Nurse education: A dying art?  
Exploring strategies for encouraging nurses into research and education

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PROJECT OVERVIEW:

Initially funded by a CHI International Collaboration Grant, this project involved connecting with academic nurse leaders in the UK and US to explore new programs and strategies being developed for addressing the aging and dwindling academic nurse workforce. The project has resulted in a workshop, a survey and two conference presentations, with two journal articles currently in press. These activities explore the various barriers, perceived or real, to registered nurses returning to the academic workforce, and looked particularly at a model which had been used in the UK in the 1970s to attract nurses into research: The Studies In Nursing Care project. We compared this model with new programs emerging out of the “modernising nursing careers” initiative in the UK, and have expanded on this model’s potential efficacy through feedback from a workshop and survey. The project is now continuing into a second phase, which uses survey data and the theoretical work of Ernest L Boyer around ‘rethinking scholarship’ to draw up proposals for more flexible nurse graduate career pathways that will have positive implications for nursing academia and clinical practice.