

Canada and India: An Innovative Partnership to Advance Oncology Nursing Research

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Cancer care nursing research is at a very promising juncture in the history of the field. This is a result, in part, of the unprecedented availability of funding for research, continuing education, clinical training, and, more recently, well-funded research training opportunities for nurses interested in pursuing graduate work in oncology nursing. Canada and India have been at the forefront of establishing two well-articulated research programs to train the next generation of clinician-researchers in the area of psychosocial oncology. The initiatives have been particularly timely because wide access to information technology allows the transcendence of time and geographic boundaries to bring relevant stakeholders together to advance the science and practice of oncology nursing. The purpose of this article is to review the specific research training activities (a core videoconferenced evidence-based seminar; periodic virtual, interactive brainstorming sessions; and yearly face-to-face workshops) of the programs in terms of core themes and pragmatic issues associated with their delivery across the various national and international training sites. Strategies are

presented to ensure that research training activities can be replicated across other clinical sites, institutions, and countries. This article hopefully will inspire other researchers to develop similar transdisciplinary research training programs toward a strong research and mentoring tradition within nursing and across relevant psychosocial oncology fields.

Background

Initially, a nursing-led research training initiative focusing on psychosocial oncology had to be conceptualized and submitted as a grant proposal (Loiselle, Degner, Butler, & Bottorff, 2003–2009). At the time, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) had announced an intention to fund training program initiatives to build research capacity in Canada. In particular, emphasis was placed on the efforts of healthcare researchers interested in a transdisciplinary approach to collaborative research. A total of \$1.8 million (funded jointly by CIHR and the National Cancer Institute of Canada [NCIC]) over a six-year period was granted to the nursing-led training initiative called the PORT (Psychosocial Oncology Research Training)

program (Loiselle, Profetto-McGrath, Polit, & Beck, 2007). Once the working framework of the PORT program was established, an important step was to promote its mandate so that eligible graduate students interested in psychosocial oncology research could apply for training and funding. A key dissemination strategy was, and continues to be, the program's Web site (www.port.mcgill.ca), which provides comprehensive information on PORT's mentors and trainees, ongoing activities, funding opportunities, and sample publications. An additional promotional strategy was to engage the network of PORT mentors across the country in actively recruiting trainees from various disciplines to the program.

The intersection of "word of mouth" and the Internet led to interest nationally and abroad. One interested party was India's accomplished clinician, Brindha Sitaram, PhD, who was looking for well-established

Leadership & Professional Development

This feature provides a platform for oncology nurses to illustrate the many ways that leadership may be realized and professional practice may transform cancer care. Possible submissions include, but are not limited to, overviews of projects, accounts of the application of leadership principles or theories to practice, and interviews with nurse leaders. Descriptions of activities, projects, or action plans that are ongoing or completed are welcome. Manuscripts

should clearly link the content to the impact on cancer care. Manuscripts should be six to eight double-spaced pages, exclusive of references and tables, and accompanied by a cover letter requesting consideration for this feature. For more information, contact Associate Editor Mary Ellen Smith Glasgow, PhD, RN, CS, at maryellen.smith.glasgow@drexel.edu or Associate Editor Judith K. Payne, PhD, RN, AOCN®, at payne031@mc.duke.edu.

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