

NEWS

USA NURSING RESEARCH REPORTS

The National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR), USA, has just issued two reports in the National Nursing Research Agenda (NNRA) series. The NNRA is the NINR's priority-setting initiative. The recently published reports are: Volume 1, *Developing Knowledge for Practice: Challenges and Opportunities*, which introduces the series; and Volume 4, *Nursing Informatics: Enhancing Patient Care*. Volume 1 was written by NINR staff, while Volume 4 was compiled by an expert panel of nurse scientists and scientists from other disciplines. Their mandate was to develop recommendations for nursing research priorities in the area of nursing informatics research. The report covers the state of the science, research needs and opportunities, and recommendations for future research on informatics.

Volume 2, *HIV Infection: Prevention and Care*, was published in 1990. Several other reports in the NNRA series, to be released over the next 6-12 months, will cover low birthweight; mothers and infants; long-term care for older adults; symptom management; pain; and health promotion for older children and adolescents. For further information contact Dr Doris Bloch, special assistant to the director, NINR, Bethesda, Maryland 20892, USA.

COLLABORATIVE CARE PLANNING

The Welsh National Board for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting has recently circulated a discussion document to encourage collaborative care planning involving health professionals and clients jointly.

PRIMARY HEALTH CARE IN A CHANGING WORLD

Nursing Times and *Community Outlook* are organizing the Fourth International

Primary Health Care Conference to be held at Kensington Town Hall, London, England, 1-3 June 1994.

This exciting conference will look at the many health issues affecting communities, both urban and rural, throughout the world. The theme of the conference is 'Primary Health Care in a Changing World'. Further information is available from Conference Office, 4 Little Essex Street, London WC2R 3LF, England. Telephone: (071) 836-6633.

PROJECT WORKER FOR NURSES' CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

A new project worker, Keith Farrow, has joined the staff of the Nurses' Christian Fellowship in the United Kingdom. He will be responsible for promoting Christian standards and promoting the activities of the NCF among nurses, midwives and health visitors.

GUIDELINES FOR AUTHORS

At its annual meeting held in Alberta, Canada, in 1993, the International Academy of Nursing Editors (INANE) agreed guidelines on authorship and dealing with fraudulent publications. It was argued at the meeting that editors and authors have an ethical duty to ensure that publications have a mark of integrity.

FEW BRITISH YOUNG PEOPLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS ARE IDENTIFIED

The Mental Health Foundation, the only charity in the United Kingdom to cover all mental health issues, including both mental illness and learning disabilities, has published a new analysis which shows that 23% of children attending GP surgeries (two million) have some form of severe psychological and emotional problem, but only 2% are identified by GPs (173 000). Even in paediatric

out-patient clinics, only one in three cases is identified. The figures show that severe mental illness affects 250 000 or 2% of children under the age of 16 in the UK. Approximately 10 000 suffer from psychotic illness, usually following the onset of puberty.

Two million children suffer from mental ill health, half of whom have moderate to severe problems. Young adolescents (aged 14-15) are three times more likely to have emotional and conduct disorders than children aged 10-11 years. The risk of childhood mental illness increases in families where parents are unemployed, divorced, living alone or homeless; where the mother suffers from depression; or when child abuse occurs. About 20% of all inner-London, 12% of all outer-London and 7% of all rural children aged up to 19 experience moderate to severe disturbances, including disorders such as anorexia or bulimia, sleep disorders, failure to thrive, school phobia, depression, psychosis and other disorders. Half that number have been sexually or physically abused but have no manifest behavioural or psychological disturbances. Further information is available from The Mental Health Foundation, 37 Mortimer Street, London W1N 7RJ, England. Telephone: (071) 580-0145.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON CERTIFICATES AND DIPLOMAS FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS

The Centre for Extra-Mural Studies at Birkbeck College, University of London, offers a range of part-time evening courses leading to Certificates and Diplomas in Gerontology and Health Planning and Management. The gerontology programme is designed to meet the needs of those who work specifically with older people in health and social settings, while the health planning and management programme will be of interest to

those employed in a range of health care professions.

The courses focus on topical policy and strategic issues in health care, in particular the implications of the NHS reforms — GP contracts, internal markets and managing resources — the implications of community care and the development of a national health strategy. Application forms are available from Jean Devaney, Centre for Extra-Mural Studies, Birkbeck College, University of London, 26 Russell Square, London WC1B 5DQ, England. Telephone: (071) 631-6659 (answering service operates outside office hours).

NEW ALUMNUS SOCIETY AT LONDON'S BIRKBECK COLLEGE

The Birkbeck Society has recently been established as the 'Alumnus Society' for all graduates and diploma and certificate holders of Birkbeck College, University of London.

All former students are invited to contact Glenda Dean, Alumnus Officer, Birkbeck College, University of London, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HX, England. Telephone: (071) 631-6563. Fax: (071) 631-6270.

SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ABUSE

A service to support survivors of sexual abuse and their partners has been set up by the Mental Health Foundation of Mid Staffordshire NHS Trust, Stafford, England. The service will be provided by community psychiatric nurses and trained volunteers.

SPECIALIST MACMILLAN NURSE FOR CANCERS OF THE HEAD AND NECK

Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund has awarded a grant to fund the appointment of the United Kingdom's first Macmillan clinical nurse specialist for cancers of the head and neck. The new post has been created at Mount Vernon Hospital, Northwood, Middlesex, England. Fiona Trewavas, an experienced nurse in plastic

surgery, has taken up the appointment and has established the Macmillan specialist head and neck cancer service at Mount Vernon Hospital.

Ms Trewavas is a resource for information, support and specialist nursing care for patients and their families, and other health care professionals. The needs of people with cancer of the head and neck are very complex and Fiona Trewavas concentrates solely on co-ordinating the provision of the best possible quality of care for patients and their families. She works closely with health care professionals: these include community Macmillan nurses, GPs, district nurses and consultants. She also visits local hospices and district general hospitals.

ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION ACCOMMODATION

The Royal British Nurses' Association (RBNA) was founded in 1887 by Mrs Bedford-Fenwick and her husband. At present, the RBNA is based in London, England, where the honorary offices are responsible for running the association and for the administration of its charities which provide financial aid to elderly and disabled nurses.

The RBNA also provides a 'short-stay club' where any qualified nurse (men and women) may stay for periods of up to 4 weeks. Bed and breakfast accommodation is available for £12 per night. For further information contact: The Secretary, Royal British Nursing Association, 94 Upper TOLLINGTON Park, London N4 4NB, England. Telephone: (071) 272-6821.

NHS TRUSTS

It is anticipated that the remaining 44 British National Health Service hospitals and services will soon be given self-governing status as NHS Trusts.

The health secretary, Mrs Virginia Bottomley, is certainly very keen indeed on this development.

EFFECTIVE PRESCRIBING

The Mersey Regional Health Authority, England, has launched a campaign to promote a more effective prescribing by general practitioners. All areas of prescribing will be examined but particular attention will be given to prescriptions for the treatment of asthma and heart disease.

SURVEY REVEALS CHANGES IN HEALTH TRENDS IN UNITED KINGDOM

Results of a major national survey of the UK population's health and lifestyle, announced in September 1993, give unique comparative information between the way we were 7 years ago and our current lifestyle. The second *Health and Lifestyle Survey (HALS 2)*, conducted in 1991/92 by medical and social scientists based at the University of Cambridge's School of Clinical Medicine, Cambridge, England, explored self-assessment of health; incidence of illness; predictors of mortality; physical and psychological well-being; and attitudes to diet, exercise, smoking and alcohol. It followed the 1984/85 survey (HALS 1) and, most unusually, the same sample of people was used. Of course, some had died or were untraceable, but of the original 9000, over 5000 were found and participated again. Consequently, HALS 2 gives two 'snapshots' of a cross-section of the population 7 years on, and also follows changes in individuals over the same period of time.

Together, HALS 1 and HALS 2 provide a unique measure of change. In summary, some of the findings of greatest relevance to the medical profession are:

- 1 There is a positive relationship between a self-assessment of poor health, and a higher than average mortality rate.
- 2 There has been an increase in prescribed medications, including treatments for hypertension and bronchodilators.
- 3 High or low body mass index (BMI), and sleeping consistently far fewer

or more hours than standard are linked to a higher mortality rate.

4 More people are on 'medical diets', and there has been a move away from sugar and fat to cereal-based foods; however, overall the population has increased in weight.

5 There has been a decrease in smoking, with social pressure as well as ill-health cited as a reason; it is worth

noting that many who were ex-smokers in 1984 denied ever having smoked by 1991/92.

6 There has been a small reduction in the overall consumption of alcohol, although 30% of young men were drinking at more than the generally agreed prudent levels.

7 An increase in sports participation has been accompanied by greater

awareness of the importance of exercise.

Both health and lifestyle surveys have been funded by the Health Promotion Research Trust, 49-53 Regent Street, Cambridge CB2 1AB, England. Telephone: (0223) 69636. Fax: (0223) 324138.