Developing a Program of Research

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What is a program of research (in nursing)?

• A series of studies designed to address an important (health) problem or issue
• Generated and relevant to clinical practice
• Builds on existing research and knowledge
• Not a finite process
Key elements for developing a program of research

• Passion!

• Significance
  • Importance of the problem
  • Strong science base to support approach
  • If successful – what changes will this make in the science? In addressing the problem?

• Innovation
  • What are novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions?

• Impact
  • What difference will this make?

• Resources
  • Funds, expertise, infrastructure
Innovation

• Does the application challenge and seek to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms by utilizing novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions?

• Are the concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions novel to one field of research or novel in a broad sense?

• Is a refinement, improvement, or new application of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions proposed?

(NIH, Grants & Funding, 2016)
It is not just about Science
Context of Science

• What are the significant health issues?
  • incidence, cost, morbidity, and mortality

• What is the political and social will to address?
  • near-term, long-term

• How will science inform policy to advance the health of the public?
  • how does this science change health outcomes of the public and health care systems?
  • does this research have the potential to be sustained long-term and scaled up?

• How does the science align with priorities?
  • institution, county, state, region, nation

(Adapted from Feetham & Meister, 1999; Feetham, 2011; Feetham & Doering 2015)