program is designed to promote knowledge generation and knowledge transfer in the field of cancer nursing by training the next generation of advanced practice nurses and nurse scientists in cancer care, palliative care, and cancer prevention. This objective will be accomplished through several mechanisms, including:

- building on existing research strengths in the Cancer Nursing Research Group at the Faculty of Nursing, University of Manitoba;
- initiating an oncology stream in the Master of Nursing Program in the Faculty of Nursing, University of Manitoba;
- Dr. Lesley Degner - Chair, Initiating a Joint Ph.D. in Cancer Control between the Faculty of Nursing and the Department of Community Health Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, University of Manitoba;
- linkage and exchange with key decision-making partners in practice; and
- providing high quality research training and mentorship as well as preparation in the techniques of knowledge synthesis and knowledge transfer.

**Dr. Lesley Degner - Chair**

The program is national in scope, and has already attracted students all the way from Victoria to St. John’s. The academic programs are located in the Helen Glass Centre for Nursing, complete with cutting-edge computer and videoconferencing facilities.

Dr. Lesley Degner was awarded the research, education, mentorship Chair on the basis of her track record as an independent investigator in cancer nursing, and her abilities as an educator and mentor.

Four other early career scientists in the Faculty of Nursing play an active role in the program:

- **Dr. Thomas Hack**, CIHR/NCIC Dorothy Lamont Scientist in Cancer Control, whose research focuses on patient-health professional communication in cancer (full-time with the program);
- **Dr. Michelle Lobchuk**, whose research focuses on patient and family perceptions of the symptom experience, and whose education expertise is in the field of evidence-based practice (full-time with the program);
- **Dr. Roberta Woodgate**, who is an active publisher in the field of pediatric oncology and an acknowledged expert in qualitative methodology (tenure track position); and
- **Dr. Susan McClement**, an award-winning teacher in the field of palliative care, whose research focuses on nutritional aspects of end-of-life care and assessment of delirium (tenure track position).

In addition, Dr. Karen Chalmers, associate dean of graduate studies in the Faculty, plays an active role in the cancer prevention component of the program, her research is focused on the fields of the impact of breast cancer on family members and smoking cessation.

Two other tenure track faculty members will be assisting in the Ph.D. program:

- **Dr. Bill Diehl-Jones**, a physiologist and nurse with a laboratory in the Faculty of Nursing who is validating biomarkers for determining the relative risk of breast cancer from environmental exposure to polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons; and
- **Dr. Maureen Heaman**, a nurse epidemiologist, whose teaching expertise is

Dean’s Message

There is no shortage of activities to report on from the Faculty of Nursing. Perhaps the most important and exciting news is that our undergraduate curriculum is undergoing a revision. The full launch of the new degrees and programs will be September 2004.

This fall, we “welcome home” our 1978, 1983 and 1993 alumni for their respective 25, 20 and 10-year reunions.

Our PR/Communications Officer, Susan Erjavec, will be working closely with the Dean’s Office to bring you “home” for special events and activities. In the fall of 2003, concurrent with Homecoming celebrations, we will launch the Faculty’s 60th anniversary. This year-long celebration offers many opportunities for us. Stay tuned for details!

The foundation exists from which the nursing alumni can grow and prosper. We are strongly committed to working with the alumni and creating lasting connections that will benefit both the alumni and the Faculty.

Sincerely,

David Gregory RN, PhD

Visit www.umanitoba.ca/nursing
Our Mission
To advance, communicate, and preserve nursing knowledge and to prepare individuals for the practice of professional nursing, thereby contributing to the health and well-being of individuals, groups and communities.

Goals & Objectives
Programs are economical, socially responsive, flexible, practice-based, and incorporate the unique philosophies and ethos of the program partners.

Graduates are prepared to engage in research-based professional practice in a variety of health care settings and within a changing health care system.

Graduates of the Master's Program are prepared to advance nursing knowledge and practice through the development of practice-based research programs.

Faculty provide expertise to the nursing community in areas of research, practice, and education.

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in the philosophy of nursing science.

The Education and Training Program only accepts full-time students who are committed to a career in cancer nursing, either in an advanced practice role or as a nurse scientist. Students in the master's program receive research training both through course work and summer placements in our research programs, and take a clinical major in cancer nursing practice. The students are also required to take our newly developed course in evidence-based nursing practice.

The Research Laboratory is located at the St. Boniface Hospital Research Centre, which provides space for the scientists, project manager, data analyst, and our research nurses. Students work in the research programs of the faculty members that most closely match their own interests, and develop their thesis topics through a mentorship process with their supervisor and with input from decision-maker partners in practice. Students are also rotated to work on different projects to ensure that they have the opportunity to learn a range of research methods and practical skills in conducting clinical research.

Visit www.umanitoba.ca/nursing for all the latest news, events and our monthly newsletter NursingCARE.

CFI Award to Support Nursing Research
Dr. Bill Diehl-Jones, Faculty of Nursing, recently received a Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) award for a total of $298,000, which includes federal and provincial contributions as well as matching funds. “This is an infrastructure grant that will enable the Faculty of Nursing to build first-class lab facilities. I am excited about the research possibilities that can be realized through this institutional award,” said Diehl-Jones.

CFI is an independent corporation, established by the federal government in 1997. The Foundation’s goal is to strengthen the capability of Canadian universities, colleges, research hospitals, and other not-for-profit institutions to carry out world-class research and technology development. By investing in research infrastructure projects, the CFI supports research excellence, and helps strengthen research training at institutions across Canada.

The award, part of the New Opportunities initiative, provides infrastructure support to newly recruited academic staff. The fund helps universities attract world-class faculty members in areas that are essential to the institutions' research objectives.

Diehl-Jones will be adding equipment to the Applied Cell and Molecular Physiology Lab on the third floor of the Helen Glass Centre for Nursing. This facility is open to all researchers in Nursing; and is currently used for training nursing undergraduate students and for conducting research for Professors Askin and Diehl-Jones.
The Manitoba Nursing Research Institute (MNRI) hosted an invitational forum on Friday, October 4, 2002 at the Deer Lodge Centre. *Building a Nursing Research Community: A Blueprint for Today* was co-sponsored by the College of Registered Nurses of Manitoba (CRNM) and the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority (WRHA).

The forum brought together more than 50 nursing leaders from throughout the province representing sectors of administration, professional regulation, practice, education and research. Topics of discussion included:
- building appreciation for nursing research among all nurses;
- allocating resources within organizations to support nursing research;
- forming partnerships;
- developing research links;
- identifying sources of funding; and
- identifying ways to transfer nursing findings into practice.

Dr. Lorna Guse RN, director of the MNRI and forum organizer said, “The goal was to develop an action plan for enhancing the research community in Manitoba. I believe we moved closer to this goal because of the ideas and motivation generated here today.”

Nursing research encompasses all aspects of health, for example, health promotion, illness prevention, and care of people across the lifespan during illness and recovery or toward a peaceful and dignified death. The knowledge generated through nursing research is used to develop evidence-based practice, improve the quality of care and to maximize health outcomes and cost-effectiveness of nursing interventions.

“This was an excellent opportunity to demonstrate leadership within Manitoba’s nursing community,” said Susan D. Neilson RN, executive director of the College of Registered Nurses of Manitoba. “Much of what we do in nursing is research or evidenced based. A sound research foundation is critical to good patient outcomes.”

Jan Currie RN, vice president and chief nursing officer at the WRHA says, “Nursing research is crucial to expanding nursing knowledge. What we learn in nursing research is incorporated into everyday nursing as a practice-based discipline.”

Dr. David Gregory RN, dean of nursing said, “This forum was a wonderful opportunity not only to discuss the future of nursing research within Manitoba, but to evoke action towards that ultimate goal.”

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**Heaman Selected Mentor for STIRRHS Initiative**

A proposal for a national Strategic Training Initiative in Research in Reproductive Health Sciences (STIRRHS) recently received funding from the Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR) Strategic Training Initiative in Health Research ($300,000 per annum for six years).

Dr. Maureen Heaman, (pictured below) an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Nursing at the University of Manitoba is one of the mentors for STIRRHS.

STIRRHS has two major innovative trusts:
1. Development of transdisciplinary research training that encourages students to take a broad view of both the ethical and social implications of issues in reproductive health.
2. Development of a Virtual Learning Environment, in which didactic and interactive materials are made available to Canadian students via web-based modules and courses.

STIRRHS uses outstanding research groups that have multidisciplinary approaches to investigating reproductive health issues that are of central importance to the population: preterm birth, preeclampsia, assisted reproductive technologies, at-risk sexual behaviour, and appropriate use of obstetrical technologies, as a training platform.

The training program will provide bursaries to students in existing MSc, PhD and clinical research programs in Canadian universities. In addition, recipients of STIRRHS bursaries will be required to participate in transdisciplinary courses.

Groups that share methodological expertise will develop curricula and educational tools that provide access to avant-garde concepts in their disciplines. STIRRHS will prepare a new generation of researchers in the reproductive health sciences to face unprecedented challenges that are on the horizon and to develop meaningful and lasting solutions to these problems.
Susan McCowan (BSc 87, BN 91) has been a part of the Strengthening Primary Care In Nova Scotia Communities Initiative for the past three years. Although this trial is closed at the end of March 2003, Nova Scotia’s government has committed to continue funding the four original Nurse Practitioner (NP) positions and has recently included funding for at least eight more positions across the province.

Susan’s role as a Primary Health Care NP at the North End CHC offers variability, flexibility, and autonomy as well as plenty of opportunity for collaborative interactions with other members of the health care team. This team of health providers includes nurses, physicians, a social worker, a lactation consultant, drug dependency counselors, and a dietician, to name a few. The role continues to be developed and offers endless challenges in providing new and added ways to deliver health care to Halifax’s north end residents.

She was married to Austin David Hatcher in Winnipeg, on July 13, 2002.

Says Susan, “My most memorable times at the U of M were spent with fellow classmates both during and after classes. My mentors were Shirley Watts and Sally Corby, our skills lab instructors who always cared, encouraged us to do our best, provided support when we needed it, and who taught us the most important things in nursing – to listen and to care.”

“I still remain connected with fellow classmate, Fanyee Wong, and others some years after graduation: Esther McKeown, Joanne Mondar (nee ?), Cindy Allen, Janet Paquin, and Christine Kuriata,” continued Susan.

“Next in my career, I would like to be more involved in teaching Nurse Practitioner students in addition to my clinical practice,” says Susan. “I am also interested in becoming a consultant to communities across Nova Scotia and/or abroad that wish to attract a Nurse Practitioner(s) to their area. Further down the road, I would like to explore the possibilities of creating a ‘multi-Nurse Practitioner practice’ that also incorporates other health disciplines.”

An exciting diversion from nursing includes Susan’s debut as a contributing author in a new book called Prairie Chicks & Horses by Cathie M. Crossin that is now available in major bookstores in Manitoba. She submitted a short story about her beloved horse, Aurora, who has been her close animal companion since elementary school. For curious fellow horse lovers, the website is www.prairie.ca/~crossin.

Congratulations on your successes, Susan!

Sandy (nee Olinkin) Tschosik now lives and works in Bismarck, North Dakota. She and fellow classmates Jane (Whyte) Beck and Jodie (Dryden) Nuss still keep in touch. Tschosik met her husband Todd, a teacher, while working in Bismarck, and so did Jane. The rest, as they say, is history!

Says Sandy, “Although I have made Bismarck my place of residence, I still consider Winnipeg ‘home’ and I’m truly a Canuck at heart. And Winnipeg is still close enough (410 miles), so we do get up there to visit a couple of times a year.” She adds, “If anyone passes through the Bismarck area – feel free to look us up!”

When Sandy first moved to Bismarck she worked as a pediatric nurse at a local hospital. “It was a 12-bed unit with a 4 bed PICU and we took care of the typical med/surg patients, traumas, and oncology patients,” says Sandy. For career growth, she joined the education and the hematology/oncology committees for her department. “I taught programs to school age children to help familiarize them with what they could expect to see, feel etc. if they should ever end up in the hospital, as well as a program to enhance self esteem,” explains Sandy.

In 1998, she became involved with Children and Healthcare Week™, a program sponsored by the Association for the Care of Children’s Health (ACCH) to increase public and professional awareness of the special needs of children in health care settings. “I coordinated the activities throughout the hospital during the week. I also submitted a report to qualify for an award,” explains Sandy.

“To my surprise we won the 1998 international award, for the hospital in the ‘50 or fewer beds’ category.” She continues, “As a result, I served as a national co-chair on the 1999 Planning Committee for Children and Healthcare Week™. This was a great experience for me and has truly been one of the best accomplishments in my nursing career.”
Student Council Reports

NSAC - Nursing Students Association Council
by Kristen Heidrick, Co-Stick (4th Year)

During the past academic year, the Nursing Students’ Association Council underwent significant reorganization. This opportunity was used to quickly identify our goals and objectives for the year.

A major goal was to implement more effective means of communication among the student body, UMSU, the Faculty, and other relevant parties on campus. Our monthly newsletter, SOAP NOTES, has become a reliable source of relevant information. Other communication pieces include: an NSAC homepage, utilizing the My UMinfo feature on the University’s website, creation of a nursing student email list, and increasing accessibility of council via longer office hours/e-mail/prompt and reliable response methods.

In addition to the increase in communication within the student body, NSAC set out to enhance our students’ sense of community within the Faculty. With the funding support from the Faculty of Nursing’s Endowment Fund, NSAC will see the newly renovated student lounge house a more efficient office space, as well as a nursing-specific resource area. NSAC was also granted funding to establish three scholarship awards for students within the Faculty, which will promote clinical excellence and professional leadership.

These highlighted accomplishments are among the many experienced by NSAC in the past year. We are committed to, and continuously strive towards maintaining an effective council representative of the nursing student body, which will support the efforts of future councils.

GNA - Graduate Nurses Association
by Genevieve Thompson & Simone Stenekes, Co-Chairs

The GNA met regularly throughout the school year and hosted several events. Scholarly activities were held throughout the year including the annual orientation meeting, a Proposal Workshop and the Thesis/Practicum/Comprehensive Exam Workshop. These workshops were well attended by new and returning students and provided information on the research interests of faculty as well as some of the expectations around thesis and practicum work.

One of our most enjoyable events was a bingo bowl held for faculty, staff and students. This was one of the first social events hosted by the GNA and we wish to thank all who helped in organizing the event.

Sandy Tchosok and husband, Todd.

In 2000, Sandy decided to try something completely different. She accepted a position with a Chicago-based pharmaceutical company as a Clinical Nurse Consultant/Electronic Drug Delivery Systems Specialist. “I now promote, sell and educate clinicians on how to use infusion therapy equipment (such as needle free IV tubing, IV pumps, critical care products etc.),” she explains.

We asked Sandy, How does nursing bring you joy? “As a bedside nurse, the greatest joy was making a difference in someone’s life. If I made a child’s hospital experience a good one, that was an accomplishment,” says Sandy. “Knowing that I was part of a team that saved a child’s life is very rewarding,” she continues. “The relationships that were established with the families of my oncology patients were very meaningful as well. Of course not every situation ended happily,” she reflects.

“We occasionally, will run into a former child and their families. To see the child cancer free living and loving life is priceless. These children are truly amazing and it was an honour to care for them,” adds Sandy. “On another note, I think nursing is a great career because there are so many avenues you can take and different areas you can explore.”

I am where I am in my career today because of my past clinical experiences.
-- Sandy Tchosok (BN ’92)

Sandy remembers her years at the School of Nursing fondly. “I met and established great friendships there. We helped each other get through those four years. We worked hard but we also had a lot of fun and laughs through it all,” says Sandy.

She keeps in touch with a few of her classmates. Says Sandy, “Of course Jane (Whyte) Beck and I still keep in contact as we both live here in Bismarck. Actually our husbands are from the same hometown (Linton, ND) so they grew up together. I will occasionally run into Jodie (Dryden) Nuss as she has remained in Bismarck as well. I also keep in contact with Jennifer (Scalleta) Miles who resides in Winnipeg with her husband and children, and we try and get together when I’m in town.” Lastly, laments Sandy, “There was Hana Graja who was a very special person that touched my life in so many ways. She was like my sister and she taught me what true friendship means. Hana passed away suddenly in October 2000, but her memories stay in our hearts and we miss and love her very much.

Sandy is excited about where her nursing career may take her next. “I’ve been in my current job for almost three years now and I’m fairly content.” Then she adds, “I’m just going to take it one day at a time for now. Perhaps, the next career move might be parenthood.”

Best of luck, Sandy, in all your future endeavours!


Degner, L. F., co-investigator (with PI T. F. Hack), along with colleagues from Canada, the MD Anderson Cancer Centre in Houston, and Sweden). (2002). Communication issues between cancer patients and health professionals. NCIC. $600,000.


Degner, L. F., co-investigator, (with PI S. Latosinsky). (2002). Survey of a random sample of colorectal cancer screening candidates in the community to determine the acceptability of faecal-occult blood testing (FOBT) following application of an information instrument. MMSF (Manitoba Medical Services Foundation). $35,000.


Guse, L.W. (2002). Quality of life persons living with cancer facing the transition from active treatment to palliative care which may include the use of complementary and alternative therapies. Mayo Clinic. $15,700.


Scanlan, J. M. (2002). Faculty workshop: Engaging in curriculum revision: Or is it reform? Faculty of Nursing Endowment Fund. $16,152.

Major Funding Jumpstarts Collaborative Practice Initiative

Manitoba Health and the University of Manitoba have received funding in the amount of $450,000 from the Primary Health Care Transition Fund of Health Canada for the development of a Collaborative Practice Training Program. This program will address all five objectives of the Fund which include:

- increasing the proportion of the population having access to primary health care organizations accountable for the planned provision of comprehensive services to a defined population;
- increasing emphasis on health promotion, disease and injury prevention, and management of chronic diseases;
- expanding 24/7 access to essential services;
- facilitating coordination and integration with other health services, i.e. in institutions and in communities;
- but serves to focus primarily on the fourth objective: establishing interdisciplinary primary health care teams of providers, so that the most appropriate care is provided by the most appropriate provider.

The goal is to develop a formal and sustainable model for collaborative practice training which will assist in the establishment of an increasing number of interdisciplinary Primary Health Care teams for Manitoba.

The Collaborative Practice Training Group (CPTG) has been meeting since July 2002. Debbie Fraser Askin, pictured above, professor at the faculty of nursing at the University of Manitoba chairs the group.

Says Askin, “This is an exciting opportunity for the university and primary care sites in Manitoba to partner in an innovative approach for educating health care providers. Collaborative practice offers a unique opportunity to enhance our clients experience in the primary care setting.”

CPTG representatives include Don Fuchs, dean of social work; David Collins, dean of pharmacy; Dr. Juliette (Archie) Cooper, director of school of medical rehabilitation; and Larry Reynolds, professor and head of the department of family medicine at the University of Manitoba. Two regional health authorities and Manitoba Health also serve as representatives.

The CPTG will develop the curriculum including course content and materials, select the five initial clinical teaching sites and clinical faculty, and develop evaluation strategies and tools. It will promote and assist in the development of a University of Manitoba Interdisciplinary Health Sciences education committee. There is provision for a project coordinator to support the work of the CPTG as well as for a part-time coordinator at each of the five planned sites as they are developed.

In the first year, the program will be available to family practice residents and nurse practitioner students. In subsequent years, it would expand to include social work, pharmacy, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, and midwifery. Sites would initially be in Winnipeg, but within one to two years, one or more would be developed in rural/northern Manitoba.

The program must be sustainable beyond March 31, 2006. The CPTG will promote and facilitate the formal ongoing support of the University of Manitoba, the Regional Health Authorities of Manitoba, Manitoba Health and other stakeholders, including professional associations. The CPTG will recommend and promote policy development in support of this model as an ongoing component of the health care professional education system.

The team is currently in the process of hiring a project coordinator and a research assistant. Regular updates will be available through www.umanitoba.ca/nursing.

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Retirement Party Honours Gupton & Naimark

The Social Committee (Theresa Bowser, Elsie Duff, Carol Enns, Nicole Harder) organized a lovely retirement reception for Drs. Gupton and Naimark, held November 27. Former deans and directors, alumni, and colleagues gathered to pay tribute to Drs. Gupton and Naimark’s years of service and their roles in advancing nursing education and research.

Below, back row, l-r, Dr. David Gregory, Professor Nettie Peters, Dr. Janet Beaton, Professor June Bradley. Front row, l-r, Drs. Annette Gupton, Helen Glass, and Barbara Naimark.

Visit www.umanitoba.ca/nursing for news and events.

MNRI’s Winter Magic

The Manitoba Nursing Research Institute (MNRI) proudly held its 13th Annual Winter Magic fundraising luncheon on Saturday, November 16, at the St. Charles Country Club. Attendance was noted as 205. Guests enjoyed the delicious lunch and raved over the wonderful fashion show by Creative Wardrobe. Proceeds raised go towards advancing health care in Manitoba by supporting nursing research. With the proceeds raised over the years, the MNRI is in a position to offer an annual outcomes research grant of $4,000.

Drs. Helen Glass and Lorna Guse chat at the annual Winter Magic MNRI fundraiser.

Did you know...

- in the 2001-2002 calendar year we graduated 315 nurses;
- this calendar year, we expect to graduate 347 nurses.