

The St. Vincent's/Australian Catholic University Centre for Nursing Research (SVCNR) conducts clinical nursing and health services research with emphasis on the provision of higher education and career paths for nursing and the development of innovative models to promote health education, healthcare and the prevention and treatment of disease.

About us

The St. Vincent's Centre for Nursing Research (SVCNR) was established in September 2007 and is a collaborative undertaking between St. Vincent's Melbourne and the Australian Catholic University (National). The SVCNR is situated within St. Vincent's Fitzroy campus and provides nursing research leadership to improve health outcomes within a collaborative framework.

Prof Linda Worrall-Carter is Director of the Centre and leads a team of researchers who all have academic, research and clinical backgrounds. Internal collaborations are with St. Vincent's nursing, cardiology, mental health, emergency and chronic disease management teams.

External partnerships include researchers from the ACU National Centre for Clinical Outcomes Research (NaCCOR) and national and international teams of researchers.

The majority of SVCNR research activity is within the health priority areas of cardiovascular and mental health examining models of care and facilitation of the application of research into clinical practice. Underpinning these programs is a strong commitment to a multidisciplinary collaborative approach which seeks to create research and clinical partnerships between institutions and health specialties. Within the programs of research there is a strong emphasis on research support and training of clinical and academic staff. The SVCNR team encourages, mentors and supervises research students including honours, PhD and post-doctoral trainees.

Projects in progress or completed

In its first year SVCNR developed and led a number of collaborative research grant proposals with contributions from local, national and international clinicians and scholars. Innovations undertaken by SVCNR demonstrate building capacity with research grants sought in 2008 from both competitive and philanthropic granting bodies. Currently there are a number of projects in progress relating to cardiac disease, mental health and critical care.

Staff within SVCNR have continued to publish and there have been a number of other community and media engagements. For example, Prof Linda Worrall-Carter was invited to give a keynote presentation at the National Heart Foundation's Go Red for Women campaign as well as radio interviews and other profiling in the media. In addition, she was invited to present the inaugural oration at the Notre Dame School of Nursing in Perth.

SVCNR research staff and students have been acknowledged for their contributions throughout 2008. Dr Karen Page was sought by Queensland Health to review ICU education resources in the southern area. Dr Karen-leigh Edward (Research Fellow) received a research prize from the Australian College of Mental Health Nurses, PhD student Lisa Kuhn was awarded an APA National scholarship as well as the Myrtle Ivy Quicke scholarship from the Royal College of Nursing. Malcolm Elliot (PhD candidate) won the Junior Nursing Investigators Prize at St. Vincent's Research Week and Jan Cameron was showcased in **The Age**. There were also poster prizes (Dr Karen Page) and other profiling activities.

Research applications in the clinical setting

Researchers at the SVCNR have built partnerships with national and international healthcare leaders with the view to conducting research in cardiac, chronic and mental illness. These partnerships are focused on translational research for models of care and improving clinical outcomes for patients.

Our research in cardiac and chronic illness utilises a range of research methodologies, population health studies, trials of new interventions and interdisciplinary programs of care that optimise the management of various stages of the disease.

In 2008, the SVCNR provided clinicians access to international clinical research experts in the areas of cancer and palliative care (Prof Alexander Molassiotis from the University of Manchester, UK) and heart failure management (Prof Barbara Riegel from the University of Pennsylvania, USA). Prof Riegel, who visited SVCNR for three months as a Senior Fulbright Scholar, also facilitated a publications workshop for academic and clinical staff.

SVCNR staff ran a two-day publications workshop, as well as presenting around this topic at the St. Vincent's Research Directorate seminar series. A Research Special Interest Group is offered on a monthly basis by the Centre and draws together key clinical and academic nurses from St. Vincent's and ACU.

Research outcomes in relation to patient care

A direct impact of the work undertaken by SVCNR in 2008 is a growing understanding of the need for nurses to specialise in health policy research and analysis in cardiac care, critical care and mental health.

SVCNR has assumed leadership roles in advocacy, research, analysis, and policy development, implementation, and evaluation. An example of this is the proposed nurse-led risk intervention for cardiovascular disease, which will provide a model of care for risk factor modification at St. Vincent's. Nurse-led risk factor assessment clinics provide the ideal opportunity to provide tailored risk factor management and improved adherence to national guidelines.

The team

Prof Linda Worrall-Carter, Director; Bronwyn Beovich, Research Assistant; Dr Steve Bunker, Senior Research Fellow – Other; Jan Cameron, Research Assistant; Karen Daws, Research Assistant; Dr Karenleigh Edward, Research Fellow; Lisa Kuhn, Research Assistant; Dr Karen Page, Deputy Director and Senior Research Fellow – Other; Joseph Perry, Research Assistant

Highlights

Prof Linda Worrall-Carter

- Scientific Committee Australasian Cardiovascular Nurses College Conference, International, Chair, 2008

Grants

Cameron J, Worrall-Carter L, Stewart S

The nexus between cognitive function and self-management ability in patients with chronic heart failure. Commonwealth Government – NHMRC, (2005-2008), \$78,927

Kuhn L, Worrall-Carter L

Diagnose and manage early: women's ischaemia and infarction (DAME II study). Royal College of Nursing Australia, (2008), \$10,000

Diagnose and manage early: women's ischaemia and infarction (DAME II study). ACU National, (2008-2011), \$58,893

Page K, Worrall-Carter L, Duke G

Depression and anxiety following discharge from ICU. Northern Health, (2007-2008), \$5,000

Page K

Mapping educational resources for intensive care units within the southern area health service, Queensland. Queensland Health, (2007-2008), \$15,000

Riegel B, Worrall-Carter L, Dickson V, Johnson J, Bunker S, Cameron J, Page K, Cameron J

Symptom recognition in elders with heart failure. Institute of Aging, University of Pennsylvania (USA), (2007-2008), \$57,186

Riegel B, Worrall-Carter L

Gender differences in self-care in patients with heart failure. School of Nursing, University of Pennsylvania (USA), (2007-2008), (USD)\$20,000

Worrall-Carter L, Page K, Campbell M, Davidson P

Epidemiology of coronary heart disease in women. ACU National, (2008), \$30,000

Select international presentations**Cameron J, Riegel B**

– Speaker, ‘Does cognitive impairment negatively impact on ability to self-care?’, 4th Asian Pacific Congress of Heart Failure, Melbourne, Australia, 2008

Cameron J, Driscoll A, Worrall-Carter L, Stewart S

– ‘A comparison of the clinical instruments that measure heart failure in self-care’, Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand Annual Scientific Meeting, Adelaide, Australia, 2008

Driscoll A, Tonkin A, Worrall-Carter L, Riegel B, Davidson P, Hare D, Stewart S

– Speaker, ‘A higher program intensity/complexity score is associated with lower morbidity and mortality in patients participating in heart failure programs’, American Heart Association Scientific Sessions, New Orleans, USA, November 2008

Edward K

– Speaker, ‘Being resilient as described by people who experience mental illness’, 34th Annual International Conference of the Australian College of Mental Health Nurses, Melbourne, October 2008

Page K, Coyle L, Worrall-Carter L

– Speaker, ‘The prevalence and risk of anxiety and depression following discharge from intensive care’, Asia Pacific Critical Care Congress, Sydney, Australia, November 2008

Page K, Worrall-Carter L, Kuhn L, Allen J, Davidson P

– ‘Prevalence and onset of depression in women after an acute cardiac event’, Australasian Cardiovascular Nurses College Conference, Melbourne, Australia, January-February 2008

Perry J, Endacott R

– ‘ICU nurses in leadership roles report high levels of stress with subsequent impact on relationship dynamics’, Asia Pacific Critical Care Conference, Sydney, Australia, October-November 2008

Street C, Duke G, Fulbrook P, Page K

– ‘The prevalence of haemodynamic instability in the first 24-hours after ICU discharge’, Asia Pacific Critical Care Conference, Sydney, Australia, October-November 2008

Warelow P, Edward K

– Speaker, ‘Care: what mental health nurses say and what mental health nurses do’, 34th Annual International Conference of the Australian College of Mental Health Nurses, Melbourne, Australia, October 2008

Worrall-Carter L, Cummins R, Page K, Thompson D, Allen J, Hare D, Davidson P

– ‘Identifying the onset of depression following an acute cardiac event: improvement of health outcomes through optimal timing of assessment and interventions’, Australasian Cardiovascular Nurses College Conference, Melbourne, Australia, January-February 2008

Collaborations**International**

- Leicester University
- University of Kentucky, USA
- University of Pennsylvania, USA

National

- Austin Health
- Australian Catholic University
- Baker IDI Heart and Diabetes Institute
- Curtin University of Technology
- Deakin University
- Flinders Medical Centre
- Flinders University
- Monash University
- Northern Health
- St. Vincent’s Hospital Sydney
- University of Melbourne
- University of NSW

Publications

- Cameron J, Driscoll A, Worrall-Carter L, Stewart S 2008, 'A comparison of clinical instruments that measure heart failure self-care', *Heart, Lung and Circulation*, 17 Supplement 3, S74
- Driscoll A, Currey J, Worrall-Carter L, Stewart S 2008, 'Ethical dilemmas of a large national multi-centre study in Australia: time for some consistency', *Journal of Clinical Nursing*, 17, 16, 2212-2220
- Driscoll A, Hare D, Worrall-Carter L, Davidson P, Riegel B, Tonkin A, Stewart S 2008, 'Depressed mood in chronic heart failure patients predicts an increase in mortality and hospital admissions', *Heart, Lung and Circulation*, 17 Supplement 3, 79
- Driscoll A, Worrall-Carter L, Hare D, Davidson P, Riegel B, Tonkin A, Stewart S 2008, 'Does more equal less: development of a heart failure management program complexity score (HF-IS)(BENCH Study)', *Heart, Lung and Circulation*, 17, 78-79
- Driscoll A, Tonkin A, Worrall-Carter L, Reigal B, Davidson P, Hare D, Stewart S 2008, 'A higher program intensity/complexity score is associated with lower morbidity and mortality in patients participating in heart failure programs (Abstract 2719)', *Circulation Supplements*, 118, S_768
- Edward K, Munro I 2008, 'Depression and other mental illnesses in the context of workplace efficacy' *Journal of Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing*. 15, 7, 605-611
- Happell B, Edward K, Welch A 2008, 'Doctoral graduates in mental health nursing in Victoria, Australia: the doctoral experience and contribution to scholarship' *International Journal of Mental Health Nursing*, 17, 4, 270-278
- Kuhn L, Rose L 2008, 'EKG interpretation part 1: understanding mean electrical axis', *Journal of Emergency Nursing*, 34, 6, 530-534
- Lennie TA, Worrall-Carter L, Hammash M, Odom-Forren J, Roser LP, Smith CS, Trupp R, Chung ML, Moser DK 2008, 'Relationship of heart failure patients' knowledge, perceived barriers and attitudes regarding low-sodium diet recommendations to adherence', *Prog Cardiovasc Nurs*, 23, 1, 6-11
- Munro I, Edward K 2008, 'Care: seeking and maintaining employment for people with depression and other mental illnesses', *International Journal of Mental Health Nursing*, 17, 4, A25
- Munro I, Edward K 2008, 'Mental illness and substance use – an Australian perspective', *International Journal of Mental Health Nursing*, 17, 256-261
- Munro I, Edward K 2008, 'The lived experience of gay men caring for others with HIV/AIDS: resilient coping skills', *International Journal of Nursing Practice*, 14, 2, 122-128
- Munro I, Edward K 2008, 'The recovery journey – employment support for people with depression and other mental illnesses', *Australian e-Journal for the Advancement of Mental Health (AeJAMH)*, 7, 2, 1-8
- Page K, Worrall-Carter L, Kuhn L, Allen J, Davidson P 2008, 'Prevalence and onset of depression in women after an acute cardiac event', *Heart, Lung and Circulation*, 17, 77-77
- Thompson DR, Watson R, Quinn T, Worrall-Carter L, O'Connell B 2008, 'Practice development: what is it and why should we be doing it?', *Nurse Education in Practice*, 8, 4, 221-222
- Warelow P, Edward K, Vinek J 2008, 'Care: What nurses say and what nurses do', *Holistic Nursing Practice*, 22, 3, 146-153
- Welch A, Edward K, Robins A, Intherarasa K, Hercelinskyj G 2008, 'The phenomenon of feeling socially safe as a Muslim in Victoria, Australia', *The Carillon Newsletter, Centre for Psychiatric Nursing*, 9, 32, 2
- Worrall-Carter L, Cummins R, Page K, Thompson D, Allen J, Hare D, Davidson P 2008, 'Identifying the onset of depression following an acute cardiac event: improvement of health outcomes through optimal timing of assessment and interventions', *Heart, Lung and Circulation*, 17, 76-77