Dr. Lawrence K. Altman, Author of “The Doctor’s World” in *The New York Times Science Times*, writes about one physician’s discovery of the value of nursing. In “A Patient’s-Eye View of Nurses” (February 11, 2014), he recounts the experience of Arnold S. Relman, retired medical educator. Dr. Relman recently wrote an account of his survival from what was termed “a personal medical adventure.” The then 89-year-old suffered and survived serious head and neck injuries from a fall with ensuing major medical complications that required extensive surgical procedures and months of rehab.

Dr. Altman expressed surprise at the statement that before his accident Relman “had never before understood how much good nursing care contributes to patients’ safety and comfort, especially when they are very sick and disabled.” Altman asks how “a leading medical professor” might not have previously appreciated the value of nursing. He goes on to blame this myopia on the distracting effects of technology and physicians’ focus on test results. Because they focus on “important” information that can be read from monitors and the technical data in charts, physicians may feel no need to go to the bedside. But, the bedside, he notes, is where the nurses are. Quoting Dr. Relman, “What personal care hospitalized patients now get is mostly from nurses. When nursing is not optimal, patient care is never good.” Altman goes on to decry the tendency of hospital administrators to cut nursing staff to increase the bottom line, and argues for better team work between nurses and physicians as well as coordination in the education of professionals so that physicians might better appreciate nurses. He echoes the call for interprofessional training that is the current buzz. However, I see another challenge, one that nurses themselves may be best equipped to address. We need to think about how best to measure nurses’ role in patient care. Is the “good nursing care” Dr. Relman refers to strictly about adherence to protocols and sensitive monitoring, and frequent contact time? How would you measure the “physical and personal touch” that Dr. Altman finds lacking among his colleagues? How much does each of these components influence not just medical outcomes, but patient comfort and sense of well-being? That’s some data I’d like to see!—MWS

FROM THE DEANS’ DESK

**Personnel Announcements**

John Runfeldt, MA is the new Director of Evaluation and Assessment. He will be working to implement procedures for the research, analysis, and reporting of data related to institutional and program effectiveness.

José Rivera, MS IT AS, has joined the Information Technology Department as a User Support Specialist. He will be responsible for supporting administrators, faculty, and students with all I.T. functions.
THREE STATISTICAL TIPS FROM KAREN, STATISTICAL MENTOR @ THE ANALYSIS FACTOR

Want to become proficient in using statistics? You need to do three things:

1) Focus on learning linear models. (Why? Most other models are extensions. Gain proficiency here and you won’t know everything, but you’re well set up to learn anything else).

2) Get really skilled in the tools of the trade, aka statistical software.

3) Practice on real data, then go learn some more.

WEBINAR IN EFFECT SIZE STATISTICS ANNOUNCED:

Details:
When: Wednesday, March 19, 2014
Time: 1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.
Where: (Here is the best part) — Anywhere you have a fast internet connection
Cost: FREE

This webinar will cover:
- The difference between standardized and unstandardized effect size statistics.
- A overview of effect size statistics for some common analyses.
- How to calculate these when your software doesn’t give them to you.

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY RESEARCH SERVICES

Rutgers has created a compendium of searchable research services and available research materials that are highlighted on the RU website intended to be a conduit into RU for those interested in working with the university. These lists are intended to be resources for both internal and external parties.

For more information, please follow the links below:

The catalog of research materials is here: [http://ora.rutgers.edu/research-materials/](http://ora.rutgers.edu/research-materials/)

The URL for the catalog of equipment/facilities/services is at: [http://ora.rutgers.edu/guide/](http://ora.rutgers.edu/guide/)
FROM DINO BRAINS TO THOUGHT CONTROL—10 FASCINATING BRAIN FINDINGS

Summaries of 10 findings about the brain that involve NSF funded researchers can be found at the following weblink: http://www.nsf.gov/discoveries/disc_summ.jsp?cntn_id=130442&WT.mc_id=USNSF_1

1. Surprise! Some types of wrinkles are good.
2. Dinosaurs not big and dumb, after all—just big?
3. A possible explanation for Einstein’s intelligence?
4. In mind-computer melds, brains still important.
5. Scientists may be able to predict when you’ll be primed for risky business
6. Cell-based therapy may ultimately help beat back brain cancers.
7. The octopus: They eyes have it—literally.
8. Bird’s responses to climate change: It’s all in their heads.
10. Designer antibodies may ultimately help fight Alzheimer’s.

How to Make Online Learning Effective
(adapted from the Association for Psychological Science—January, 2014—Vol. 27. No.1)

According to an article published in the New York Times, 2012 was “The Year of the MOOC”—that is the massive open online courses. But, the question remains, are they effective?

⇒ Overall, the students who received frequent quizzes achieved better focus, took more notes, and recalled about 20% more information from the online lecture compared with the group that simply took a test at the end of the lecture.

⇒ APS Fellow Janet Metcalfe of Columbia University described how calling on students randomly to answer questions improves their performance in an online learning environment compared to passive listening. However, she found no evidence that Skyping with other students or with a tutor improves accuracy on tests, although it remains to be seen if Skype would keep students more interested in the class over the long term or promote discussion.

⇒ In a meta-analysis of 27 studies (conducted by Mark McDaniel from Washington University) comparing online learning and traditional classes—some of which used random assignment, had the same professors in both settings, or used the same PowerPoint slides, enhanced online learning—lectures with supplementary activities, multiple online videos, and interactive assignments produced learning outcomes comparable to those of the standard lecture courses.
The NIH Data Book has been updated with statistics of fiscal year 2013 grant funding. Application success rates declined in 2013 to a historic low! This was due in part to the reduction of NIH’s budget due to the sequestrian which lowered NIH appropriations by more than 5% of $1.55 billion below the previous fiscal year. There was also a small decline in incoming applications, the first since before the Recovery Act (ARRA) of 2009 which bolstered NIH application submissions for a number of years even after ARRA ended. The new budget request, if approved by Congress, brings NIH funding up to previous levels for 2014.

For further information visit the following weblink:

nexus.od.nih.gov/all/2014/01/10/fy2013-by-the-numbers

SAVE THE DATES!!

**Write Winning Grant Proposals Workshop**

- **When:** Wednesday, May 14, 2014
- **Time:** 9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.
- **Where:** RWJMS East Lecture Hall

**Subsidized by RBHS; Registration is required**

**Research Symposium:**

*From Nucleus to Neighborhood*

- **When:** Thursday, June 26, 2014
- **Time:** 9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.
- **Where:** RWJMS East, West, & Main Lecture Halls

WATCH FOR DETAILS SOON!
GRANT AWARDS

Dr. Yuri T. Jadotte received an NIH sub-award grant from the Cochrane Complementary and Alternative Medicine Field to complete the systematic review project entitled *Complementary and Alternative Medicine Treatments for Atopic Eczema*. This is a one year grant.

Dr. Karen D’Alonzo was awarded the Jonas Center for Nursing Scholar grant to support five PhD Nurse Leader Scholars and one PhD Jonas Veterans Healthcare Scholar. These scholars are among 300 doctoral candidates supported nationally by this program. This is a two year grant.

Dr. Felesia Bowen was awarded a grant from the NJ Delta Dental Foundation entitled *Bright Smiles in the Brick City*. Rutgers University College of Nursing Pediatric and FNP students will partner with pediatric and general dentists to conduct pediatric oral health risk assessments, screening and varnish application in the community.

Dr. Felesia Bowen was awarded a mini-grant from the NJ Office of Minority and Multicultural Health for a research study entitled *Faithful Families Eating Smart, Moving More* at Calvary Lighthouse.

PUBLICATIONS


**PUBLICATIONS (con’t.)**


**PRESENTATIONS**


* **Taha, AA, D’Errico, E, Forrester DA** (2013). Pediatric Team-Based Participatory Simulation in Undergraduate Nursing Education (poster). Sigma Theta Tau Intl. 42nd Biennial Convention, Indianapolis, IN, November 16-20.

* **Posmontier, B, Horowitz, JA, Forrester, DA** (2013). Incorporating Relationship-Based Care into Nursing Education (poster). Sigma Theta Tau Intl. 42nd Biennial Convention, Indianapolis, IN, November 16-20.


Dr. Edna Cadmus was elected Vice-Chair of the Commission on Pathway to Excellence Executive Committee. While Dr. Cadmus’ appointment to the Commission began on July 1, 2012 her term as Vice-Chair is effective July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2016.

Dr. Felesia Bowen has been selected to serve as a member of the Forum on Promoting Children’s Cognitive, Affective and Behavioral Health (C-CAB Health Forum) of the Institute of Medicine-National Research Council. The forum serves as a venue for experts from federal agencies, professional organizations, and academia to engage in dialogue and discussion to connect the prevention, treatment and implementation sciences with settings where children are seen and cared for, including primary health care, schools, preschools and child care, social service and child welfare, juvenile justice, family court, military, and community based organizations, and to create systems that are effective and affordable in addressing children’s needs. The forum has a projected timeline of three years, with the appointment beginning December, 2013 and ending September 29, 2016.

Noel Kerr, PhD, RN, CMSRN, Assistant Professor, Illinois Wesleyan University, School of Nursing and PhD Alumna of Rutgers University Nursing, is one of two faculty members of Illinois Wesleyan University who has been awarded a Nurse Educator Fellowship from the Illinois Board of Higher Education. Noël M. Kerr is among the 22 faculty members statewide to receive the fellowships. These awards ensure the retention of well-qualified nursing faculty.

Dr. Richard Pessagno has been elected as President of the Society of Advanced Practice Psychiatric Nurses of the New Jersey State Nurses Association (2013-2015).

Dr. Valerie Smith Stephens, Assistant Dean & Director of our Educational Opportunity Fund, was recognized by the Graduate School of Social Work for serving for five years as Field Instructor to MSW student-interns on January 15, 2014.

“Nurses Know Best.” Rutgers Magazine, Winter 2014, page 37 features an article on the FOCUS Wellness Center as a one-stop, nurse managed clinic in Newark, delivering health care and better quality of life to the city’s neediest population. Dean Holzemer, the Dean of the College of Nursing, along with Drs. Suzanne Willard & Kathy Gunkel are recognized for the start-up and management of the clinic within the article.

Three new faculty members will be working under the grant funded CMS Long Term Care Residency Program headed by Drs. Edna Cadmus and Dr. Susan Salmond. Ms. Katherine Black, MSN, RN and Ms. Nancy Bohnarczyk, MA, RN, CNE are the new Clinical Assistant Professors. Ms. Linda Hassler, MS, RN, GCNS, BC, FNGNA is the new Clinical Associate Professor.