2018 American Nurses Credentialing Center’s (ANCC) Magnet Conference

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This year’s American Nurses Credentialing Center’s (ANCC) Magnet conference took place on October 24-26 in Denver, CO, and attracted more than 10,000 participants. I was excited to be one of them. My hospital, Providence St. Vincent Medical Center (in Portland, Oregon), received its 5th Magnet recognition this year and I was invited by our Magnet leadership team to attend the conference and walk with the Providence St. Vincent nurses during the Magnet award celebration parade. For the past 3 years I have been working closely with hospital Magnet leadership to support Magnet’s 5 components. Evidence-based practice and nursing research programs I co-designed and co-taught helped develop new nursing knowledge.

Although I was there to celebrate with the team, I could not pass up the opportunity to sneak a peek at what other organizations do to support Magnet. One of the sessions I attended, was presented by a fellow NAHRS member, Virginia Commonwealth Research and Education Librarian Roy Brown, MLIS, AHIP. The presentation, Empowering Nurses with an Online Roadmap for Evidence-Based Practice, described an online EBP portfolio designed by the library in collaboration with the School of Nursing and nurse educators to help bedside nurses navigate the process of learning evidence-based practice and improve tracking of EBP projects. Roy’s presentation was very well received and followed by a lively Q & A session. Several of the interlocutors commented on the crucial role librarians and libraries play in evidence-based practice.

Another session of interest to librarians was a presentation by Ohio State University Director of Center for Transdisciplinary Evidence-Based Practice, Lynn Gallagher-Ford, PhD, RN, DPFNAP, NE-BC. Meeting the 2019 Sources of Evidence for EBP: Critical Strategies for Success, outlined an approach to building a sustainable evidence-based program. Along with developing an organizational spirit of inquiry, finding EBP mentors, and securing administration and leadership support, librarian-support and access to libraries were named key factors in program building and continued success. Dr. Gallagher-Ford’s comments about librarians were met with enthusiastic nods and cheers of agreements from the audience.

I am happy to report that I was not the only librarian attending the conference. Melissa Kovac, MA, MLIS, AHIP, from Porter Adventist Hospital/Centura Health in Denver was representing the Hospital Libraries Section. We connected and exchanged notes on the sessions and keynotes we attended and discussed librarian collaborations with nurses. Melissa spotted an acknowledgment for a medical librarian from University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, Karen DeSanto, MLS, MS, RD, AHIP on a poster by Cara Spencer, PhD, RN, FNP-BC entitled Evidence Based Practice Boot Camp: A Worthy Investment for Nursing. We both noted an abundance of “librarian love” expressed by many of the nurses, but a general lack of more formal acknowledgement of librarian contributions. This reminded me of a session I attended at MLA’18 — What We Talk about When We Talk about Collaboration: A Scoping Review — in which Timothy Roberts observed that in articles on collaborations authors tend to concentrate on their role and rarely give detailed information on the contributions of other participants. Timothy’s talk convinced me to reexamine the way I describe collaborative projects. Observing the dissonance between the perceived and acknowledged librarian contributions reinforced my resolve to better highlight the contributions of other colleagues in inter-professional collaborations in the future.