Evidence Informed Practice at Northwestern is defined as the integration of patient presentation and preferences, clinical experience, and research in healthcare delivery.

Need Evidence? Ask a Librarian!

Della Shupe, MA, Director of Library Services at NWHSU's Greenawalt Library, and Anne Mackereth, MA, Public Services Librarian, are key collaborators in the implementation of Evidence Informed Practice at NWHSU.

Why is the Greenawalt Library such an important collaborator in implementing Evidence Informed Practice institutionally and professionally?

Anne: Librarians have the training and expertise needed to search the scientific literature to identify evidence for students, faculty, and professionals. This past summer, I was selected to participate in Research Scholars I. For my project, I chose to "embed" myself as a resource in Dr. Verena Van Fleet’s Immunology and Clinical Microbiology course to assist students with their research for their poster projects. This is a pilot project to determine whether the addition of a librarian leads to better student outcomes. First, I presented to the class in person; I then made myself available for additional consultation as needed, within Moodle, as well as in person. I used pre- and post- tests to assess students' awareness of library resources and whether they perceived a benefit due to interaction with the library or librarians. Ther results are still being processed; however, my initial literature search on embedding librarians in classrooms showed that this model of interaction with students can improve overall student performance in the classroom.

How has the CAM Ed project influenced the Greenawalt Library’s role institutionally and professionally?

Della: Anne and I designed the curriculum for teaching information literacy to T1 chiropractic students in the introduction to Clinical Reasoning I courses, taught in the fall and winter trimesters. It is a pleasure to teach T1 students because they are so open to learning. It also starts them off well in T1, and helps them to have basic information literacy skills before they take Foundations of EIP in T3. We believe that
this kind of contact with students also opens the door for them to ask librarians for help in finding scholarly resources for other coursework.

We would like to see information literacy integrated throughout the curriculum of all programs here at NWHSU. This would prepare students to stay current with new developments in their fields using their abilities to evaluate and use the evidence they encounter, at the university and as professionals in the future.

Faculty interested in "embedding" a librarian in their classroom can contact Anne Mackereth at amackereth@nwhealth.edu or extension 218.

EIP Clinical Tip!

"Searching Pub-Med can quickly result in information overload. Try using the 'Clinical Queries' tool found on the Pub-Med home page. This tool automatically filters your search to find the most clinically relevant information, such as systematic reviews and articles regarding diagnosis and therapy."

Barry Taylor, DC, Research Clinic Director and EIP Instructor


New Headache Study at Northwestern

The Wolfe-Harris Center for Clinical Studies and the University of Western States were recently awarded $3.3 million from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for a new study investigating the number of spinal manipulation treatments needed to reduce cervicogenic headache pain. The five year study will begin recruiting 256 patients starting in Spring of 2012.

Dose studies are commonly used in drug trials; they determine the optimal dose or amount of treatment that is needed for a condition to improve. These types of studies are important because they help ensure patients don’t receive too little or too much of a treatment. This study will also explore the underlying mechanisms or causes of cervicogenic headache. "Using a ‘palpometer’, an instrument to objectively measure a doctor's palpation pressure, we are going to assess spinal joint dysfunction in a reliable way," says Dr. Craig Schulz, Associate Dean of Research and co-investigator on the study.

The study is the second largest research project ever conducted at NWHSU. "Funding like this is very competitive with only 1 in 10 studies proposed, being approved," comments Gert Bronfort, Project Investigator and Vice President of Research at NWHSU. Of note is that most funding goes to large universities. According to Dr. Bronfort, "It is

Four faculty (Drs. Burns-Ryan, Skauftel, Majors, and Taylor) attended the University of Iowa’s Evidence Based Practice Workshop in Iowa City, IA, Nov 15-18. Ask them about it!

Six faculty and three fellows will participate in Research Scholars II Jan-April 2012 which focuses on writing & presenting original scholarly work.

Writing Lab, a creative space for faculty will be starting this winter in the Wolfe-Harris Center for Clinical Studies. Stay tuned for more information!

Scholarly Activity

Publications


Bronfort G. High-quality evidence that spinal manipulative therapy for chronic low back pain has a small, short-term greater effect on pain and functional status compared with other interventions. Evid Based Med. 2011 Oct 25.


Presentations

very rare for a small institution like ours to receive this type of funding. It is a tremendous honor to have our work recognized at this level.” This study is particularly important to NWHSU’s chiropractic Clinical Research Fellows, Drs. Linda Hanson and Brent Leininger who will gain important experience and training by helping conduct the study.


This is the official newsletter for the CAM Research Education Partnership Project funded by the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (grant number R-25AT003582).

Northwestern Health Sciences University  
2501 West 84th Street  
Bloomington, MN 55431  
Phone: (952) 888-4777, (800) 888-4777, x594  
Fax: (952) 888-1957  
E-mail: kswartz@nwhealth.edu

To make sure you continue to receive our e-mails optimally and in your inbox (not sent to bulk or junk folders), please add kswartz@nwhealth.edu to your address book or safe sender list.

UNSUBSCRIBE | E-mail Us

Copyright 2011 Northwestern Health Sciences University