

# Australian team fosters global nursing research

**N**URSES increasingly play a greater role in global health activities, strengthening interdisciplinary and interprofessional collaboration and partnerships, to reduce health and health care disparities based on wealth, education, gender and place.

Despite the prevalence of peripheral intravenous catheters (PIVC) in clinical practice, little is known about day-to-day insertion and management practices of these devices on a global scale.

The AVATAR Group in the School of Nursing and Midwifery has been playing a significant role in global nursing with its involvement in the *One Million Global (OMG) Peripheral Intravenous Catheters (PIVC) worldwide prevalence study*.

Following a pilot study of 14 hospitals in 13 countries, the OMG study team recruited a whopping 416 hospitals in 51 countries for an international audit of PIVC use and management to provide data on current practices on insertion and care of over 40,000 PIVCs – information that was previously unknown.

Interest in the study was spread by word of mouth, conferences, newsletters, industry partners, social media (Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn), and global research networks in multiple languages.

On a given day, decided by each organisation, consenting hospital patients permitted the details of their PIVC(s) to be collected for the study.

Feedback from participating clinicians was overwhelmingly positive, with many taking the chance to celebrate their involvement in a global nursing study.

The far-reaching response to this study confirmed that clinicians are keen to become involved in simple research projects with defined clinical benefits for patients.

Investigators from participating hospitals reported the benefits of this study included the opportunity to audit practice and

benchmark results with other hospitals worldwide.

The enthusiasm for the project far exceeded expectations and has led to the creation of extensive global nursing and medical research partnerships.

With networks now established, this has opened the doors to further collaborative research studies.

The AVATAR Group is now working with nursing colleagues in Latin American Countries (Argentina, Brazil, Colombia and Mexico).

The Vascular Access Catheter Use in Latin America (VASCULAR) study is a multinational study designed to assess and compare the prevalence of PIVC in Latin American hospitals and complications leading to PIVC failure.

Results of this project will enable clinicians, researchers, policy-makers and the community to compare vascular access device outcomes and prioritise issues for education and international research collaborations to tackle the problems of device failure.

Monitoring and benchmarking of PIVC insertion and management practices will raise awareness of evidence-based guidelines and enable the development of planned strategies to improve patient outcomes. ■

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## References

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## REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS

1. How have you contributed to global health, both personally and professionally? This may include contribution to international clinical guidelines, donations and/or service to charitable organisations, post-graduate education, or membership of nursing organisations.
2. If given the opportunity how could you, both individually and collectively, make a difference to health care services in your local context?

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