As one of the 27 Institutes and Centers at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) funds research that establishes the scientific basis for quality patient care. Often working collaboratively with physicians and other researchers, nurse scientists are vital in setting the national research agenda.

The research conducted at NINR is vitally important to improving our nation’s health, as this work directly supports the advancement of nursing practice to ensure high-quality, cost-effective care for individuals across the entire lifespan. Through grants, research training, and interdisciplinary collaborations, NINR addresses:

- Care management of patients during illness and recovery
- Reduction of risks for disease and disability
- Promotion of healthy lifestyles
- Enhancement of quality of life for those with chronic illness
- Care for individuals at the end of life

NINR’s Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 funding level of $140.953 million is approximately 0.47% of the overall $30.084 billion NIH budget. Spending for nursing research is a modest amount relative to the allocations for other health science institutes and for major disease category funding. For NINR to adequately further its mission, the institute must receive additional funding.

Examples of NINR Funded Research

Reducing Premature Infant’s Length of Stay, Dr. Bernadette Melnyk, The Ohio State University

When implemented early in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), an educational intervention program for parents of infants born prematurely can reduce parental stress, depression, and anxiety; enhancing parent-infant interactions, and reduce hospital length of stay. Researchers found that hospital costs were decreased by $5,000 per infant. Additionally, with 480,000 low birth-weight premature infants born each year in the U.S., approximately $2.4 billion could be saved annually within the national healthcare system if the program was adopted by NICUs across the country.

Reducing High Blood Pressure (HBP) Among Inner-City Black Men, Dr. Martha Hill, The Johns Hopkins University

This three-year study involved a multidisciplinary healthcare team committed to improving the health of inner-city black men with high blood pressure. The men received education on how to treat the condition and annual check-ups. The results showed that the men decreased their smoking and salty food consumption. Most notably, the men decreased their systolic and diastolic blood pressures, with 44% lowering their blood pressure within the normal range.

Request: Please Support $150 Million for the National Institute of Nursing Research in FY 2016 to Advance Nursing Science and Promote Quality Patient Care

Information from the National Institute of Nursing Research and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN). For more information, contact Suzanne Miyamoto, Senior Director of Government Affairs and Health Policy for AACN at smiyamoto@aacn.nche.edu