



# Interprofessional Collaboration for Vulnerable Acute Care Patients *Newsletter*



Volume 1 | Issue 1 | Winter 2016

## WVU School of Nursing receives nearly 1.4 million HRSA grant

By: Tara Curtis

A team of healthcare professionals at West Virginia University is working together to reduce complications and improve health outcomes in older adults and cardiac surgery patients in West Virginia.

Seniors and heart surgery patients are often at an increased risk for developing issues with day-to-day activities and complications during hospital stays. Faculty members from the WVU Schools of Nursing, Medicine and Pharmacy will evaluate and implement a model that uses a team-based, patient-centered approach. The implementation of the *Inter-Professional Collaboration for Vulnerable Populations* model will improve the patient experience and reduce costly complications from hospitalization including infections, pain, decline in the patient's ability to function normally in day-to-day activities, longer-than-normal hospital stays and repeat admissions to the hospital.

The team will focus on enhancing health professionals' teamwork skills; developing more collaborative partnerships among nurses, doctors, pharmacists and other healthcare professionals in clinical units; establishing a long-term approach to sustain the model; and providing organizational-wide recognition for effective collaborative practice. In years two and three of the project, the model will be rolled out to other hospital units and outpatient facilities to continue strengthening health professionals' teamwork skills and enhance patient care.

The award is one of only 26 nationwide and offers a three-year, \$1.396 million grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration. (HRSA)

## Winter Events

### January 11, 2016:

Semester Begins

### Mid-February through April 2016:

Cardiac Surgery Simulation

Adult Medicine Simulations

Implementation of Nurse Leader  
IPCP Experiential Courses

### March 20-27, 2016:

WVU Spring Break

**West Virginia University**

Robert C. Byrd Health Sciences Center

P.O. Box 9600 | Morgantown, WV | 1-304-293-4831

<http://www.icvacp.org>

**Editorial Staff**

Jack DeVault

# Simulations to Begin

Cardiac Surgery and Adult Medicine simulations to be conducted by the project team are set to begin at the end of January and will take place at the West Virginia Simulation Training and Education for Patient Safety (WV STEPS) simulation center at the WVU Health Sciences Center. The goal of both simulations is to reinforce roles of multiple health care disciplines working together in an interprofessional environment to provide optimal patient care.

## Cardiac Surgery Simulation

The Cardiac Surgery Simulation will be based around a 59 year old obese female who was admitted to the hospital for acute chest pain. The patient has elevated troponins and a prior NSTEMI. Her EKG shows a RBBB (Right Bundle Branch Block) and slightly elevated ST segments in V1-4. Her cardiac catheterization documented 85% LAD occlusion and she is scheduled for an aortic valve replacement and a CABG x 3.

The simulated operating room will include a surgeon, an anesthesiologist, two cardio-vascular nurses– the first in the circulating role and the second in the scrub role. The simulation will emphasize the importance of interprofessional collaborative practice.



## Adult Medicine Simulation

The Adult Medicine simulation will be based around an 84 year old patient who has been admitted to the hospital overnight under observation status for evaluation after a fall. The patient had a CT scan of their head that showed no acute abnormalities and mentioned only chronic ischemic changes. X-rays were taken upon admission that showed no acute fracture of either hip or knee but did show a broken right arm (the patient's dominant arm.) The patient is scheduled to be discharged home; however, both pain control and functional status are a concern. The team will have to conceptualize an appropriate plan for the patient's care. Additional drug therapy components will be included to emphasize the role of the pharmacist on the team.

## Dr. Kari Sand-Jecklin wins Distinguished Alumna Award



Grant faculty member Dr. Kari Sand-Jecklin recently won the Distinguished Alumna award from her alma mater, the Illinois Wesleyan School of Nursing. Congratulations Dr. Sand-Jecklin!

# ICVAP Project Details: The 5 Components

The ICVAP team will target individual providers, clinical departments, and organizational perspectives to improve interprofessional collaborative practice using a five- component approach including education, structured interprofessional clinical rounds, interprofessional quality improvement meetings, professional development, and recognition.

## Education

The project team will conduct a leadership course for health professionals titled *Fostering Patient-Centered Collaboration: Leading Interprofessional Teams*. The course will assist health professionals in improving attitudes, knowledge, and skill in imitating, cultivating and sustaining interprofessional collaborative practice for vulnerable populations. The human interaction process, including effective communication, teamwork, roles and responsibilities will be explored.

## Structured Interprofessional Clinical Rounds

Specific, team-based activities that can be regularly used by health professionals to support an interprofessional collaborative practice culture. The activities will be patient-centered and focused on problem-solving and will evolve as recommendations for improved practice through expanded interprofessional work groups, such as evidence-based practice teams, are implemented.

## Interprofessional Quality Improvement Meetings

WVU Hospitals current nursing unit-based practice committees are organized by patient care and meet monthly. The ICVAP plan will support a natural expansion of these committees to include other health professionals who will add value in terms of generating an ongoing local learning community for practice improvement. Project staff will engage teams of health care providers and at least one patient to refocus on interpreting patient data, looking for patterns, and identifying contextual factors and practice patterns that may influence results.

## Professional Development

The continuing education and professional development program is designed to complement the *Interprofessional Vulnerable Populations* course. Multiple forms of learning will be offered in order to accommodate individual learning styles, personal preferences and special circumstances and the program will be offered on-site to accommodate the health professional staff. The professional development program will feature electronic independent study modules, study groups and learning camps, and course videos and DVDS. The program will provide contact hours, course credit and CEU's required to obtain and sustain professional certifications.

## Recognition

The project team will identify individual, departmental, and inter-professional teams for cash awards to presented in years 2 and 3 of the project. The award will be awarded to those individuals and teams that successfully implement the ICVAP model and show significant progress in interprofessional collaborative practice.

## Meet the Project Director



Dr. Aletha Rowlands is a Clinical Associate Professor at WVU's School of Nursing and the Project Director on the *Interprofessional Collaboration for Vulnerable Acute Care Patients* project. She is a recognized expert in perioperative nursing with publications and presentations. Through her research, Dr. Rowlands has established relationships with hospital nurses where collaboratively they advance evidence-based care. Dr. Rowlands teaches evidence-based practice and nursing research to nursing students in the traditional undergraduate program and in the RN to BSN program.

## Research Sites

Research for the *Interprofessional Collaboration for Vulnerable Acute Care Patients* project will be conducted at WVU Hospitals and the WVU Robert C. Byrd Health Sciences Center, which is comprised of five schools— Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy and Public Health. It is home to more than 1,000 faculty members and is committed to education, research, service, and patient care. The five health schools share a common goal: to educate the next generation of healthcare providers, bio-medical researchers, and health policy leaders for West Virginia.

## Project Team

There are seven distinguished faculty members, one staff member and four student graduate assistants working on the *Interprofessional Collaboration for Vulnerable Acute Care Patients* project.

### Faculty

#### ***Project Director***

Dr. Aletha Rowlands

#### ***Co-Investigators***

Dr. Kari Sand-Jecklin

Dr. Carl Grey

Dr. Kevin Tveter

Dr. Jon Wietholter

#### ***Evaluator***

Dr. R David Parker

#### ***Project Consultant***

Scott Reeves, PhD

### Staff

#### ***Program Coordinator***

Christopher Symes

#### ***Graduate Assistants***

#### ***Research***

Brynn Johnson

Catessa Howard

Racheal Sween

#### ***Technology and Communications***

Jack DeVault

### Contact Information:

West Virginia University School of Nursing

Robert C. Byrd Health Sciences Center

P.O Box 9600 | Morgantown, WV  
1-304-293-4831

Office #6414

<http://www.icvacp.org>