with women giving birth preterm. There was a positive correlation between its use and lower awakening cortisol levels (AC), and higher cortisol awakening response (CAR).

Diane Fatica implemented a 6 weeks walking program in a population with type 2 diabetes. Using finger stick glucose, weight, and vital signs over time. There was a significant decrease in blood glucose. Patient compliance must be controlled in future studies.

Kirsi Toivanen used a qualitative design to study effective leadership and emotional intelligence using Colaizzi's Method of Data Analysis. Emotional Intelligence is considered an element of effective nursing leadership, and is demonstrated through attentive listening; an organization and its culture have a role.

Supawadee Thaewpia (with Lois Howland) looked at the reliability and validity of Thai translations of instruments for use with older pregnant women. Measures of perceived benefits, barriers, self-efficacy, social support, and health promoting behaviors were examined with adequate Cronbach's alpha levels, and content validity of all scales.

Dale Todicheeney will use purposive sampling of the quality of life among American Indians in California with hepatitis C infection. The identification of significant correlations between depression, stigma, coping and QOL will have the potential to develop nursing interventions and culturally based care for these patients.

Cecelia Crawford (Anna Omery, and Judy Husted) saw a problem between the nurse and physician in terms of their work and their worldview. An integrative review was reported on nurse-physician communication, and its impact on patient outcomes; they had some difficulty discriminating between communication and collaboration.

They also presented a poster on the use of sitters (CO= Constant Observation) in the acute care setting. The integrative review produced 7 relevant articles. There is a need for evidence-based sitter orientation programs to address issues of patient safety, patient rights, patient/family satisfaction and human dignity.

Judy Davidson and Dr. David Shaw collaborated on team training for family competency in the Scripps ICU; included were chaplains, intensivists, medical residents, nurses, respiratory therapists, and pharmacists. Patient/family satisfaction and provider comfort will be the outcomes measured.