

## **Creating a Nurse Scientist Position Within Clinical Practice**

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**Abstract Background Information:** The Institute of Medicine 2011 report called for a doubling of nurses with doctorates by 2020, specifically to conduct inquiry and research, centered in the nursing workforce. “Nurses educated as researchers and scientists must value, relate to, and interact with nurses who possess other types of doctoral or master’s education”. The report focused on partnerships between nurses practicing in the clinical arena and nurse scientists.

### **Objectives of Project:**

- Provide supported time for a PhD prepared clinical practice nurse dedicated to growth in nursing research and EBN programs at an urban hospital
- Provide a bridge between research and clinical practice.

### **Process of Implementation:**

- A proposal for a nurse scientist role, based on review of existing job descriptions and organizational strategic goals, was submitted to the executive board.
- A position of 10 hours a week was granted, with the remainder of hours to remain in clinical practice.
- This insured protected time to develop the program and kept the nurse in the clinical practice flow to gain ground level input about challenges and barriers.

**Statement of Successful Practice:** Increases experienced include abstracts written and submitted, poster and podium presentations, nursing research studies, EBP and QI projects, dedicated meetings with nurses, mentoring, coaching, and education of nurses, literature reviews, celebration of nursing work that had been siloed to the department it was conducted in, identifying measurable outcomes, completion of languishing projects, time management, and increased rigor of project designs.

**Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing:** Utilizing a nurse researcher who understands the institutional culture and is a colleague has proven invaluable to the success of this program. Time management, always a challenge, has been improved by on-unit consultations, at the point of the work being done, in real time. The NS acts as a mentor for the unit-based council CI projects aligned with the Magnet process and is a Magnet writer. Dissemination has been expanded, both locally and nationally, ensuring recognition and celebration of nursing's contributions to improved outcomes. Advance degree nurses are increasing. Creating a place for DNP and PhD prepared nurses to interact with clinical practice at a bedside level may improve patient outcomes, dissemination of knowledge, morale, job satisfaction, retention and professionalism of the clinical practice nurse.