December 2011

Application to become a Trinity Research Centre

Identification Information

Name of proposed centre: Centre for Practice and Healthcare Innovation

Contact name: Professor Catherine Comiskey

Email: catherine.comiskey@tcd.ie

Extension: 2776

School with administrative and financial responsibility: School of Nursing and Midwifery

Head of School: Professor Agnes Higgins (Formerly Professor Mary McCarron)

Initial Staff

Director: Professor Catherine Comiskey

Principal Researchers: Professor Mary McCarron, Professor Cecily Begley, Professor Agnes Higgins, Professor Imelda Coyne, Prof C Comiskey Dr Gabriele McKee. These are based on the School of Nursing and Midwifery research matrix,

Other Associated Researchers (internal): Dr Patricia Cronin, Dr. Fiona Timmons, Ms Sylvia Huntley Moore, Dr Catherine McCabe, Dr Anne-Marie Brady, Dr Fintan Sheerin, Dr H Nicholl; Dr Aileen Lynch; Dr Jan De Vries, Dr L Curtis; and additional staff as the Centre develops.

Other associated researchers (external): Professor Philip McCallion, Albany, New York University; Professor Gary Rolfe, Swansea University, Wales; Dr David Prendergast, European Social Science & Design Lead for the Digital Health group at Intel Corporation and Principal Investigator in the Technology Research for Independent Living (TRIL) Centre; Dr Geralyn Hynes RCSI, Ms Carrie Jackson, England Centre for Practice Innovation, Canterbury University, England.

Appointed member of the Centre for Health Informatics

Two Directors of Nursing or similar from our Health Service Providers,

Emeritus staff: To be decided.

The Proposed Centre

The Centre for Practice and Healthcare Innovation will be a partnership between Trinity College Dublin (TCD) and our allied health services

Mission Statement:

The School of Nursing and Midwifery at Trinity College Dublin (TCD) and its allied health services have a long history of working together to improve nursing and midwifery practice through research. It is proposed to merge expertise by bringing together clinical practice staff, academic staff, industry and the academic strength of the university in a symbiotic partnership of equals to form a Centre for Practice and Healthcare Innovation (CPHI). This new initiative will formalise our commitment to a long term and ongoing working relationship between the School of Nursing and Midwifery at TCD and our associated health services and will place us leaders in fostering innovative and sustainable methods of enhancing healthcare, through research and innovation in Ireland.

Aims and objectives:

Primary Aim

1. To enhance health outcomes for people and quality of care by enhancing innovations in research, research education, and evidence based practice
2. To develop an extensive national network of Practice Innovation Units that work together to share ideas and resources for mutual benefit and for the common good of research development in nursing, midwifery and healthcare.

Objectives

1. Foster links with industry and practice to enhance research evidence, translation and implementation in health and practice.
2. Through practice and industrial collaborations foster innovative development and entrepreneurship in general and initially within the e health arena.
3. To develop in collaboration with services a Professional Doctorate in Healthcare.
4. Further establish a structured career pathway for professional and clinical staff in the area of research
5. To provide identified support mechanisms to enhance research activity among clinical staff.
6. To provide an infrastructure that will develop and facilitate the use of resources across teams
7. To identify and form teams and collaborative links between clinical staff, academic staff and industry for the purpose of conducting collaborative research
8. To enhance professional nursing practice and healthcare by promoting quality research projects, related to clinical practice, implementation and industry

9. Through these collaborative links identify and develop research opportunities within nursing, health care, e health and nurse- led inter-disciplinary research
10. Through these collaborative links source funding to conduct research projects from academic, clinical, innovation and non standard funding sources
11. Through these various collaborations enhance the impact of the research on health and services
12. To develop an extensive national network of Practice Innovation Units that work together to share ideas and resources for mutual benefit and for the common good of research development in nursing, midwifery and healthcare

Measurable added value to College:

The School of Nursing and Midwifery's proposed research quality metrics emphasise not only excellence in academic scholarship, writing and research but place a particular emphasis on innovative translational research with our national and international healthcare providers and partners. The establishment of the Centre for Practice and Healthcare Innovation will provide a focal point for this innovative translational research and will in the longer term attract additional post graduate students and new and established researchers and projects through its proposed Professional Doctorate in Healthcare. In addition the proposed centre specifically address recommendation 13 of the School of Nursing and Midwifery's external quality review which stressed the importance of establishing a structured career pathway for professional and clinical staff.

The proposed Centre also clearly addresses and adds a practice research focus to the College research theme of translational research.

Activities

The Centre for Practice and Healthcare Innovation will be involved in research, research education, and practice innovation

Research

The Centre will coordinate and initiate practice-based research (that is, generating knowledge from practice and or implementing evidence based practices and innovations into practice) practitioner research (that is, research into one's own practice) and action research approaches including co-operative inquiry (involving service users as research partners). This will be achieved by:

- Forming a practice innovation network across our allied healthcare and service providers
- Initiating and supporting research projects in practice settings
- Initiating and supporting projects within the academic and industrial teams through the sharing of resources, expertise and administration
- Encouraging and supporting small scale practitioners inquiries into their own practice and that of their immediate team
- Supporting organisationally driven initiatives including organisational development and cross disciplinary research and practice development
- Initiating, coordinating and supporting joint bids for external research funding
- Encouraging and supporting practitioners to disseminate their work through writing for publication and presenting papers and posters at national and international conferences

The Centre will also provide an opportunity and framework for joint advanced practitioner/lecturer roles to enhance practice research development and practice-based research.

Research Education

The Centre will establish lifelong learning communities in which learning and scholarship is valued for its own sake and for the purpose of enhancing and developing practice research. The Centre will:

- offer work-based research learning opportunities to all health care staff, including courses at all levels up to MSc and Professional Doctorate
- offer opportunities for research learning through clinical supervision and/or action learning sets to groups and individuals
- encourage individuals to share and disseminate their research outputs with students, patients, practitioners, educationalists and managers through presentations, seminars and workshops
- further develop the research skills of academic staff to equip them with knowhow for research innovations
- develop the research skills of specialist staff including managers, clinical nurse specialists, advanced nurse practitioners and nurse prescribers

Research Consultancy and Service Provision

The Centre will actively seek through the tender and other processes opportunities to provide research consultancy services to the healthcare profession across the range of expertise of its members.

Governance Structure

The Centre for Practice and Healthcare Innovation will have its own internal and external governance structure consisting of an internal executive which will be responsible for the day to day running of the Centre. This will be chaired in the first instance by the Director of Research and shall have as members, the Director of Research, two Principal Investigator (PI) representatives and two additonal members with relevant experience. The executive will report to the Centres Governing Body through the Director. The Governing body will consist of the Centre Director, The Head of School, The Chair of Nursing and Midwifery, two Directors from our linked health service providers and a representative from the Minister for Health and Children. This external board, which will be chaired by the Head of School will act as an oversight committee and will advise and assist the Director in the running of the Centre.

In the first instance the Director of the Centre will be for a period of two years and procedures for the choosing of a new Director and for changing the representation on the internal and external boards will be established by the inaugural board.

The Director will submit an annual report to the Dean of Research each year before 12th July.

Relationship between the School and the Centre

The proposed Centre specifically addresses Goals 3, 4 and 5 of the Schools strategic plan for research. These are:

Goal 3: Support and develop the research strengths by improving clinical collaboration and entrepreneurship

Goal 4: Position School research within the College, national and international nursing, midwifery and healthcare research priorities

Goal 5: Increase user involvement in research

Letter of support from the former Head of School now Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences including relation to research strategy and financial support (attached)

Resources and Finances

Short-term Goals (2011 – 2013)

1. Post-doctoral research fellow to be employed to

- continue to scope the education and research support needs of practitioners
- assist the Director in the preparation a draft strategic plan for the first three years
- commence and support practice-based research activity
- assist in developing the Centres web page and profile

This goal has been initiated and funding for a research fellow for a period of one year has been sought and granted from the Nursing Practice Development Unit at the HSE.

2. Visiting Professors (Prof Gary Rolfe of Swansea University and Dr. David Prendergast, Intel Ireland) to be employed for an initial 2-year period until a full Chair position can be filled, to supervise and advise the post-doctoral fellow and additional lecturers and practitioners.

This goal has been initiated and Professor Rolfe and Dr Prendergast have been appointed for an initial period of two years.

3. Continue to seek funding for a Chair of Nursing be jointly appointed by TCD , AMNCH and St James Hospital

This is an essential goal of the Centre as a joint Chair will take a leading role in research and will enable the sustainability of the practice and healthcare research innovation in the future.

4. Continue to seek a suitable building to house the new initiative. This space would provide offices for staff, patient/client consulting rooms and a meeting/seminar room.

This goal has been initiated and a request for a Centre office based at the AMNCH in Tallaght has been sent to the Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences. The School of Nursing and Midwifery via the Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences, Prof Mary McCarron are currently seeking office space to host this initiative at the AMNCH site.

5. Administrative support for the Centre to be available from the SNM from exisitng resources in proportion with the work of the research within the Centre
This gaol has been initiated and inital approval for support has been obtained from the School of Nursing and Midiwfery Executive

Medium-long term Goals (2013 onwards)

1. Extend the membership and affiliated organisations to ensure the ongoing sustainability of the Centre

Note Further details on key medium and longer term goals with dates and outcomes will be decided by the Centre's Executive with input form the external Governing body, the SNM Executive and key stakeholders within the first strategic plan upon Centre setup.

Financial success to date
To date two successful joint funding projects of €26,000 in 2010/2011 and €40,000 in 2011/2012 between TCD School of Nursing and Midwifery and St James Hospital, Directorate of Nursing has been awarded from the Nursing Practice Development Unit (NPDU) at the HSE for the part time employment of a post doctoral fellow to support this initiative.
In addition a further €70,000 has been awarded from Genio (Atlantic Philanthropies) in partnership with our mental health services to evaluate a clinician and peer information programme.

A further fund of €20,000 has been awarded by Intel Ireland to support a short term post doctoral position in healthcare and technology

It is the intention of the Centre to build upon the success to date and to seek further funds to develop and sustain the Centre moving forward

Visibility
The Centre for Healthcare Innovation is committed to dissemination and visibility of its research outputs. To fulfil College requirements the Centre will maintain an accurate and updated website of activities.

To ensure national and international dissemination the Centre will as part of its initial strategic plan establish a research communications strategy with tangible milestones and outcomes.

To promote and develop the Centre internationally, links will be established with other research Centres and relevant networks of excellence.

Some success has been achieved to date in this regard. Prof Comiskey and Dr McKee have been invited to speak at the forthcoming 1st Practice Innovation Conference in Nursing and Allied Health and Social Care at Swansea University. This is part of the Welsh Centre for Practice Innovation (WCPI)