DNP SCHOLARSHIP: INFLUENCE AND IMPACT

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Objectives

 Develop an understanding of scholarship as it relates to the practice doctorate

Explore the historical underpinnings that have changed nursing's view of knowledge generation

Understand the critical nature of the scholarly project and other scholarly work, which will have an impact on the evolution of the DNP and practice outcomes

Current Status of the DNP

 Enrollment and graduation rates are increasing (8973 enrolled/1581 grad 2011)

 DNP is becoming part of the fabric of organizations, academia, entrepreneurial efforts

Poised to analyze the impact of the DNP

In fact, the relevancy of the DNP requires this analysis

Enrollments and Graduations in DNP Programs: 1997-2012



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Why Define Practice Scholarship?

 In order to demonstrate a positive affect on health care; dissemination of results (part of scholarship) will be required

IOM Future of Nursing Report states that nurses should practice to the full extent of their training and be full partners in redesigning health care

There are many unanswered questions in the roles that DNPs take on and how to carve out the space for scholarship

Definition of Practice

Any form of nursing **intervention** that influences health care outcomes for individuals or populations, including the direct care of individual patients, management of care for individuals and populations, administration of nursing and health care organizations, and the development and implementation of health policy (AACN, 2004)

Definitions of Scholarship

Serious formal study or research of a subject (Merriam Webster's Learners Dictionary, n.d.)

■ A way of being in the world (Magnum, 2010)

■ A feature of our continuing survival (Fawcett, 1999)

Nursing Scholarship

Activities that advance teaching, research and practice of nursing through rigorous inquiry (AACN, 1999)

- Breadth/depth of knowledge within a defined area
- Innovation and creativity
- Exposure of the scholarly project to public scrutiny and review (Magnum, 2010)

The Evolution of Scholarship

Early to mid 20th century – narrow/science based

Boyer (1990) Scholarship Reconsidered

Need for social relevance and scientific advancement (AACN, 2009)

Complexities of society and health care require a broader view (Reed & Shearer, 2011)

Boyer: Scholarship Reconsidered

How can the role of the scholar be defined in ways that not only affirm the past but also reflects the present and adequately anticipates the future?

Scholarship of:

Discovery- original research

Integration-new insights on research, connects with other disciplines

Application – knowledge applied to problems

Teaching – centers on student learning/entices future scholars

Practice Scholarship

Focus on the scholarship of integration and application

Comparison to engineering, which centers on the application of evidence based knowledge to practice problems, using integration from other fields to create interventions (Zaccagnini & White, 2011)

Evolution of Clinical Scholarship

Links between practice, nursing theory and research

Nightingale

Practice nurses utilized the knowledge from research/theory testing



Nursing has been on this Journey...

Doctor of Nursing Science DNSc (1970) clinical competence, demonstrated scholarly research

Doctor of Nursing (ND) 1979 focused on development of the clinical leader

DrNP geared toward NP

DNP improve delivery of care, patient outcomes and clinical systems management

New Strategies for Theorizing

Guerrilla Theorizing (making something that is innovative, flexible, and impermanent derived from the practitioner's inspiration and knowledge, ethical concern and interaction with the immediate world)

Bricoleur (creating a new coherent structure with what is at hand)

Improvisation (creation out of existing elements in the moment) (Reed & Shearer, 2011)

Setting the Stage for Impact

- IOM Quality Chasm and Future of Nursing Report
- Health Care Reform contain cost and promoting patient safety with high quality outcomes
- Demand for Evidence Based Care
- Leadership AACN, Doctoral nurses
- DNP Essentials and Projects

Network of Scholars

Role of the practitioner

 Researcher is problem solving and producing local/contingent situation information

Role of the scientist Researcher develops theories about large areas of reality (Reed & Shearer, 2011)

Phases of Knowledge Development

 Exploration – knowledge discovery (quantitative/qualitative)

Explication – theory evaluation

Engagement – implement, evaluate, disseminate knowledge (program evaluation and QI)

 Optimization – revising/refining interventions (Velasquez, McArthur, Johnson, 2011)

Conceptual Model Doctoral Nursing Roles



FIGURE 2.1

Conceptual Model of Doctoral Nursing Roles in Knowledge Generation.

Velasquez, D. M., McArthur, D. B. & Johnson, C. (2011). Doctoral nursing roles in knowledge generation. Reed & Shearer (Eds). In Nursing Knowledge and Theory Innovation: Advancing the science of practice. New York, NY; Springer Publishing Company.

Example of Team

My Self-Management Team – small business that utilizes practice to continue to develop innovations

 Sharing work and the glory of articles, presentations, posters (scholarship team)

 Expand teams for projects – coming book (Moran, Conrad, Burson)

DNP Team Blazing a Trail



Scholarly Project

- Incorporates practice and scholarship
- Demonstration of the doctor of nursing practice essentials
- Embraces practice scholarship
- Builds the bridge between research and practice where new knowledge is developed on both sides of the bridge
- □ Is just the beginning...

AACN Directors/Deans of DNP Programs

Variable titles of the project
17 variable names (See Table 1)

Variable types of projects (See Table 2)
Quality improvement 90%
Translation of evidence to practice 85%
Clinical or Practice-based inquiry 80%

Scholarly Project Names

Title of DNP Project	#	Title of DNP Project	#
Capstone	11	Scholarly Inquiry Practice Dissertation	1
Capstone Project	7	Clinical Scholarship Project	1
Scholarly Project	3	Evidence-Based Project	1
DNP Scholarly Project	2	Practice Dissertation	1
DNP Capstone Project	1	Capstone Inquiry	1
Clinical Inquiry Project	1	Scholarly Project	1
Residency Project	1	Clinical Portfolio	1
DNP Final Document Project	1	Clinical Scholarship	1
Clinical Dissertation	1	DNP Project I and III	1
DNP Portfolio	1	DNP Doctoral Project	1

Types of Projects

Type of Project	Count/	Percentage	Scholarly Categories
Quality Improvement	36	90%	Engagement/Optimization Integration/Application
Translations of Evidence Into Practice	34	85%	Engagement/Application
Clinical/Practice Inquiry	32	80%	Exploration/Discovery
Health Care Delivery	28	70%	Engagement/Optimization Integration/Application
Program Evaluation	27	67.5%	Optimization/Application
Health Care Policy	23	57.5%	Engagement/Integration
Generating New Evidence	16	40%	Exploration/Discovery
Generation of New Knowledge	7	17.5%	Exploration/Discovery
Description of Phenomena	5	12.5%	Exploration/Discovery
Generation of New Theory	2	5%	Exploration/Discovery

Features of Practice Scholarship

More than translational

Inclusive, broad, varied. Incorporates Engagement/Optimization

Integration/Application

Academic rigor - 86.5% identified this as a strength

Expectations of DNP Scholarship

 Within organizations to affect populations, systems

Within academia to affect all areas of scholarship

Local to national health policy/outcomes

DNP Organizational Scholarship

- Institutional policy change
- Funneling evidence-based practice to the bedside
- Funneling practice-based evidence to research
- Nursing theory refinement/development
- Academic appointments
- Work in interdisciplinary teams



Adapted from McEwen, M. & Wills, E. M. (2011). Theoretical basis for nursing. Philadelphia, PA: Wolters Kluwer Health.

DNP Academia Scholarship

Tenure track based on practice scholarship

PhD/DNP collaboration (teams)

Organizational appointments

Clinical relevance

DNP Health Policy Scholarship

Political influence

Lead inter-professional collaboration efforts with government policy-making bodies, think tanks, or schools

Advance legislative issues at the grassroots level



Work effectively with legislative staff to advance policy agendas



Interpret government policy and health research findings for the public

Expert analysis on the potential or current impact of health and government policies

Advocate for social justice, equity, and ethical policies within all healthcare arenas

Our World is Changing

"DNP programs prepare leaders who will improve the quality of care, patient outcomes, and health policy that expands their impact on the health of society" (NONPF, 2005, para 3).

The Donabedian Model

- Structure how well do we use providers to deliver care?
- Process what are the health delivery processes that produce the best care and outcomes?
- Patient Outcomes ultimately how does structure and process affect the patient and society to improve health? (Donabedian, 1988)



Evaluation of the DNP



Structure DNP Education

Advanced Practice
 Role Development

 Scholarly Project as Demonstration of Meeting Competencies of Essentials & Entry to Practice Scholarship



Process

Health Care Delivery by the DNP

- Innovative
 Advanced Practice
 Roles
- Innovative Health
 Care Delivery
 through Evidence Based Practice



Outcomes



Dissemination

Dissemination of the outcomes of practice scholarship will be the deciding factor in determining the impact of the DNP

• Examples:

 Central repository, state-based groups, presentations, Op-Eds, peerreviewed journal articles, national and state legislative discussions.

Recommendations

- The name of the scholarly project should incorporate both the practice and the scholarly challenge and become more consistent: perhaps scholarly practice project?
- Continue to utilize all skill sets of DNPs to affect change in populations, health care organizations, policy etc – caution in focusing too heavily on one group or another (NP vs administrator)
- Challenge to continue scholarship after attainment of the DNP degree to continue to impact health care – value work of teams

Recommendations

 Continue to more cleanly define practice scholarship for organizations, academia

Develop ways to categorize our knowledge development to further disseminate and build on practice based knowledge

 Continue to work closely with our PhD colleagues to further the work of scientific inquiry within nursing

Recommendations

Encourage appropriate rigor of projects –
 DNPs need to define what this looks like

• Other ideas?

What's Next?

- The DNP nurse is prepared to answer the charge from the Institute of Medicine for nurses to take their place at the decision making table and to collaborate with other health care professionals to improve the health and health care of our nation.
- Scholarship is the driving force that will develop practice based evidence and support the developing success of the practice doctorate to close the gap between research and practice.
- Dissemination of outcomes related to DNP work will propel the influence and the impact forward, thereby meeting societal needs of improved health for our populations.

Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.

-Ralph Waldo Emerson



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