Building Research Capacity in Nursing
- A Nordic Challenge?

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• From a regional hospital to Zealand University Hospital to be completed in 2022.

• 831 beds, 4000 staff members, hereof 2000 nurses

• All departments have a clinical research unit, from almost no research activities to elite consortiums

• One research support unit for nurses/AH

• From 0 nurse/AH researchers in 2010 to 22 in 2017 including 3 professors in nursing
“The overall aim is to strengthen and establish research culture within clinical nursing and AH. This means that special efforts must be made to build research capacity within this group of employees”.
How can we understand 'Nursing research culture' in the context of clinical nursing practice?

Concept analysis (Walker & Avant 2014).

Five defining attributes were identified:

1. Strong monodisciplinary nursing professionalism
2. Academic thinking and socialization
3. Research utilization as a part of daily nursing practice
4. Acceptance by colleagues and management
5. Facilitation of resources from management and organization
Capacity can be defined as the sum of processes, values and climate in an organization; Capacity building is therefore essential for the survival of any organization (Alleyne and Mansour Olawale, 2007)

Capacity building has both focus on common problem solving and competence development, and ideally has the organization's decision-making power spread. Change processes take place with a high degree of involvement and participation and therefore is Capacity building highly contextually anchored (Krogstrup HK. Red. 2017)
Building nursing research capacity in clinical practice is a complex task

Parent et al 2007
Understanding 'Nursing research culture' in the context of clinical nursing practice

1. The nursing monodisciplinary professionalism is not strong - there is often a lack of articulation and conciseness of what the specific contribution of nursing is or has potentials to become

2. Academic thinking and socialization is rarely part of everyday nursing practice

3. Research utilization as a part of daily nursing practice - depends on accessibility, role models and view of research as relevant or “flow stopper”

4. Acceptance by colleagues and management - is highly dependent on role models and leadership

5. Facilitation of resources from management and organization - depends on leaders knowledge and prioritization
Moving from institutional to a Nordic context

NORDIC RESEARCH AND INNOVATION GROUP
Representing university and regional hospitals in the Nordic countries

Established in May 2013 the members of NRI-Nursing network are organized at a Nordic and a national level.

The purpose is to establish a network of nursing researchers at Nordic university and region hospitals, where researchers can meet to share the latest clinical nursing research knowledge and discuss current as well as future opportunities and challenges.

NRI-Nursing seeks to strengthen Nordic research capacity in nursing by formalizing research collaboration among Nordic nurse researchers.
Collaborative initiatives

Publication:
Clinical nurses’ research capacity building in practice: A systematic review.
(Lode, K; Sørensen, EE; Salmela, S; Holm, AL; Severinson, E. In: Open Journal of Nursing, Vol. 5, Nr. 7, 2015, s. 664-677).

Conclusion: Research capacity building requires the development of research competence to generate knowledge that enhances quality and patient safety. Nurse leaders are essential for establishing evidence-based practice and a research culture.
Present collaborative study: A systematic investigation of the prevalence, location and activity of Nordic Nurses with a PhD degree employed at a university hospital.

The study is a cross-sectional survey based on a questionnaire with a descriptive and comparative design. Respondents are RNs who had obtained a PhD and were working at a university hospital in one of six Nordic countries: Sweden, Norway, Finland, Iceland, Faroe Island and Denmark
Despite this collaboration, NRI-Nursing network has not been able to further establish a “knowledge creating network of nursing researchers at Nordic university and region hospitals, where researchers meet and share the latest clinical nursing research knowledge and discuss current as well as future opportunities and challenges”.

We need more opportunities where we can meet and network in a different way than conferences.
Experiences from NRI nursing has shown

We have many similar challenges in the Nordic countries as nurse researchers:

• It is difficult to maintain nurse researchers in clinical practice
• Research is not integrated in clinical nursing practice, lack of nursing research culture
• Interdisciplinary research is rare and often practiced superficially
• Nurse managers lack knowledge about research and leading researchers
• There is no education in research management for nurse researchers
• It is not enough to bring Nordic nurse researchers together at for instance conferences in order to establish lasting and sustainable research collaborations

• BUT
The similarities between our countries and the positive attitude towards strengthening collaboration between researchers who are interested in clinical nursing, applied research and clinical practice calls for action.

Call to Action!
Questions for SNN action

How do we establish dynamic national and Nordic overviews of Ph.D. prepared nurses?

How do we establish a Nordic Strategy for Research Capacity Building in Nursing?

How can we collaborate more strategically in order to secure nursing representation in key research strategic fora?

Do we want to initiate Nordic education in Nursing Research Management and if so, how?
Thank you for your attention