



College of Nursing Newsletter

University of Saskatchewan

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College of Nursing Faculty Receive Funding For Hope Research

Dr. Wendy Duggleby, an Associate Professor of the College of Nursing and her research team have received provincial and national funding to develop and evaluation hope fostering activities for palliative patients and their caregivers. Dr. Karen Wright (Associate Professor College of Nursing), Dr. Allison Williams (Associate Professor McMaster University) and Dr. Lesley Degner (Professor University of Manitoba) are co-investigators on the grants. The Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation has funded a 2 year (\$78,000) grant to evaluate hope fostering strategies for palliative patients. This study is in progress at the Sunrise Health Region. The second study involving informal caregivers of palliative patients was funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (\$61,000). The first phase was completed as part of Lorraine Holtslander's masters of nursing thesis in Prince Albert and the second phase is in progress in the Five Hills Health District.



Dr. Wendy Duggleby and Dr. Karen Wright

Wendy' Duggleby's interest in the power of hope for dying patients began when she was working as a clinical nurse specialist in a hospice in Texas, where she learned that patients experienced a lot that could be done for physical pain, but little for 'heartfelt' pain, which they linked to hope. "100% of us are going to die, so this research has a potential of affecting a large number of people, even us!" said by Dr. Duggleby

One aspect of the research team's program of study was the production of the video "Living with Hope". *Living with Hope* is based on a research study conducted in the Sunrise Health Region – funded by the University of Saskatchewan's Presidents' SSHRC research grant. The video was created by the Division of Media and Technology at the U of S and was launched in DMT's Studio B on Thursday, September 9.

“In this video, we see palliative patients, their families and health care professionals describing the experience of hope,” says Wendy.

“We learn how people refocus their hope at the end of life. When someone is no longer focusing on a cure, they might focus on other things – a good future for their loved ones, on living their remaining days to the fullest, on not suffering and having a peaceful death. The fact is that hope is still there, it never goes away.”

The Living with Hope video is now part of the two funded studies, where it is being used as one of several tools for encouraging hope in terminally ill patients and their caregivers