Research Capacity Building in Africa

Hester Klopper (PhD, MBA, FAAN, FANSA, ASSAF)
Gisela van Rensburg (PhD, RN, RM, FANSA)
Yvonne Botma (PhD, RN, RM, FANSA)

Moderator:
Elizabeth Mokoka (PhD, RN, RM, FANSA)
INTRODUCTION

DR KE MOKOKA
OBJECTIVES

• After attending this session, you should be able to:
  – Discuss the initiatives undertaken to develop research capacity
  – Discuss innovative ways of growing the initiatives across Africa
OVERVIEW OF PRESENTATION

• Introduction: KEM
• SA - Research agenda and status: HCK
• Interventions:
  – Novice researchers: GvR
  – Pre-Doctoral (Santrust): HCK
  – Post-doctoral (Plume): YB
• Conclusion: HCK
• Question and discussion: KEM
SA RESEARCH AGENDA AND STATUS
Prof HC KLOPPER

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Presented at STTI INRC 2016
• 26 Universities of which 22 offers nursing programmes
• 2012 survey – 17 participated (77% response)
• 240 Fulltime permanent academics and 203 fulltime contract staff = total of 443 academics
• Academics with PhD: 105 (23%)
• Academic registered for PhD: 78 (18%)
• Academics without PhD and not registered: 260 (59%)
<table>
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<th>PhD REGISTERED</th>
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<th>FULL-TIME (Permanent and contract)</th>
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STATUS OF RESEARCH IN SA

- Masters students
- PhD students
- Article output
- Conference presentations
- Funding
DOE RESEARCH OUTPUT CALCULATION

- **Comprehensive universities** – 0.93 units / FT lecturer
- **Traditional universities** – 1.23 units / FT lecturer
- **Universities of Technology** – 0.8 units / FT lecturer
- **PhD** – three units
- **Masters (Research)** – one unit
- **Article in DoE accredited journal** – one unit (single author or sharing)

Example: NMMU: 17 lecturers x 0.93 = 15.8 units per annum
• Developing research
  – Departmental/ School level/Faculty
    • Developing a focus
    • Developing a research agenda
  – National level
    • National Strategy for Nursing Research
    • Novice research development (NEA)
    • Pre-doctoral programme (Santrust-FUNDISA)
    • Post-doctoral PLUME programme (FUNDISA)
NOVICE RESEARCHER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Prof G VAN RENSBURG
Background

- Research capacity development of nurse educators to bridge the gap between completion of undergraduate nursing programmes and enrolling for Master’s degree programmes
- Prepare nurse educators to facilitate research projects of undergraduate and pre-registration students
Purpose

• Create a research culture among all nurse educators to promote an interest and enthusiasm for research

• Promote reflexive research to improve practices

• Promote evidence-based practice in clinical and educational environments
Objectives

• Generate and analyse information and write up the findings as a basis for a presentation
• To support the members of the group to write and submit an abstract for a conference
• To assist members of the group to prepare and deliver a quality presentation at a conference
• Assist the group to prepare an article on the completed research
• Empower nurse educators as research facilitators
Criteria for selection

• Employed as a nurse educator with less than 8 years of experience

• Have access to email and Internet

• Written proof of employer’s willingness to release the candidate to attend the programme

• Candidates who have not previously had an abstract accepted for presentation at a national conference receives preference

• Enthusiasm for research
Programme

• One year
• Monthly workshops (6-8 workshop or more)
• Small scale group project
• Outcomes
  – Completed project
  – Presentation at National conference
  – Oral and/or poster presentations
• Research report
Progress

• Dropout rate of participants has been zero to date with all but two of 28 former participants in the project continuing to enroll in Masters programmes
• All groups presented at National conference
• One poster presentation at International conference
Progress (cont)

- Initially it was a centralised national project with international funding
- Since 2015 decentralised to provinces and/or NEA Chapters with no external funding
- Partnership with University community engagement project with funding (one site)
Challenges

• Not all sites have funding
• Workload/interest of presenters
• Maintain commitment and enthusiasm of participants
• Group interactions
• Ethical clearance process
• Accessibility to research sites
• Funding for conference attendance
PRE-DOCTORAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
PROF HC KLOPPER
• The SANTRUST model:
  – a 6 module programme focusing on research methodology and PhD proposal development programme
  – a residential programme spread over 12 months in one week blocks
  – facilitated by internationally recognized academics drawn from African and foreign universities
  – a triangular model with the candidate, supervisor and facilitator working together
  – a programme that is assessed, monitored and evaluated through to PhD graduation
Continued Support

- On demand workshops (methodology, writing)
- Six monthly meetings with supervisors and students
- Tracking and support two cohorts with a total of 56 PhD candidates
- End of 2015, 11 graduated
- End of 2016, additional 15 graduates
- Last date of graduation - 2017
POST-DOCTORAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

PROF Y BOTMA
Background

- Heavy teaching load
- Many hours of clinical accompaniment
- Administrative load
- Supervised postgrad students on diverse topics

→ no research programme and no mentoring in research
Grow the research culture in academic nursing departments through a structured programme
Composition

Research programme
Individual research projects
Lead researcher
Aims

• Establishment of a research agenda in Nursing Schools
• Clear research themes of national importance based on critical mass of academics
• Create opportunities for lead researchers by redistribution of work
• Structured programme across institutions
• Earmarked funding for 6 years
• Endowed chairs to support nursing research programmes
Assumptions

• Lead researcher is senior academic with PhD

• Build a research team –
  – multidisciplinary –
  – study large & geographically dispersed samples

• Develop 1 research programme that serves as model
Indicators of success

- 2 research articles in peer-reviewed journals
- Scientific rating or applied for rating
- Scientific relationships with 2 international researchers
- Lead the group in 2 grant applications
- Mentored and linked PhD and Master students
- Obtained external funding
Structured programme

RP platform

↑ research self-efficacy of LR

External funding

↑ research self-efficacy of LR

Develop RP plan

Evaluate available resources

Evaluate available resources
Lead researcher

- Directs and coordinates research development activities
- Develops other research programmes
- Reviews and analyses proposals
- Lists of research support agencies
- Monitors projects
Lead researcher

• Creates programs for academic development in grant writing
• Creates network of support for the research programmes
• Active in the university community
• Create capacity in others
CONCLUSIONS

DR HC KLOPPER
CONCLUSION

• Successes - outputs
• Trajectory of development: Novice – pre-doctoral – post-doctoral
• Development of a system and the individual
• Funding for sustainability
• Lessons learned, e.g. restructuring of PLUME Cohort II
QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION
DR KE MOKOKA