Are you on or considering the doctorate in nursing practice (DNP) path and want to learn more about successful approaches to a DNP capstone or project? Hear from recent DNP graduates who will share why they chose the DNP path and how they chose and completed their DNP projects. You’ll examine strategies to prepare and complete DNP projects, review lessons learned, and participate in an interactive panel discussion with the DNP graduates.

**Target Audience:** Advanced Practice Nurses

**Level of Content:** Advanced

**Speaker:**
Amy Callahan, RN, DNP, CRNP, AOCNS®
Nurse Manager
National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, MD

**Full Disclosure:**
Nothing to Disclose

**Speaker:**
Hollis Misiewicz, DNP, CRNP, AOCN®
Oncology Nurse Practitioner
Mercy Medical Center
Baltimore, MD

**Full Disclosure:**
Nothing to Disclose

**Objectives:**
At the end of this session, participants will be able to:
1. Identify considerations that are important in the selection of a DNP project.
2. Describe requirements that can be specific to individual educational institutions.
3. Discuss the elements involved in completing DNP project.
4. Discuss outcomes including possible barriers and pitfalls.

**Bibliography:**
DNP Project: A Roadmap for Success

Hollis Misiewicz, DNP, CRNP, AOCN
Hematology and Medical Oncology
Mercy Medical Center
Baltimore, MD
Amy Callahan, RN, DNP, CRNP, AOCNS®
National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, MD

Acupuncture for the Management of Hot Flashes in Breast Cancer Survivors

- The number of breast cancer survivors continues to increase
- Survivors must deal with long-term sequelae of cancer treatment
- Purpose: To determine if acupuncture decreases number and severity of hot flashes, improves sleep
- Quasi-experimental design with qualitative component
- Pre-test/post-test using Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index (PSQI) and hot flash diary
- Paired t-test revealed significant improvement in hot flash frequency and severity and improvement in sleep quality

The DNP Project: Acupuncture for the Management of Hot Flashes in Breast Cancer Survivors

Hollis Misiewicz
The Catholic University of America
Washington, D.C.

The DNP Project: Roadmap to Success

The Factors Influencing the Use of Hazardous Drug Safe-Handling Precautions Among Nurses Working in an Acute Care Oncology Research Setting

Amy Callahan, RN, DNP, CRNP, AOCNS®
National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, MD

DNP Project – Selecting a Topic

- Area of expertise
- Personally meaningful
- Start broad and then narrow focus
  - Too broad = unmanageable
  - Too narrow = little info to inform topic
- Literature search (databases, reference list from articles)
- Consider time frame allowed
Developing the Project

- Literature search and review
- Assessment to identify a gap in knowledge or validation of personal perceptions
- Problem statement
  - Background of problem
  - Justification per literature search
- Identifying stakeholders
  - Positive and negative
- Theoretical or conceptual framework

Developing the Project

- Determine project type
  - Translating evidence into practice
  - Quality improvement
  - Clinical/practice based inquiry
  - Program evaluation
  - Program development
  - Evaluating a healthcare policy analysis
- Once again, keep in mind the timeframe

Preparation for Implementation

Project Proposal

- Statement of problem and background
  - Includes literature review
- Theoretical/conceptual framework
- Purpose
- Methodology
  - Subjects
  - Setting
  - Tools
  - Intervention
  - Data collection and analysis
- Human subject concerns (if applicable)
- Significance of contributions of the project

Preparation for Implementation

- Role of the committee
  - Chair
    - Scholarly advisor
    - Evaluate written work
    - Keep the timeline
  - Members
    - Lend expertise/guide project
- Constituency of committee determined by DNP program
  - Chair – graduate faculty
  - Outside member?

Preparation for Implementation

- Choosing the committee
  - Interest in topic
  - Respect
  - Theoretical, methodological, content expertise
  - Involvement with specific organization, population, technology
- Proposal defense
- Institutional Review Board (IRB)
  - Exempt/Expedited/Full
  - University/Organization

Project Implementation

- Leadership skills
  - Coordinating activities
  - Considering needs of team, stakeholders, organization
- Balancing all this while...
  - Setting goals and meeting them
  - Problem solving
  - Communication
  - Being enthusiastic and motivating others

Saturday, April 25
Data Collection and Analysis

- Driven by design of project
- Quantitative
  - Survey, patient intervention, retrospective review
  - Inferential statistics
- Qualitative
  - Interview, written narrative, survey
  - Content analysis

Data Collection and Analysis

- Quality improvement
  - Surveys, focus groups, extracted data, tracking sheets
  - Pareto Chart, Run Chart, Fishbone Grid
- Data entry software
  - Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS)
  - Statistical Analysis System (SAS)
  - Stata
  - Microsoft Excel
- Use of a statistician

Conclusions of Project

- Discussion of both significant and nonsignificant results
- Limitations of project
- Cost analysis (where applicable)
- Barriers encountered
- Implications and sustainment plan
- Recommendations for change
- Recommendations for future research or projects

Dissemination of Findings

- Public presentations
  - Professional organizational meetings
  - Community setting
  - Within healthcare organizations
  - Political arena
- Publishing
  - Professional journals
  - Lay journals
- Poster presentations

Moran, Burson, Conrad (2014)