

SHORT TERM SCIENTIFIC MISSION (STSM) SCIENTIFIC REPORT

This report is submitted for approval by the STSM applicant to the STSM coordinator

Action number: CA15208

STSM title: missed nursing care and nurses' priority setting (STSM reference number 42162)

STSM start and end date: 25/11/2018 to 16/12/2018

Grantee name: Erika Bassi

PURPOSE OF THE STSM:

The purpose of the STSM was to carry out my PhD project *Missed Nursing Care. Research project on prevalence, pattern and nurses' priority-setting among Italian medical and surgical units: a mixed-method approach*. I focused on deepening my understanding of the phenomenon and interpreting my qualitative findings in the context of clinical prioritization and science of decision making, supported by a content expert, professor Terry Jones. The goals of the present STSM were: to analyze the qualitative data; to draft a manuscript intended for publication in a peer reviewed journal; and finally to plan for future collaboration to implement knowledge into action.

DESCRIPTION OF WORK CARRIED OUT DURING THE STSMs

During the 1st week I shared the qualitative data collected on decision making process in response to resource scarcity gained from a sample of Italian nurses. After translating the verbatim into English language and sharing it with professor Jones, we discussed the data interpretation method for the purpose of conducting a thematic content analysis. We independently coded the data and then compared codes to identify areas of convergence and divergence. Following much discussion of the areas of divergence, we reached agreement on the major themes.

During the 2nd week we independently reviewed the data again to code subthemes. Following the independent coding, we again met to discuss areas of convergence and divergence. Special emphasis was placed on understanding the cultural/context influences on the decision making process. After several consultations with professor Jones we reached agreement on the major themes and subthemes. With the thematic analysis complete, we then collaborated to identify a target journal for a manuscript, reviewed

author guidelines and sample articles.

Last week of the STSM was mostly spent on generating the outline for a manuscript and then drafting the article. This included discussions of the implications of my findings. We also began planning for future collaborations.

DESCRIPTION OF THE MAIN RESULTS OBTAINED

Under the guidance of Dr. Jones I identified 4 major themes from my focus group interviews related to how medical surgical nurses prioritize their time. The themes that emerged reflect the context in which nurses must set priorities every day, the system of formal and informal rules used to guide priority setting, the range of strategies that nurses often use to manage their time and minimize missed care in the context of a demanding work environment and, final, the adverse consequences of current priority setting patterns for patients and nurses. These themes are supported by my quantitative findings and also previous qualitative studies of medical surgical nurses from other countries. The intensity of emotion expressed in this sample was high and likely related to the differences between the Italian work environment and work environments in other countries, particularly related to staffing resources and nurse-physician relationships. We determined that the journal Med-Surg Nursing is appropriate for this content and developed an outline based on the author guidelines for this journal.

The STSM at Virginia Commonwealth University (USA), where professor Jones is currently employed, was absolutely an added value to my PhD programm. It was an incomparable chance to deepen my understanding of clinical prioritization being led by a senior researcher expert in the field. To consult with professor Jones was an amazing experience: she offered me an exceptional guidance in conducting the data analysis and coding the themes related to priority setting among Italian medical surgical nurses. This STSM was a really fruitful cultural exchange, not only in terms of qualitative data sharing. It was an opportunity to broaden my network and learn about US PhD programm, to enhance my skills in qualitative data analysis, to improve my approach to scientific publication and, last but not least, to share my time with an outstanding colleage, that provided me one of the warmest welcome that I have ever experinced in my life. I feel very thankful and I look forward to continuing this exciting collaboration.

FUTURE COLLABORATIONS (if applicable)

After attending the RANCARE training school in Turku, September 2017, the chance to accomplish this STSM gave me the opportunity to strengthen my knowledge and encouraged me to take an active part into the debate about clinical prioritization in nursing care. Future collaboration will include the submission of the article to a peer reviewed journal and the drafting of a second mixed-method paper. Moreover professor Jones and I will collaborate to outline a one week seminars programm for nurse managers regarding nusing leadership in context of resource constraints, that she will teach next May at Ferrara University Hospital.

