

Nursing Research

Nursing research is an integral component of the Professional Practice Model at MGH. The Yvonne L. Munn Center for Nursing Research (The Munn Center) is the organizational structure that supports and promotes nursing research. Generated out of the quality improvement and evaluation programs of the 1980s and funded initially as a research award and lectureship in the 1990s, The Munn Center has evolved into an established research center within the Institute for Patient Care. It is the bridge that translates academic knowledge and theory into clinical practice.

The development of The Munn Center included the creation and enhancement of a number of research components: the Nursing Research Committee within the Collaborative Governance structure, the Clinical Nurse Specialist Research Task Force, the Nursing Research Operations Group, the Norman Knight Visiting Scholar Program, the Yvonne L. Munn Nursing Research Awards, the Yvonne L. Munn Post-Doctoral Fellowship, and the Doctoral Forum. The Collaborative Governance Nursing Research Committee focuses on three main initiatives: Nursing Research Committee Journal Club, Did You Know Posters, and The Annual Nursing Research Expo.

The development of The Munn Center culminated this year in the incorporation of the Yvonne L. Munn Center for Nursing Research as one of the pillars of The Institute for Patient Care; the creation of a discrete Munn Center cost center and budget; the appointment of the first Director of the center; the hiring of Nurse Researchers and other staff for The Munn Center; the move into dedicated space; and the initiation of the first-of-its-kind Nurse Scientist Advancement Model for doctorally-prepared nurses.

This brings The Munn Center to a new beginning. The challenges for The Munn Center are many. In this research-intensive institution, The Munn Center aims to change the structure of the way people understand research to incorporate nursing research. As part of the organization structure, nursing research is also involved in generating knowledge to improve the quality of care, evaluating the organization and the workforce, and addressing outcomes for the recipients of our care. The Munn Center provides the infrastructure to showcase nursing knowledge; to ask and study the questions of concern to clinicians and patients; to build on existing knowledge and translate knowledge into evidence-based practice; to cultivate a spirit of inquiry and create a community of scholars; to promote nursing research at all levels.