

## Letter from the Director

Learning is a major skill required to improve safety. This issue highlights a few of the different ways the Center for Health Services Research and Patient Safety (CHRP) facilitates and advocates learning and development of our University faculty, students and staff members to be scientists, teachers and advocates for improved safety.

Please join us for these opportunities as you see relevance to your work. All are welcome!

Kimberly A. Galt, Pharm.D., Ph.D.  
Director, CHRP

## Coming Soon

“Meet the Researcher” Series

### Speaker:

Nathaniel Rickles, Pharm.D.,  
Ph.D.  
Northeastern University  
Department of Pharmacy  
Practice

### Topic:

Interpersonal and Group  
Communication to Improve  
Patient Safety

**Date:** April 1, 2010

**Time:** 10 a.m.

**Location:** Boyne 131

### Speaker:

Diane P. Martin, Ph.D.  
University of Washington  
Department of Health  
Services

### Topic:

Strengthening Doctoral  
Health Services Research

**Date:** May 6, 2010

**Time:** 10 a.m.

**Location:** Boyne 131

## Volume I, Issue 3

April 2010

## The Importance of Mentoring

Mentoring young faculty members is valuable in a research environment as it allows for seasoned faculty members to guide younger researchers. As part of the *Building Research Infrastructure and Capacity Program (BRIC)* awarded to Kimberly Galt, Pharm.D., Ph.D. and funded by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (RFA-H5-05-010), a mentoring program was developed.

Three research fellow mentees were included within this BRIC grant. Dr. Galt has also mentored several other individuals and was given the opportunity to start mentoring programs in the Center for Health Services Research and Patient Safety (CHRP).

Mentees created individualized training development plans to advance

their research expertise and to further develop them as scientists. The expectation of these plans was that they would complement mentee training and would integrate with the primary research project and the mentees own interests. Individual meetings with the CHRP research mentees were held to determine the progress on individualized development plans. The meetings enabled the mentor to assess skills and expertise development in relation to these plans. Structuring the mentor program in this way provides a unique means to pursue a well-recognized program of study, enhancing health services research and patient safety analysis skills, which are so vital within research.

The mentee program continues to develop as part

of Dr. Galt's *Creighton Research Infrastructure Program to Achieve Sustainability* grant funded by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (RFA-HS-09-001). Expansion of the mentee program allowed CHRP to develop a senior scientist research mentor team that engages with the research fellow mentees and former BRIC mentee "graduates." Senior scientists contribute to mentoring as patient safety and health care experts, to theory development, and to research methods expertise with an emphasis in mixed methods and qualitative components. The greatest benefit of this mentoring program is the opportunity to learn from experienced scientists and to establish interprofessional relationships.

## Foundations in Patient Safety; IPE 410 Patient Safety Course

It is estimated that at least 44,000 patients die each year as a result of medical errors. In order to create a health care system based on patient safety, we must first educate health professions students with foundational knowledge in the science of safety.

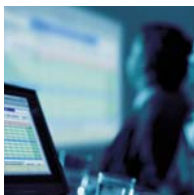
The IPE 410 Foundations in Patient Safety course in an interprofessional course taught

from a patient-centered perspective. Faculty from various disciplines teach concepts of safety systems, which serve as an overarching principle of patient safety. During each class session, students learn about the scope and magnitude of patient safety problems, and participate in case-based exercises designed to emphasize key patient safety concepts. Students acquire skills

necessary to incorporate patient safety practices and improvements into their future professional practice.

The IPE 410 course is offered each spring. The 2010 course had 81 students participating from multiple disciplines, including pharmacy, nursing, and health administration and policy.

## “Meet the Researcher” Series



The Center for Health Services Research and Patient Safety (CHRP) launched the “Meet the Researcher” series in 2010 and will host five sessions involving six researchers to provide informative presentations about their work.

“Meet the Researcher” provides an opportunity to interface with distinguished and innovative scientists in leading health services research programs. This series bridges important relationships between our faculty and exposes students to active research.

To begin the “Meet the Researcher” series, the following speakers have been scheduled:

- April 1, 2010  
Nathaniel Rickles, Pharm.D., Ph.D.  
Northeastern University  
Department of Pharmacy Practice  
*Interpersonal and Group Communication to Improve Patient Safety*
- August 5, 2010  
Tina Shih, Ph.D.  
University of Texas  
Section of Health Services Research Department of Biostatistics  
*Patient Safety Relating to a New Cancer Treatment*
- Fall 2010  
Ann Flood, Ph.D.  
Dartmouth Medical School  
*Publishing in Health Services Research*
- May 6, 2010  
Diane P. Martin, Ph.D.  
University of Washington  
Department of Health Services  
*Strengthening Doctoral Health Services Research*

The “Meet the Researcher” sessions will be held at 10 a.m. in Boyne 131.

Watch the CHRP website ([chrp.creighton.edu](http://chrp.creighton.edu)) for updates.

**“Senior scientist mentors share expert competencies related specifically to health services research”**

## Introducing the Senior Scientist Mentoring Program

In conjunction with the *Creighton Research Infrastructure Program to Achieve Sustainability*, funded by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (RFA-HS-09-001), Creighton Center for Health Services Research and Patient Safety (CHRP) has developed a senior scientist mentor model designed to provide expert guidance to the research fellow mentees and former Building Research Infrastructure Capacity mentee “graduates.” CHRP is pleased to have J. Chris Bradberry, Pharm.D.; Mark Latta, D.M.D., M.S.; and Joan Norris, Ph.D., R.N., serve as senior scientist mentors.

Senior scientist mentors share expert competencies related specifically to health services research, and use their transferable set of skills to

benefit both faculty within their own health sciences disciplines as well as other disciplines across Creighton University. This provides them with an opportunity to educate the University faculty about health services research and build networking relationships across campus.

One of the current senior scientists is Dr. Joan Norris, associate dean for research and evaluation for Creighton University’s School of Nursing. She is distinguished in the field of qualitative research and has collaborated in research projects with Juliet Corbin, a renowned researcher.

Throughout her accomplished research career, Dr. Norris has received funding from the Department of Health and

Human Services Division of Nursing, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, NIH Center for Nursing Research and Sigma Theta Tau International. Dr. Norris is a member of Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society. She received the Nebraska Nurses Association Nurse of the Year Award in 1989, and is presently a fellow for the American Academy of Nursing. She also serves as a reviewer for *Western Journal of Nursing Research*, *Clinical Nursing Research* and *Nursing Outlook*.



**Joan Norris, Ph.D., R.N., Professor, Associate Dean for Research and Evaluation Creighton University School of Nursing**

## Health Services Research Fellowship in Patient Safety

By Kevin Fuji, Pharm.D.

In 2009, I completed a two-year Health Services Research Fellowship with a focus in Patient Safety in the Creighton Center for Health Services Research and Patient Safety (CHRP). This experience provided me a jump-start to my academic and research career, while forming valued relationships with colleagues from a wide range of educational and disciplinary backgrounds, spanning the health sciences.

As a fellow, I had the opportunity to participate in a number of interdisciplinary research projects. During my first year, I served as the research coordinator for the Building Research Infrastructure and Capacity (BRIC) grant awarded to CHRP by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). The research associated with this grant focused on the adoption and use of health information technologies (HIT) in ambulatory physician practices, specifically regarding electronic health records (EHRs).

I continued my research building off of the work initiated during the BRIC grant project, expanding into my interest area of personal health records. I was the recipient of the 2008 ACCP Ambulatory Care PRN Pilot Grant, awarded to new investigators in pharmacy. My research examined the adoption of EHRs by pharmacists, and the perceived use of personal health records by their patients. This is a stream of research I will be continuing in

my career, along with the areas of patient safety and HIT.

I was co-principal investigator with Dr. Kim Galt on the Dyke Anderson Patient Safety grant, which examined patient safety issues Nebraska pharmacists currently face in practice. This research has since expanded to include the development and testing of a Patient Safety Event Reporting system to solicit patient safety information from pharmacists and provide a rapid feedback mechanism to improve safety in practice.

Through my experience, I have cultivated relationships with other researchers across Creighton University. I have collaborated frequently with Amy Abbott, Ph.D., R.N., in the School of Nursing to study problems in the care transitions process, and the value of patient safety education for pharmacy and nursing students. I have also worked with Sue Crawford, Ph.D., a political scientist in the College of Arts and Sciences, to examine what role the infrastructure of a community plays in consumer access and exchange of health information. These working relationships have been an extremely rewarding part of my time as a fellow and have helped me to understand and see the value in conducting interdisciplinary team research.

My scholarly productivity during my fellowship was a direct result of these collaborations and the many opportunities afforded to me from working on an interdisciplinary research team

as a member of CHRP. I have published manuscripts in the subject areas of pharmacy and HIT; physicians' perceptions of their patients' health information record-keeping behaviors; and research skills training in Pharm.D. curricula. In addition, I have presented my work at a number of both pharmacy and health services research professional organization meetings.

The fellowship allowed me to work extensively with state partners, including the State Board of Pharmacy, eHealth Council, State Office of Rural Health, and CIMRO of Nebraska. In an effort to ensure our research is translated into policy and practice, I have had the opportunity to serve on the Personal Health Record Workgroup for the Nebraska eHealth Council—informing the state of the potential personal health records have in our current national health information exchange movement.

In addition, I co-coordinated the IPE 410 Foundations in Patient Safety course, an interdisciplinary course open to all professional students and to undergraduate students pursuing a health-related degree. This course teaches students the science of patient safety and allows them an opportunity to learn from and interact with students and faculty members from a variety of disciplinary backgrounds.

Upon completion of my fellowship, I have transitioned into a faculty position as a



**Kevin Fuji, Pharm.D.,  
Resident Assistant  
Professor,  
Creighton University  
Center for Health  
Services Research and  
Patient Safety**

***“As a fellow I  
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resident assistant professor within CHRP. I gained content knowledge and experience in the areas of patient safety, HIT, pharmacy practice and research methodology.

My fellowship experience has provided an excellent base upon which I will build my career as both a pharmacy educator and health services researcher.

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The Creighton University Center for Health Services Research and Patient Safety was founded to coordinate and support research and training efforts among faculty within an interdisciplinary and collaborative research environment. Faculty and staff serve the research interests of governmental agencies, health care facilities, employers, health care industry companies and educators.

Mission Statement: The Center for Health Services Research and Patient Safety conducts health services research to improve quality, safety and efficiency of patient care through the discovery, translation and dissemination of new knowledge.

## Recognition

- Shirley Blanchard, Ph.D., OTR/L, ABDA, received the AOTA Roster of Fellowship Award from the America Occupational Therapy of America.
- Karen Paschal, PT, DPT, MS, was a presenter for Leadership Development, March 16, 2010, Office of Faculty Development.
- Amy Abbott, Ph.D., R.N., and Kevin Fuji, Pharm.D., provided a presentation entitled "Building a Successful Interdisciplinary Collaboration," Feb. 18, 2010.
- A. James Bothmer, MALS, was awarded the Outstanding Achievement Award by the Midcontinental Chapter of the Medical Library Association.

## Faculty Publications and Presentations

In 2009 the Creighton Center for Health Services Research and Patient Safety faculty members disseminated 11 publications, 21 presentations, and one book. The dissemination was developed out of various research projects. The presentations were given at the local, state, and national level. Several new presentations and publications will be added in 2010.

## Grants and Contracts

New funding awarded during 2008 to present totals \$1,681,760. New grants and contracts are being developed and submitted to continue the sustainability of the Creighton Center for Health Services Research and Patient Safety.

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