

Outcome & Evaluation: This Service Learning project allows students the opportunity for hands-on experience directly related to the course curriculum, while serving the community in a very beneficial way. Student evaluations and reflective essays completed after their experience indicate enthusiasm for the project (98% highly satisfied), personal growth, and appreciation for the opportunity. Furthermore, anecdotal evidence (as gathered through observation and conversations with family members and facility staff) suggests that the ongoing, regular exposure to the activities has had a positive influence on the quality of life of some participants, as evidenced by displays of increased conversation and fewer signs of anxiety.

Going Forward: Due to the success of this project, we plan to continue and also hope to incorporate methods to quantitatively assess the impact on the dementia patients. Additionally, we will pilot-test the project in the Dominican Republic in a Service Learning Study Abroad trip for our health majors (May, 2017). We are looking forward to examining aging and dementia in a different cultural context, and adapting the project to fit the needs of the Dominican health system. Plans include partnering with a Dominican university to create a sustainable Service Learning project in their community.

Source of Funding: College of Education & Human Development, TAMU.

Abstract #: 2.067_HHR

Improving the Quality of Prehospital to Hospital Communication in Cuenca, Ecuador Using a Standardized Course

E. Trieu¹, M. Hopkins², J. Carter², E. Morochó³, J.L. Prieto⁴, C. Mosquera³, F. Sigüencia⁴, D.A. Martínez⁵, N. Nair², M. Rains², J.C. Salamea Molina⁶, D.S. Jayaraman⁷, E. Rodas⁸; ¹VCU, Richmond, VA, USA, ²Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, USA, ³Universidad de Cuenca, Cuenca, Ecuador, ⁴Universidad del Azuay, Cuenca, Ecuador, ⁵Hospital Vicente Moscoso, Cuenca, Ecuador, ⁶Hospital Vicente Corral Moscoso, Cuenca, Ecuador, ⁷Virginia Commonwealth University Health, Richmond, USA, ⁸Cinterandes Foundation, Cuenca, Ecuador

Background: Poor communication can lead to adverse patient outcomes. Previous observations have highlighted the need for standardizing communication from the prehospital to hospital settings in Cuenca. The objective of the study was to determine the effectiveness of a standardized training course on the quality of communication between prehospital and hospital settings in Cuenca, Ecuador.

Methods: A short communication course was designed and conducted as a part of the Ministry of Health's prehospital training program. The course emphasized transmission of critical variables including: demographics, mechanism, injuries, vitals, treatment, allergies and meds during prehospital to hospital communication, using didactic and scenario-based techniques. A customized checklist was used by trained volunteers to observe patient handoffs before and after the training course based on these variables to assess for

changes in the quality of data transmitted. Preliminary statistical analysis was performed using STAT 14.1.

Findings: A total of 65 observations were conducted, 40 before and 25 after training. Before training, there were no cases when all variables were communicated. This did not change with training. The most common variables communicated before training were Chief complaint (88%), Mechanism of injury (88%) and patient age (80%). After training, rates of transmission of several variables increased including: respiratory rate (pre: 22.5%, post: 56%), blood pressure (pre: 32.5%, post: 76%), and oxygen saturation (pre: 37.5%, post: 72%). However, despite clinically significant increases, none were statistically significant. There were minimal differences in transmission of medications (pre: 17.5%, post: 28%) or allergies (pre: 2.5%, post: 4.0%).

Interpretation: Implementation of a standardized course increased the quality of transmission of critical patient variables from the pre-hospital to hospital settings in Cuenca, Ecuador in a preliminary analysis. Vital signs showed the largest improvement after the course, however allergies and medications showed minimal improvement. Data analysis is ongoing and may show greater statistical difference when complete. The training may have emphasized some variables at the cost of the others and future iterations may need to take this into account to be more effective.

Source of Funding: VCU School of Medicine.

Abstract #: 2.068_HHR

Effect and Tangible Measures of Value in Global Health Nursing Education: Findings from a Comprehensive Review

M.P. Truskey¹, T. Pfaff²; ¹Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland, USA, ²Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing, Baltimore, USA

Background: With increasing globalization, emerging diseases, shifting health concerns and growing health inequities among and within countries, all nurses need the skills to address complex global health challenges. Schools of nursing in the United States are continuously embracing global health programs and educational opportunities for their students, however there is little evidence which describes the impact of these educational endeavors.

Methods: To better understand the current landscape of educational endeavors in global health nursing, a comprehensive literature review was conducted to summarize the measures of value applied in these endeavors. In order to identify these measurable concepts, it was essential to focus on effectiveness and feasible applications within global health nursing curricula and clinical experiences at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. The review was limited to undergraduate and graduate nursing educational institutions located within the United States. To conduct a comprehensive search concerning these global health nursing curricula and clinical experiences, relevant and applicable databases included those with a focus on nursing, allied health, global health, education, service-learning as well those with an interdisciplinary focus. An informationist executed the search and an interdisciplinary team of health professionals reviewed and synthesized the data and concepts for publication.