



Expanding Nursing Research within Clinical Practice Settings:

Partnerships Between Universities and
Hospitals to Improve Health

Elizabeth M. Saewyc, PhD, RN, FSAHM, FCAHS, FAAN
University of British Columbia School of Nursing



THE CHALLENGE

- **Nursing clinical practice continues to need research and evaluation**
- **Nursing research training often takes nurses away from clinical practice, occurs in universities**
- **At the bedside, important research questions asked, but limited skill and no time allowed**
- **University-based nurse academics may have limited access to clinical sites**



THE CHALLENGE

- **Hospital and clinic leadership may not promote nursing research as important for practice**
- **Health system budgets may not fund research or the time for staff in practice to conduct research**
- **Calls to address these barriers to nursing research by developing clinician scientist roles**



How can we partner to foster nursing research?



OVERVIEW

Three strategies in Western Canada with UBC:

1. Health authority-based “Research Challenge” programs
1. Clinician scientist academic appointments
1. Jointly funded clinically-focused nursing research professorships





Health Authority “Research Challenges” for Clinical Nursing Research



SUPPORTING BEDSIDE RESEARCH

- University mentors paired with teams of bedside nurses
- Funds for small 1-year projects and pilots
- Funding by both university & health authority
- Mentor helps nurses develop proposal, guides the research
- Co-present results



EXAMPLES OF PROJECTS

- Testing use of a video message from a family member for reducing agitation in elderly with dementia
- Chart review to identify changes in length of stay and RN-sensitive outcomes before/after starting a new nurse-led pain service
- Waitlist control RCT piloting a public health nurse intervention in schools
- Survey of nurses on hypoglycemia knowledge, monitoring and management, paired with chart audit





Nurse Clinician Scientist Academic Appointments



CLINICIAN SCIENTIST APPOINTMENTS

- Nurse with PhD employed in clinical setting
- Often clinical nurse specialists or nurse managers
- University appointment, review, promotion
 - Clinical Assistant Professor (3 years, renewable x 2)
 - Clinical Associate Professor (after 5 years + external review, 5 year terms, renewable)
 - Clinical Professor (after 5 more years + external review, 5 year terms, renewable)
- Eligible for local and government research grants
- Salary paid by clinical setting (unless scholar awards)



CLINICIAN SCIENTIST APPOINTMENTS

- Mentorship and collaboration with faculty colleagues
- University support for grant applications
- Access to university resources, software
- Opportunities to supervise student thesis work
- Research focused at practice site
- 25% to 50% time in research, more if salary award



EXAMPLES

- Dr. Martha Mackay, cardiovascular nursing
- Dr. Paula Mahon, pediatric hematology/oncology
- Dr. Tarnia Taverner, virtual reality interventions for adult persistent oncology pain
- Dr. Manon Ranger, neonatal intensive care
- Dr. Angela Wolff, health human resource planning and management
- Dr. Lilian Hung, robots for Alzheimer patients



Term Professorships in Clinical Nursing Research



TERM CHAIRS OR PROFESSORSHIPS

- Collaboration between hospital foundation and university development to raise funds
- Agreement on specific clinician scientist nursing research area
- Formal search and appointment, 5 year term
 - Clinical Professor for Chair
 - Clinical Assistant or Associate for Professorship
- Funding includes research allowance, committed space at hospital for research



TERM CHAIRS OR PROFESSORSHIPS

- Expectations of role:
- 75% clinical research at clinical site
 - Can include up to 20% clinical practice
- 25% at University
 - Teaching one course yearly, guest lectures
 - Supervising graduate students
 - Committee service (grant reviews)
- Successful grant applications, publications, leadership in field

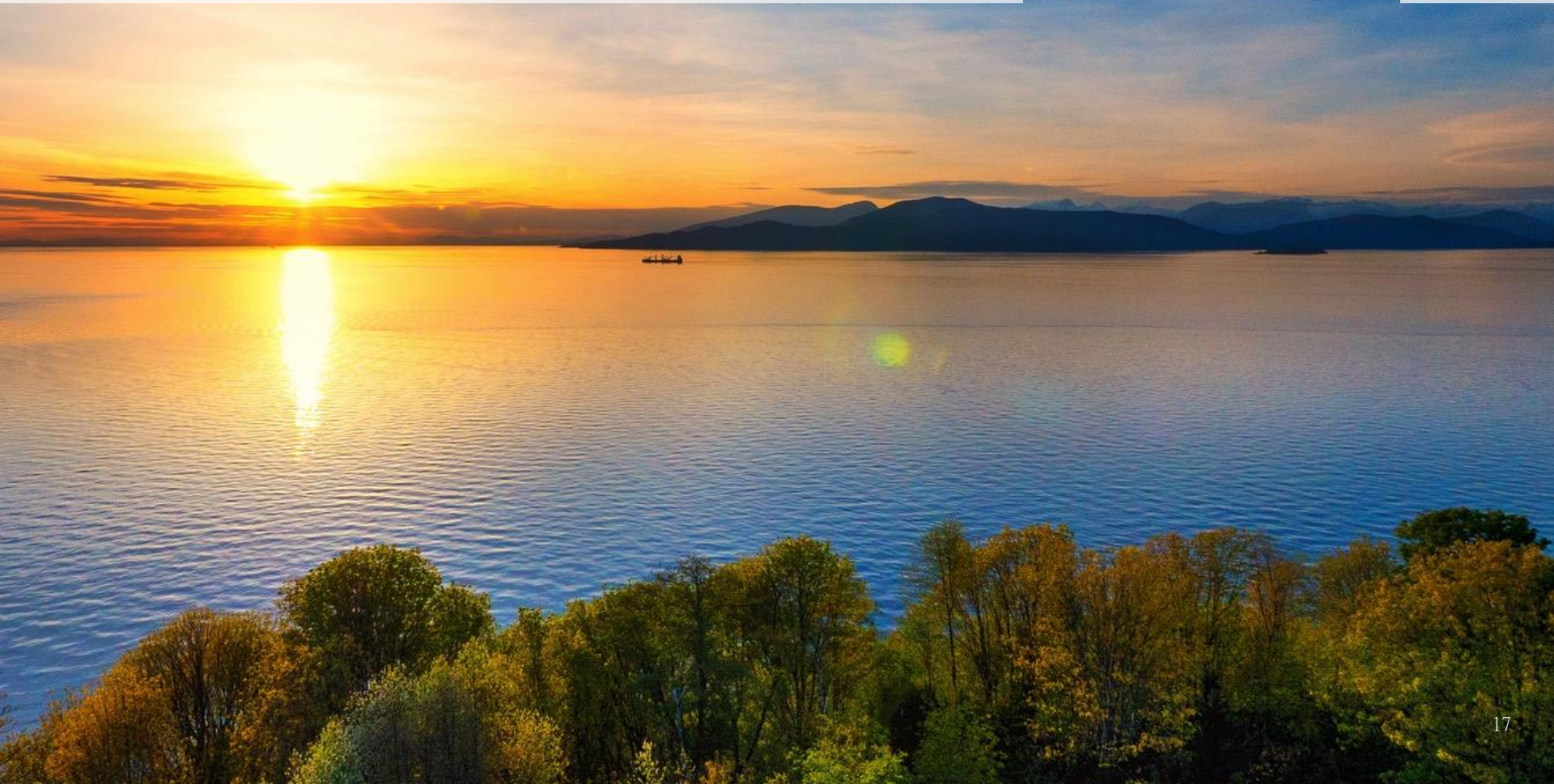


EXAMPLES

- The St. Paul Hospital and Heart & Stroke Foundation Cardiovascular Nursing Research Professorship at UBC: Dr. Sandra Lauck
- Currently developing a second agreement with St. Paul's Hospital and BC Centre on Substance Abuse
- Interest expressed in professorships in pediatric palliative care, HIV care



Partnering to Foster Nursing Research Can Work!





THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

elizabeth.saewyc@ubc.ca

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA