

Developing and Submitting a Research Grant Proposal

A collaborative between Institute of Emergency Nursing Research and ENA Foundation



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The Research Question(s)

- Identify your interest area
- Review what is currently known, not known, or controversial about your topic of interest
- How will your research add to the current body of knowledge?
- What is the theoretical basis for the research?
- Identify / clarify the relationship between your topic and emergency nursing practice?

Exemplar

(exemplar adapted from Dominguez-Gomez, E and Rutledge, DN (2009). Prevalence of secondary traumatic stress among emergency nurses. Journal of Emergency Nursing, 35:3, p. 199.)

- ❑ **Interest area** – emergency nurses’ response to frequent exposure to human suffering.
- ❑ **Literature review** – describes previous work on burnout, compassion fatigue, and secondary traumatic stress and effect on nurses’ health, but no previous quantitative exploration with emergency nurses.

Exemplar (continued)

- ❑ **Addition to current body of knowledge** – increased understanding of risk factors and symptoms of stress related disorders in emergency nurses.
- ❑ **Theoretical basis for the research** – stress and crisis intervention theories.

Exemplar (continued)

- ❑ **Relationship to emergency nursing practice** – recognition of symptoms of stress-related disorders that affect emergency nurses and may lead to decreased ability to provide high quality nursing care, decreased quality of life for emergency nurses, increased dissatisfaction, and other stress-related illnesses.

Exemplar (continued)

- Within your area of interest, what is your specific research question(s)?
- Is it important to emergency nursing practice? (answer the “So What” question honestly)
- What is the estimated time line for completion of the research?

Exemplar (continued)

□ Specific research question(s) –

- What is the prevalence of Secondary Traumatic Stress in a group of emergency nurses?
- What is the frequency of Secondary Traumatic Stress symptoms reported by emergency nurses?

Exemplar (continued)

- ❑ **Importance to emergency nursing practice**
– high levels of Secondary Traumatic Stress and other stress related disorders may lead to burnout, job turnover, or separation from nursing.
- ❑ **Time to complete study** – estimated to be one year.

Qualifications of Investigator(s)

- Education in research?
 - For example, research courses, advanced degrees.
- Experience in research?
 - Previous research conducted independently, your role in previous studies as team member – your specific contributions.
- Personnel resources available e.g. statistician, content or methods advisor?
 - Who are members of your research team and what are their specific roles and expertise? Will you have a mentor with research expertise to assist with this study?

Available Resources

- Identify what resources will be needed to conduct and complete the research?
- Are sufficient material and financial resources available?
- Are adequate institutional resources available?
- Is the necessary researcher time commitment possible?

Examples of resource availability

□ What resources will be needed

- example: money, computer, tape recorder, transcriptionist, personnel, transportation, etc.

□ Are sufficient material and financial resources available

- example: what is your budget? And do you have sufficient funds to meet it? Do you have ready access to needed materials such as computer, copier and supplies, tape recorder? Or will they need to be purchased?

Examples of resource availability (continued)

Are institutional resources available?

- for example: is the sample accessible and in sufficient numbers, does the organization support research, is the physical setting conducive to data collection, is help available if needed, etc.?

Do you the researcher have the time available to conduct the research with care?

- Describe any competing demands on researcher time and how to be managed.

Research Methods

What research method will be used?

- Quantitative?- Descriptive?, Correlational?, Interventional?
- Qualitative? - Ethnography?, Phenomenology?, Grounded Theory?, Qualitative descriptive?

Why will this method best answer the research question?

- Explain the rationale for research method chosen and its appropriateness to answer the research question.

Data Collection

How will data be collected?

- For quantitative research methods - What measurement instrument / scale will be used? e.g. the Secondary Traumatic Stress Scale (STSS).
- How does it address the research question? e.g. uses 17 items that correspond to DSM-IV 4th ed. to evaluate frequency of symptoms among 3 subscales.
- For qualitative research methods what approach will be used? - e.g. observations, interview, etc.
- Discuss issues of validity, reliability (quantitative study) or credibility, dependability, applicability (qualitative study) and scientific rigor.

Data collection – Sample selection

- ❑ How will potential participants be identified / selected?
 - Sample description
 - Convenience sample?
 - Randomized sample?
 - Inclusion / exclusion criteria?
- ❑ How many participants will be needed for the proposed analysis of data?
 - Quantitative studies – power analysis
 - Qualitative studies – anticipated number for data saturation

Data Analysis

How will data be analyzed?

- ❑ Quantitative study
 - Descriptive statistics
 - Inferential statistics
- ❑ Qualitative study
 - Content analysis
 - Ongoing process of categorization
 - Data saturation – no new categories

Protection of Human Subjects

- How will the research be described to potential participants?
- How will informed consent be elicited?
- What potential risks to participants are involved in this research? And how are they minimized?
- Has this study been submitted to IRB? Approval granted?

Significance

- How does the proposed research further ENA's research agenda / priorities?
- How will the proposed research influence emergency nursing practice?

Innovation

- What is innovative about this research? (e.g. question, method / study design, sample, site, etc.)
- Does this research study include disciplines other than nursing?
- Does this research study involve more than one site?
- Note: innovation can include replication studies if area of research still not well established.

Budget

- Describe the financial support needed to successfully conduct the proposed research.
- Identify all potential sources of support.
- Why should this research study be supported by ENA and the ENA Foundation? (describe)

Dissemination of Results

- What is the plan for dissemination of results of this study?
- Previous publication history of investigator.
- Previous presentation history of the investigator.

Acknowledgement

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