



# touchpoints

UBC School of Nursing



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## School Gets CAUSN Stamp of Approval

In May 2001, the UBC School of Nursing was awarded accreditation from the Canadian Association of University Schools of Nursing (CAUSN). A team of CAUSN representatives visited the School to determine the quality of our undergraduate nursing programs and our administrative efficiency. The focus of the review was the School's Multiple Entry Option (MEO) program.

CAUSN accreditation is designed to recognize quality nursing education programs and promote the development of such programs through external peer review. CAUSN is the accrediting agency for baccalaureate nursing programs in Canada. The association was founded in 1942 to promote university-level nursing education in Canada. It's goals are to

develop standards for university nursing education, facilitate the interchange of nursing education knowledge, promote research at nursing schools, and promote a greater public understanding of university study for nurses. CAUSN members are institutions that grant degrees in nursing. Membership and accreditation are not mandatory however receiving accreditation is an assurance to the public that a school has quality nursing programs.

The program of accreditation is developed around the fundamental ideas that nursing education should evolve according to trends in society; programs within a school should support each other; and schools should capitalize on their unique resources.

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## School Gets CAUSN Stamp of Approval

They consider a nursing program's goals and what factors influence or impede those goals.

Acting Director Sonia Acorn, Assistant Professor Ray Thompson (now retired), and Associate Professor Carol Jillings were responsible for preparing the report that was reviewed by the CAUSN accreditation team prior to their visit to the School. This report consisted of course information, research initiatives, administrative documents, and an outline of the School's past and future plans.

The CAUSN team found much for the School to be proud of. Curriculum and teaching are focal points of the accreditation process and the CAUSN team took a long, hard look at the School's courses and how they are taught. The MEO program was applauded for its flexibility. Students can enter directly from high school (Option 1), with advanced standing from another university program (Option 2), or with advanced standing as a registered nurse (Option 3). Course offerings help students tailor a

motivating force encouraging participation of undergraduate students in nursing research.

One area of concern was the School's inability to accommodate all qualified student applicants, especially those applying with advanced university standing (Option 2). However, with the recent announcement of funding for more nursing seats this situation is easing slightly. More work still needs to be done however to enable full acceptance of all qualified applicants.

Another area of concern noted was the integration of Option One students into the nursing program. These students, arriving to UBC directly from high school, are required to take university core courses. Consequently, they spend most of their time away from the School of Nursing taking courses in other faculties. As a result they feel a lack of community with other nursing students. Faculty and administration are aware of this challenge and programs are being devised to better welcome these students to the School.

Overall, the School received a very favourable report from CAUSN. CAUSN representatives stated that "the UBC School of Nursing has a long and distinguished history in providing leadership in nursing education in Canada." That leadership will endure as the School of Nursing continues to improve and refine the practice of nursing education.

## One area of concern was the School's inability to accommodate all qualified student applicants ...

The accreditation site visit occurred on February 5–9, 2001. CAUSN team leader Dr. Betty Cragg from the University of Ottawa, Dr. Lynette Leeseberg Stamler from the University of Windsor, and Dr. Kathryn Higuchi from the University of Lethbridge toured classrooms, libraries, laboratory and nursing practice settings and they met with faculty, students, and staff. The visitors also met with Dr. Michael Isaacson, Dean of Applied Science and Dr. John Gilbert, Coordinator of Health Sciences. They spent three days asking tough questions, reading through course materials, and quietly observing the activities at the School of Nursing.

program of study suited to their individual needs. Faculty and the School's administration were praised for their successful efforts in creating a program that caters to a variety of student situations. The strengths of faculty and adjunct faculty were noted, as was the strong presence of graduate teaching assistants.

They were equally impressed with the quality of the School's distance education programs and the resources within the School that support distance learning. The presence of a nursing research office was also praised for its encouragement of and support for faculty research. The Office for Nursing Research was also viewed as a

# from your nursing Alumni

The fall is such an exhilarating time on campus. The leaves are turning red, orange, and gold and piling up on the sidewalks. The students—some new, many returning—bring a wonderful enthusiasm and energy to campus. It is with that same energy and untiring commitment that the Nursing Alumni Executive works for you.

The goals of the Executive are to promote better connections among students, alumni, and friends, help nursing alumni to grow in numbers by getting alumni involved, and support the School of Nursing in as many ways as we can.

Three of the events we are involved with this year include:

#### **Marion Woodward Lecture**

*Nursing alumni work on the organizing committee, act as greeters, and arrange the ever-popular door prizes.*

#### **November Telethon**

*We get together for fun and socializing all the while encouraging alumni and friends to help by providing donations for scholarships for UBC Nursing students and School events.*

#### **Annual Spring Evening of Knowledge and Innovation**

*Celebrating the accomplishments of our graduates.*

During UBC's Alumni Reunion Weekend in September the School's 1951 nursing graduates celebrated their 50th anniversary with Dr. Michael Isaacson, Dean of Applied Science. BSN 1971 grads are celebrating their 30th anniversary in Club Med this November.

Alumni grad parties are happening often so stay in touch so you know when your year will be celebrating. If you want help planning a reunion or want to locate other grads call Jane; 604.822.8918 or toll free 1.800.883.3088. Also watch the School's web site for a list of events.

Lastly, I want to thank two people who provide extraordinary support for the UBC's Nursing Alumni and the Executive: Dr. Sonia Acorn, Acting Director at the School and Jane Merling, Program Coordinator of UBC Alumni. The Association relies on their help and support.

*Cathy Ebbehoj, BSN '75, MSN '99  
Alumni President, Nursing Division  
ebbehoj@nursing.ubc.ca*



## Director's Note

Welcome to the Fall edition of *Touchpoints*. We are delighted that Dr. Beverly Witter Du Gas, an Adjunct Professor with the School of Nursing has been awarded the Order of Canada. We congratulate her on receiving this well deserved recognition for outstanding contributions to the nursing profession and the community.

Congratulations also go out to those individuals who have received awards from the new Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research. We are proud that nursing has been so well represented in this first round of competition.

I would like to make special mention that the School has received a seven-year (May 2001- December 2008) accreditation by the Canadian Association of University Schools of Nursing (CAUSN). The accreditation is for both the basic degree program and the Post-RN program. The process involved the preparation of a comprehensive report followed by a site visit to the School in February 2001. Our certificate is proudly displayed outside the administration office in the School. I would like to express my appreciation to all faculty, staff, students, and clinical partners who contributed to this success.

You will see a new look on the School's web site, [www.nursing.ubc.ca](http://www.nursing.ubc.ca). Designed by the School's Tech Team (profiled in the Spring edition of *Touchpoints*) and implemented by Roy Dario, work-study student, the site is more user-friendly and student-focused than our previous site. Database Coordinator and Web Manager, Dave Beland will continue to monitor and update the site.

This academic year will prove to be a busy one with a January admission of students. We normally admit students to the basic degree program only in September; this admission is in response to the government initiatives to increase the numbers of new graduates into the workplace. I would like to express thanks to the faculty, staff, and clinical partners who have assisted with the planning of the January admission.

Sonia Acorn, RN, PhD  
Acting Director and Professor  
acorn@nursing.ubc.ca

# Unique Teaching/Learning Experience for Nursing Students

*High acuity nursing requires that clinical nurse experts closely monitor and be prepared to take quick action with patients who may display multiple symptoms and have various dysfunctions.*

This past summer the UBC School of Nursing, in collaboration with four units at Vancouver Hospital and Health Sciences Centre (VGH), conducted a new course focussed on nursing high acuity patients. *Nursing 410.H: Nursing Care of High Acuity Patients and Their Families* was designed to enable the education of students in high acuity settings, enhance professional development of staff nurses, and encourage and reward staff nurses as mentors. All of these factors combined are intended to help retain nurses at VGH and encourage new nursing students to consider working at the hospital. The weekly two-hour lecture was held at VGH, as were all clinical sessions.

High acuity nursing requires that clinical nurse experts closely monitor and be prepared to take quick action with patients who may display multiple symptoms and have various dysfunctions. Nursing in specialty areas such as high acuity settings often demands that the nurses have at least one year of experience in general medical-surgical areas. Due to nursing shortages this is no longer feasible so it is of utmost importance that students receive as much hands-

on training and mentoring as possible. Courses such as *Nursing 410.H* encourage that kind of training and emphasize the important relationship between hospitals and universities when it comes to nursing education. New approaches, like this one, to the professional development of nurses and nursing students will help promote nursing retention and the effectiveness of our practicing and future RNs.

The course was developed by the School of Nursing's Associate Professor Anne Wyness and adjunct faculty members who work as clinical nurse specialists at VGH. Jo-Ann Ford, CNS Solid Organ Transplant, Betty Ross, CNS Respiratory Sciences, Margaret Borozny, CNS Neurosciences, and Jill Clark, RN Leukemia/Bone Marrow Transplant not only opened up the units to UBC nursing students but also helped teach the course and acted as mentors.

Staff nurses at the hospital who worked on the four units were also offered the opportunity to attend the lectures along with UBC nursing students. These nurses attended the

course on their own time to increase their understanding of caring for high acuity patients. Nurses attending six or more classes received a certificate and could use the experience toward meeting continued competence requirements for registration. Three of the 19 staff nurses who attended the lectures received certificates. Adjunct faculty member Betty Ross hopes their success will encourage other staff nurses at VGH to participate in learning opportunities such as this one.

The course was very well received by both the UBC nursing students and the staff nurses who participated. Adjunct faculty member Jo-Ann Ford is happy that they were able to provide such excellent learning opportunities. Students were able to work on specific units as well as attend interdisciplinary rounds, outpatient clinics, conferences, and operating room sessions.

This course will run again in January 2002.

# Australia Research

## Helping to Understand Children's Sleep Problems

Associate Professor Dr. Wendy Hall spent three months this past summer in Perth, Australia as a visiting research scientist at the TVW Telethon Institute for Child Health Research. Working with the RASCALS research team on site, Dr. Hall's aim was to create measures that would capture behavioural sleep problems and to describe the prevalence, persistence, and factors associated with behavioural sleep problems in a population random sample of children aged 1 to 5 years in Western Australia.

Behavioural sleep problems are characterized by night waking and a lack of synchrony between parents' assigned timing for sleep and childrens' periods of sleep. Poor sleepers are unwilling or unable to go to sleep or

back to sleep without parental intervention. Dr. Hall determined which items were relevant to the research questions, created sleep measures, and assessed their psychometric properties. The measures demonstrated acceptable reliability and validity.

The RASCALS study used a randomly selected population-based sample of 3205 infants and was designed to investigate causal pathways of mental health problems for young children. Data collection points included 3 months and 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 years of age. The gender of the children was evenly split and most were in families where parents were married or de facto, white, young adults (26-35), medium income (\$25-\$50,000), with mothers

who had less than a tertiary degree. The prevalence of sleep problems ranged from a high of 22.6% at one year to a low of 13.3% at 2 years. Only at 3 years of age was there a relationship between gender and reported sleep problems with females significantly higher than males. The research indicates that children who had sleep problems at age 1 were four times more likely to have sleep problems at age 2, those who had them at 2 were ten times more likely to have them at 3, those who had them at 3 were six times more likely to have them at 4, and those who had sleep problems at 4 were ten times more likely to have them at 5.

If you'd like more information about Dr. Hall's research she can be contacted at [hall@nursing.ubc.ca](mailto:hall@nursing.ubc.ca).

*more*

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES for Nursing Research

In March 2001, the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research was created to provide support to trainees and health scientists in British Columbia. In the past, British Columbia has had difficulty attracting and keeping health researchers in the province and has been unable to take advantage of the recent increases in federal funding for health research. According to Dr. Aubrey Tingle, Foundation President and CEO, British Columbia receives only 8% of federal funding despite having 13% of Canada's population. This, he says,

means British Columbia is missing out on approximately \$50 million each year. If there were more health researchers in the province we would be able to attract more of the federal dollars. Through its awards, the Michael Smith Foundation expects to help turn this around.

The Foundation supports health researchers by offering Trainee Awards for Masters, PhD and Postdoctoral levels and Career Awards in Scholar, Senior Scholar, and Scientist categories. Besides helping British Columbia retain the

brightest and best students, these awards will make it easier to recruit externally for the people needed to strengthen the province's health research and health care systems. The program will fund up to 70 researchers this year, with a goal of over 250 in the future.

Dr. Michael Smith was one of British Columbia's most renowned scientists. His formal contributions were in the area of gene research. He was the recipient of a Nobel Prize for chemistry in 1993 and he donated his winnings to

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## More Funding Opportunities for Nursing Research

schizophrenia research and to help promote the advancement of Canadian women in science. In 1999, he was awarded the Royal Bank Award for "significant contributions to human welfare" and donated the \$125,000 grant to the BC Cancer Foundation. Dr Smith was inducted into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame for his work and received the Order of British Columbia, Companion of the Order of Canada, and was a fellow of the Royal Society of London.

The Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research will help honour and remember his work as a teacher, mentor, researcher, and scientist. Dr. Smith passed away in October 2000.

For more information on this award please contact the Office for Nursing Research at [onr@nursing.ubc.ca](mailto:onr@nursing.ubc.ca) or 604.822.7453

Recent nursing faculty appointments to the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research Award Evaluation Committees are:

J. Anderson, Career Award Evaluation Committee; Population Health  
J. Johnson, Trainee Award Evaluation Committee; Population Health

Three of the School's graduate students have been awarded Trainee Awards.

A. Bruce, PhD Candidate  
Moment-to-Moment: Narratives of Mindfully Living-and-Dying  
Supervisors: Dr. Joy Johnson and Dr. Betty Davies

G. Low, PhD Candidate  
The Hierarchical Structure and Function of Social Support as a Quality of Life Determinant among Community Dwelling Older Adults with Chronic Lung Disease  
Supervisors: Dr. Joy Johnson and Dr. Pamela Ratner

D. Martin, PhD Candidate  
Becoming a Nurse: The Micro and Macro Construction of First Nations Nursing Students' Experiences in a Western Canadian School of Nursing  
Supervisor: Dr. Barbara Paterson

A School of Nursing student has also won a Post-Doctoral Award.

K. Stajduhar, PhD Candidate  
Developing an Effective and Efficient Health Care Delivery System for Canadians at the End-of-Life  
Supervisors: Dr. Sally Thorne and Dr. Betty Davies  
Post-Doctoral Supervisor: Dr. Neena Chappell, Centre on Aging, University of Victoria



Dr. Beverly Witter Du Gas

## NURSING ADJUNCT RECEIVES Order of Canada

School of Nursing Adjunct Professor Dr. Beverly Witter Du Gas was awarded the prestigious Order of Canada this past August. The award was bestowed upon her in recognition of her contributions to nursing and health care both at home and abroad.

Beverly received a diploma in nursing from Vancouver General Hospital (VGH) and then completed a bachelor of arts at UBC. She later went on to complete a master's degree at the University of Washington and then a doctorate in education at UBC.

Her career began at VGH where she worked as a nursing instructor and later became Director of the VGH School of Nursing. During the 1970s and 80s Beverly taught at the University of Ottawa School of Nursing first as faculty and later as Acting Associate Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences and Director of the School of Nursing.

Beverly has authored a number of nursing textbooks one of which, *Introduction to Patient Care*, is used in over 40 countries around the world. Her latest textbook, *Nursing Foundations: A Canadian Perspective, 2nd Ed.* was co-authored with Lynne Esson of the School of Nursing.

Beverly has been an Adjunct Professor with the UBC School of Nursing since 1989. She consulted on the partnership between the Guru Nanak College of Nursing in India and the UBC School of Nursing. Beverly is still actively involved with nursing and continues to write about nursing issues.

## *An Invitation to the Marion Woodward Lecture*

# Cancer and the Family: Lessons Learned from Children and Adolescents

Dr. Frances Marcus Lewis is Professor of Family & Child Nursing at the University of Washington. Dr. Lewis's main areas of research focus on the processes by which a life-threatening chronic illness impacts the family, especially children and adolescents. She is currently conducting trials focussed on enhancing the quality of the parent-child relationship during acute phases of a mother's treatment.

*All are welcome to join us for this lecture.*

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1**

Woodward Instructional Resource Centre, Lecture Hall 2, UBC Campus

**7:00 PM**

*Followed by poster display and reception.*

Admission is free.

Hosted by the UBC School of Nursing  
and made possible with the support of the P.A. Woodward Foundation.

## People News

### NEW FACES

**RoseMarie Cheng** has been hired as Financial Clerk for the ONR. RoseMarie was formerly with the Department of Forest Sciences.

**Susan Dahinten** has been hired as Assistant Professor. Susan will be teaching population health and program planning and evaluation.

**Peggy Faulkner** joined the School as Graduate Records Officer. She formerly worked with the School of Rehabilitation Sciences.

**Margaret Osborne** was hired as Lecturer. Her areas of study are mental health-psychiatric nursing and cultural diversity in clinical nursing education.

**Alison Phinney** has been hired as Assistant Professor. Alison's area of specialty is aging, specifically dementia.

**Fay Warnock** has been hired as Assistant Professor. Her work focuses on pain assessment in infants.

**Sharon Williams** is the School's new Student Placement Coordinator. Sharon will be coordinating BSN student placements in the region and abroad.

### APPOINTED

**Cathy Ebbehoj** was promoted from Clinical Associate to Lecturer.

**Lynne Esson** was promoted from Clinical Associate to Lecturer. She maintains her role as Undergraduate Advisor for first and second year students.

**Elsie Tan** was promoted from Clinical Associate to Lecturer, then to Instructor.

**Bev Valkenier** was also promoted from Clinical Associate to Lecturer.

### DEPARTED

Graduate Records Officer **Liz Bragg** has retired after almost 10 years at the School of Nursing.

**Elaine Hung-Chan** has left her post as Secretary to the Director to accept a position with the Federal Government.

Senior Instructor **Louise Tenn** has retired. She taught community health at the School.

Assistant Professor **Ray Thompson** has retired. Ray had been teaching at the School since 1972.

### KUDOS

**Kathy O'Flynn Magee** was awarded a Graduate TA Teaching Award. Kathy is also the School's Clinical Faculty Coordinator.

Congratulations to the School of Nursing Sun Run Team who placed 10th of 71 teams in the Health/Medical category. The Sun Run is Canada's largest 10 km run.

# CONGRATULATIONS

## FACULTY AWARDS & HONOURS

- **S. ACORN**  
Awarded BC Ministry of Health grant for follow-up research from the Hospital and Patient Outcomes Study Findings from BC, \$30,000.
- **J. JOHNSON**  
Awarded National Cancer Institute of Canada grant for research in tobacco use among youth exploring the transition from experimentation to regular smoking, \$102,381.
- **S. THORNE**  
Awarded National Cancer Institute of Canada grant for research toward effective patient-professional communication in cancer care, \$255,539.
- **J. BOTTORFF**  
Awarded the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation grant for research in the psychological and behavioral consequences of providing information about mammographic breast density, \$172,057 (US).
- **J. ANDERSON, A. BROWNE**  
Awarded Canadian Institutes of Health Research grant for research toward the First Nations Women and Health Care Services encounters between women and nurses, \$54,566.

## INTERNAL STUDENT RESEARCH AWARDS

- **C. MAHEU, PHD CANDIDATE**  
Interpretation and Meaning to Inconclusive Genetics Testing Results for Breast and/or Ovarian Cancer Susceptibility.  
Katherine McMillan Director's Discretionary Fund, \$2,000  
*Supervisor:* Dr. Sally Thorne

- **P. WYATT, MSN CANDIDATE**  
Evaluating Acute Myocardial Symptom Recognition in Women.  
Katherine McMillan Director's Discretionary Fund, \$2,000  
*Supervisor:* Dr. Pamela Ratner

- **B. DA SILVA, MSN CANDIDATE**  
Understanding the Effectiveness of Care-Seeking Efforts from the Perspective of Economically Disadvantaged Individuals.  
Katherine McMillan Director's Discretionary Fund, \$1,260  
*Supervisor:* Dr. Sally Thorne

- **P. MUNRO/L. BACHMANN, MSN CANDIDATES**  
Mothers Helping Mothers with Postpartum Depression: A Three Phased Research Project.  
Sheena Davidson Nursing Research Fund, \$2,979  
*Supervisors:* Dr. Roberta Hewat and Dr. Pamela Ratner

## EXTERNAL STUDENT RESEARCH AWARDS

- **P. WYATT, PHD CANDIDATE**  
Nursing Research Fellowship from the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada, \$25,000 per annum.  
*Supervisor:* Dr. Pamela Ratner

*For further information on supporting student research opportunities please contact the Office for Nursing Research at 604.822.7453 or onr@nursing.ubc.ca.*

# UP-COMING EVENTS

## 2001/2002 Nursing Rounds

The complete schedule for Nursing Rounds is posted online at [www.nursing.ubc.ca](http://www.nursing.ubc.ca) or contact the Office for Nursing Research at 604.822.7453. Lectures are free and all are welcome.

November 1, 2001, 19:00

Marion Woodward Lecture

Cancer and the Family: Lessons Learned from Children and Adolescents

Dr. Frances Marcus Lewis, PhD, RN, FAAN from the University of Washington School of Nursing in Seattle, Washington will be speaking at the Woodward Instructional Resources Centre, Lecture Hall 2. Contact the Office for Nursing Research at 604.822.7453 or [onr@nursing.ubc.ca](mailto:onr@nursing.ubc.ca) for more details. Admission is free.

November 22, 2001

Fall Congregation

April 3, 2002

Nursing Alumni Annual Spring Evening of Knowledge and Innovation

Watch for details on the School's web site, [www.nursing.ubc.ca](http://www.nursing.ubc.ca).

May 6-12, 2002

National Nursing Week

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**Think  
About It.**  
UBC NURSING