DNP SCHOLARSHIP: INFLUENCE AND IMPACT

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Objectives

- Develop an understanding of scholarship as it relates to the practice doctorate
- Explore the historical underpinnings that have changed nursing’s view of knowledge generation
- Understand the critical nature of the scholarly project and other scholarly work, which will have an impact on the evolution of the DNP and practice outcomes
Enrollment and graduation rates are increasing (8973 enrolled/1581 grad 2011)

DNP is becoming part of the fabric of organizations, academia, entrepreneurial efforts

Poised to analyze the impact of the DNP

In fact, the relevancy of the DNP requires this analysis
Enrollments and Graduations in DNP Programs: 1997-2012

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In order to demonstrate a positive affect on health care; dissemination of results (part of scholarship) will be required.

IOM Future of Nursing Report states that nurses should practice to the full extent of their training and be full partners in redesigning health care.

There are many unanswered questions in the roles that DNPs take on and how to carve out the space for scholarship.
Any form of nursing intervention that influences health care outcomes for individuals or populations, including the direct care of individual patients, management of care for individuals and populations, administration of nursing and health care organizations, and the development and implementation of health policy (AACN, 2004)
Definitions of Scholarship

- Serious formal study or research of a subject  
  (Merriam Webster’s Learners Dictionary, n.d.)

- A way of being in the world  (Magnum, 2010)

- A feature of our continuing survival  (Fawcett, 1999)
Nursing Scholarship

- Activities that advance teaching, research and practice of nursing through rigorous inquiry (AACN, 1999)
- Breadth/depth of knowledge within a defined area
- Innovation and creativity
- Exposure of the scholarly project to public scrutiny and review (Magnum, 2010)
The Evolution of Scholarship

- Early to mid 20th century – narrow/science based

- Boyer (1990) Scholarship Reconsidered

- Need for social relevance and scientific advancement (AACN, 2009)

- Complexities of society and health care require a broader view (Reed & Shearer, 2011)
How can the role of the scholar be defined in ways that not only affirm the past but also reflects the present and adequately anticipates the future?
Discovery - original research

Integration - new insights on research, connects with other disciplines

Application - knowledge applied to problems

Teaching - centers on student learning/entices future scholars
Focus on the scholarship of integration and application

Comparison to engineering, which centers on the application of evidence based knowledge to practice problems, using integration from other fields to create interventions (Zaccagnini & White, 2011)
Evolution of Clinical Scholarship

- Links between practice, nursing theory and research
- Nightingale
- Practice nurses utilized the knowledge from research/theory testing
Nursing has been on this Journey..

- Doctor of Nursing Science DNSc (1970) clinical competence, demonstrated scholarly research

- Doctor of Nursing (ND) 1979 focused on development of the clinical leader

- DrNP geared toward NP

- DNP improve delivery of care, patient outcomes and clinical systems management
New Strategies for Theorizing

- Guerrilla Theorizing (making something that is innovative, flexible, and impermanent derived from the practitioner’s inspiration and knowledge, ethical concern and interaction with the immediate world)

- Bricoleur (creating a new coherent structure with what is at hand)

- Improvisation (creation out of existing elements in the moment)  (Reed & Shearer, 2011)
Setting the Stage for Impact

- IOM Quality Chasm and Future of Nursing Report
- Health Care Reform – contain cost and promoting patient safety with high quality outcomes
- Demand for Evidence Based Care
- Leadership – AACN, Doctoral nurses
- DNP Essentials and Projects
Network of Scholars

- Role of the practitioner
  - Researcher is problem solving and producing local/contingent situation information

- Role of the scientist
  - Researcher develops theories about large areas of reality (Reed & Shearer, 2011)
Phases of Knowledge Development

- Exploration – knowledge discovery (quantitative/qualitative)
- Explication – theory evaluation
- Engagement – implement, evaluate, disseminate knowledge (program evaluation and QI)
- Optimization – revising/refining interventions (Velasquez, McArthur, Johnson, 2011)
Conceptual Model Doctoral Nursing Roles

Example of Team

- My Self-Management Team – small business that utilizes practice to continue to develop innovations

- Sharing work and the glory of articles, presentations, posters (scholarship team)

- Expand teams for projects – coming book (Moran, Conrad, Burson)
DNP Team
Blazing a Trail
Incorporates practice and scholarship

Demonstration of the doctor of nursing practice essentials

Embraces practice scholarship

Builds the bridge between research and practice where new knowledge is developed on both sides of the bridge

Is just the beginning…
Variable titles of the project

- 17 variable names (See Table 1)

Variable types of projects (See Table 2)

- Quality improvement 90%
- Translation of evidence to practice 85%
- Clinical or Practice-based inquiry 80%
# Scholarly Project Names

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title of DNP Project</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Capstone</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Scholarly Inquiry Practice Dissertation</td>
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<td>Clinical Scholarship Project</td>
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<td>Evidence-Based Project</td>
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<td>Practice Dissertation</td>
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<td>Capstone Inquiry</td>
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<td>Clinical Inquiry Project</td>
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<td>Scholarly Project</td>
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<td>Residency Project</td>
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<td>Clinical Portfolio</td>
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<td>DNP Doctoral Project</td>
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## Types of Projects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Project</th>
<th>Count/Percentage</th>
<th>Scholarly Categories</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quality Improvement</td>
<td>36 90%</td>
<td>Engagement/Optimization Integration/Application</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Translations of Evidence Into Practice</td>
<td>34 85%</td>
<td>Engagement/Application</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical/Practice Inquiry</td>
<td>32 80%</td>
<td>Exploration/Discovery</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health Care Delivery</td>
<td>28 70%</td>
<td>Engagement/Optimization Integration/Application</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program Evaluation</td>
<td>27 67.5%</td>
<td>Optimization/Application</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health Care Policy</td>
<td>23 57.5%</td>
<td>Engagement/Integration</td>
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<td>Generating New Evidence</td>
<td>16 40%</td>
<td>Exploration/Discovery</td>
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<tr>
<td>Generation of New Knowledge</td>
<td>7 17.5%</td>
<td>Exploration/Discovery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description of Phenomena</td>
<td>5 12.5%</td>
<td>Exploration/Discovery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Generation of New Theory</td>
<td>2 5%</td>
<td>Exploration/Discovery</td>
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Features of Practice Scholarship

- More than translational
- Inclusive, broad, varied. Incorporates Engagement/Optimization
- Integration/Application
- Academic rigor - 86.5% identified this as a strength
Expectations of DNP Scholarship

- Within organizations to affect populations, systems
- Within academia to affect all areas of scholarship
- Local to national health policy/outcomes
Institutional policy change
Funneling evidence-based practice to the bedside
Funneling practice-based evidence to research
Nursing theory refinement/development
Academic appointments
Work in interdisciplinary teams

DNP Academia Scholarship

- Tenure track based on practice scholarship
- PhD/DNP collaboration (teams)
- Organizational appointments
- Clinical relevance
Political influence

- Lead inter-professional collaboration efforts with government policy-making bodies, think tanks, or schools
- Advance legislative issues at the grassroots level
- Work effectively with legislative staff to advance policy agendas
- Expert analysis on the potential or current impact of health and government policies
- Advocate for social justice, equity, and ethical policies within all healthcare arenas

Interpret government policy and health research findings for the public
Our World is Changing
“DNP programs prepare leaders who will improve the quality of care, patient outcomes, and health policy that expands their impact on the health of society” (NONPF, 2005, para 3).
The Donabedian Model

- **Structure** — how well do we use providers to deliver care?

- **Process** — what are the health delivery processes that produce the best care and outcomes?

- **Patient Outcomes** — ultimately how does structure and process affect the patient and society to improve health? (Donabedian, 1988)

Evaluation of the DNP

Outcomes
Results for patients and populations

Process
Healthcare Delivery by the DNP

Structure
DNP Education

Advanced Practice Role Development

Scholarly Project as Demonstration of Meeting Competencies of Essentials & Entry to Practice Scholarship

Process Health Care Delivery by the DNP

- Innovative Advanced Practice Roles
- Innovative Health Care Delivery through Evidence-Based Practice

Patient Outcomes

Population Outcomes

Policy Outcomes

System Outcomes

Outcomes

Results for patients and populations

Healthcare Delivery by the DNP

Process

Structure

DNP Education

Dissemination of the outcomes of practice scholarship will be the deciding factor in determining the impact of the DNP.

Examples:
- Central repository, state-based groups, presentations, Op-Eds, peer-reviewed journal articles, national and state legislative discussions.
The name of the scholarly project should incorporate both the practice and the scholarly challenge and become more consistent: perhaps scholarly practice project?

Continue to utilize all skill sets of DNPs to affect change in populations, health care organizations, policy etc – caution in focusing too heavily on one group or another (NP vs administrator)

Challenge to continue scholarship after attainment of the DNP degree to continue to impact health care – value work of teams
Recommendations

- Continue to more cleanly define practice scholarship for organizations, academia
- Develop ways to categorize our knowledge development to further disseminate and build on practice based knowledge
- Continue to work closely with our PhD colleagues to further the work of scientific inquiry within nursing
Recommendations

- Encourage appropriate rigor of projects – DNPs need to define what this looks like
- Other ideas?
The DNP nurse is prepared to answer the charge from the Institute of Medicine for nurses to take their place at the decision making table and to collaborate with other healthcare professionals to improve the health and health care of our nation.

Scholarship is the driving force that will develop practice based evidence and support the developing success of the practice doctorate to close the gap between research and practice.

Dissemination of outcomes related to DNP work will propel the influence and the impact forward, thereby meeting societal needs of improved health for our populations.
Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.

-Ralph Waldo Emerson
References

References

- Merriam-Webster’s Learner’s Dictionary (n.d.)
  http://www.learnersdictionary.com/search/scholarship


