The Yvonne L. Munn Center for Nursing Research provides a formal infrastructure to support nursing research from the earliest conceptualization of a research project through grant submission. The Center boasts a strong foundation of research conducted by staff nurses, clinical nurse specialists, nurse practitioners, and nurse scientists.

MGH nurses have engaged in evidence-based practice for many years, both here at the hospital and through professional organizations. That experience is now laying the foundation for a more widespread initiative in evidence-based practice. Earlier this year, the Division of Nursing in the Bureau of Health Professions awarded a $900,000 grant to advance evidence-based practice among nurses at MGH.

Says, Susan Lee, RN, project director, “This grant will help us teach nurses about evidence-based practice so we can answer those important clinical questions that arise at the bedside.” The grant will go toward building an infrastructure to help nurses answer questions like, “What’s the best way to prevent falls?” and then synthesize that knowledge into practice.

Lee, a nurse practitioner, was driven to this idea when preparing a recent lecture. “When I went to the literature to find the correct way to take orthostatic signs, I was unable to find consensus. There were as many methods as texts consulted.” Lee recognized a need for resources and experts in evidence-based practice to help nurses find and use best evidence. Her hope is that this grant will help fill that need.

For the next three years, Lee and her team — Lynda Brandt, RN, project coordinator; Liz Johnson RN, clinical nurse specialist; Carole Foxman, medical librarian; and Diane Carroll, RN, project evaluator — will offer classes to nurses in all role groups and support nurses who want to adopt new practices on their units.

Starting in January, evidence-based practice ‘lunch-and-learns’ will be offered every Wednesday from 11:00am–12:00pm on Founders 3.

EBP 100: Achieving excellence through evidence-based practice
EBP 101: A nursing director’s guide to evidence-based practice
EBP 102: Starting a Journal Club on your unit to promote evidence-based practice

To register for a course, call The Knight Center at 6-3111. For more information, contact Lynda Brandt, RN, at 3-6671.