
SUMMARY OF FALL NURSING RESEARCH SEMINARS

Please note: You can participate in any of these sessions via **Telehealth**. If you would like to register your site, please contact the Manitoba Nursing Research Institute at (204) 474-9080.

Date: September 27, 2007, Room 370, 12noon – 1pm

Presenter: Pam Hawranik and Sandy Bell

Topic: The Lack of Vision in Vision Care for Long Term Care Residents

Abstract

The results of two related studies will be reported. A survey of long term care facilities in Winnipeg was conducted to determine the extent of vision care services and knowledge of staff in these institutions. The findings revealed a major gap in the assessment and treatment of vision impairment in the residents. A pilot vision care pilot project was initiated at Misericordia Health Centre. The results of the evaluation of the vision screening tool used by nurses to assess the vision of all permanent residents and the extent of vision impairment in these older adults will be presented. The data collection for this latter study is in progress. Data on the effects of the treatment provided to the residents after detection of the disorders may be available for discussion.

Date: October 11, 2007, Room 370, 12noon – 1pm

Presenter: Michelle Lobchuk

Topic: Lung Cancer Stigma – Preliminary Results

Abstract

The diagnosis of lung cancer is a stigmatized disease in relation to the smoking behaviors of patients. Attributions of blame and feelings of anger held by individuals who support the lung cancer patient, such as informal caregivers, over the course of the illness have potential to impact caregiver 'helping' behaviors, such as perspective-taking. Gaps remain in relation to identifying factors such as illness attributions that put patients at risk for receiving sub-optimal helping behaviors from their caregivers. This study is guided by Weiner's (1995) attributional model in testing the relationship

between caregiver attributions of responsibility for the degree of control over disease progression by the patient (hereon called 'responsibility') and caregiver perspective-taking strategies as mediated by caregiver anger and pride. The purpose of this preliminary analysis is to examine whether caregiver helping behaviours are predicted by the illness attributions regarding the patient's responsibility for controlling aspects of the disease as mediated by caregiver anger and pride.

Date: November 29, 2007, Room 370, 12noon – 1pm

Presenter: Christine Ateah

Topic: Infant Safety Education: A Pilot Study with Expectant Parents

Abstract

The purpose of this project was to develop and test an education intervention for expectant parents on infant safety. The findings will be used to develop a larger project to assess the feasibility and effectiveness of wide scale educational sessions for expectant parents. The objectives of these educational sessions were to increase knowledge of infant and child development and safe infant care, increase parenting confidence, and decrease approval of physical punishment. The content, based on published research and current professional position statements, consisted of information on the topics of safe sleeping environments, Shaken Baby Syndrome, risks of physical punishment, and expected child development and related safety concerns. Currently this content is not provided in any standard format to Canadian parents. The research questions were formulated to consider the information needs of expectant parents on infant care and safety, the sources expectant parents use to obtain information on infant safety and the expectant parents' preferred time frames and methods to obtain such content. The education intervention was presented to a total of 31 first-time expectant parents who were attending WRHA prenatal classes in June, 2007. Ultimately, it is hoped that the findings will be important in the establishment of national strategies for improving parenting competence and promoting infant and children's developmental health. It is critical that such programs demonstrate effectiveness, feasible implementation, and potential for widespread availability to expecting parents of all backgrounds. This project was funded through the UM/SSHRC Research Grants Program.

Date: December 12, 2007, Room 370, 12noon – 1pm

Presenter: Roberta Woodgate

Topic: Living in a World Without Closure: Reality for Parents Who Have Experienced the Death of a Child

Abstract

The death of a child for parents has been described as being one of the most traumatic of losses. Nevertheless information about how parents experience transition through the death trajectory is lacking. This phenomenological study explored parents' lived experienced of transitioning through the death of a child. Twenty-eight bereaved parents (n=17 mothers, n=11 fathers) took part in retrospective, open-ended interviews. Findings showed that regardless of the time, parents continued to live in a world without closure, and more importantly, did not want to experience closure in their transitioning. To parents, "closure" meant an end to their child in every sense of the word. Their experience of living in a world without closure was supported by four themes: "Keeping the Memories Alive"; "Being a Good Parent"; "Being There at My Child's Death"; and "Being There for Me after My Child Dies." Findings yield new insights about how parents live with the death of a child.