A4.4: American Nurses Foundation: 55 Years of Advancing Nursing Science

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Abstract:
Introduction: The American Nurses Foundation (ANF) focuses on providing national leadership in health philanthropy, developing nurse scientists and their research, growing its financial resources and infusing cultural, and ethnic diversity into its advancement of nursing science. An examination of its origins indicates that ANF has accomplished the goals envisioned by ANA leaders when they established the foundation in 1955.

Method(s): Aims: to identify all ANF scholars from 1955-2010 with data on 1) year of grant, 2) title of grant and 3) affiliated institutions at the time of the ANF award. Historical research methods were used by examining ANA/ANF archival materials at the History of Nursing Archives at Boston University, research columns in Nursing Research, AJN and TAN, archival program materials of the late Undine Sams (Ardalan & Messmer, 2008), and various websites. ANF scholars provided additional information.
Results: ANF’s earliest research activities focused on nursing function studies conducted in partnership with state nurses associations. Since 1955, 925+ ANF Scholars were identified. Of interest is the rank order of the universities/colleges with the highest number of ANF scholars. Successful grant recipients: UCSF with 38 ANF Scholars, Penn (37), Case(34), UIC (26), Pitt (22), UWashington (22), UNC (19), URochester (19), UT @ Austin (18), UMichigan (17), UIowa (16), UVirginia (15), UMaryland (15), UKentucky (13. Less than 5% of ANF Scholars are affiliated with hospitals/medical centers with the majority from children’s hospitals.

Discussion & Conclusions: A substantial number of ANF Scholars have become leaders in nursing research, subsequently receiving significant funding from NINR and other agencies. Conclusions: This study illustrates the importance of retaining and maintaining archival material. Identifying the 55 year history of ANF scholars illustrates the trajectory of nursing research and dean/institutional support for the development of nursing science.

Abstract History:
This abstract has not been presented or accepted for presentation in whole or in part at the SNRS or other scientific meeting.

Financial Disclosure:
No, I (or a member of my immediate family) have not received something of value* from or own stock (or stock options) in a commercial company or institution related directly or indirectly to the subject of my presentation.

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