

Connections

>> Updates from the Mrs Lee Choon Guan Endowed Research Fund

Announcement

- The 2nd Singapore Social Work Practice Research Conference is scheduled on 27 August 2021, with the tentative theme — “Higher Grounds”. Do stay tuned for more information.
- The announcement for the 2nd grant call will be made during the Conference. The necessary documents will be made available on the website.

Featured Content

‘A Focus on Research in Practice’

By Prof Jill Manthorpe, King’s College London

This was presented at the Official Launch of the Mrs Lee Choon Guan Endowed Research Fund in 2017.



[[Download the Slides](#)]

[[View the Recording](#)]

Dear Colleagues and Friends of the Mrs Lee Choon Guan Endowed Research Fund,

The Year of the Ox signifies year of diligence, strength and determination.

So we are starting off the year with a 2nd newsletter to keep you updated on the topic of practice research in social work.

Update on the Experience of Practice research – South Central Community Family Service Centre (SCC):

Some colleagues have indicated interest in getting feedback about the experiences related to the studies awarded to the research teams in the 1st grant call to help them think about what gains for the agency and the service users can result from practice research in the local context.

For a start, we collated some thoughts from the research team at SCC on their experiences and outcomes from participating in their practice research project. Here are some of them:

‘The team originally embarked on this practice research study to understand how to respond better to some of the rising concerns revealed by working with families on home ownership through Keystart. We recognized the importance of identifying the social work space within a larger macrosystem involving HDB officers, property agents, family and friends, all of whom play a part in enabling low-income families towards home ownership as a means to provide them a transformative way to break the poverty cycle. In addition, our research questions not only focused on improving practice by considering how to explore families’ motivations in a culturally competent manner to help make sense of options that are suitable for families; we also aimed to critically reflect on the practice research process itself and how such learnings can translate into the daily equipping of social workers through regular reflection and adaptation of practice.

The practice research journey has been an enriching process for the team, learning not only from the research findings but the process of conducting a practice research study. The importance of multi-disciplinary teaming and situating the project into the larger organizational context became clear as we recognized how each person brings different strengths into the project, and the need to adapt to organizational changes in direction and team structure. We were also able to reflect on reflective practice itself, identifying the place of facilitation in practice circles and mediating conflicts which may arise’.

Congratulations to SCC for getting to the stage where they have tested their findings in pilot runs and are at writing the final report. Much appreciation to the team for their persistence throughout the challenges of 2020!

The 2nd Grant Call

As you may remember from the 1st newsletter, the 2nd Singapore Social Work Practice Research Conference and next grant call have been scheduled on 27 August 2021. Since it takes time to think through a research topic from practice and to get a team of interested colleagues together to work on a grant proposal, we are providing some basic information on requirements to submit a grant proposal to help you get started.

- The grant call will be an institutional call, where management will have to endorse and allow the team to work on the research, as part of their key performance indicators and/or to provide time-offs for the research to be done.
- The Practitioner PI and Co-I of the team must have Social Work qualifications. The research team can include team members, who may not have Social Work qualifications.
- The research team will be paired with an Academic PI from NUS Department of Social Work, to work on the research together.

For added information and reference, you may refer to the application form and notes from the previous grant call. These are available on the [grant call page](#) of the website.

Tips to getting started in Practice Research

Professor Jill Manthorpe, King’s College London spoke on this subject during the Official Launch of the Mrs Lee Choon Guan Endowed Research Fund in 2017. According to her, it is crucial that social workers start by being curious over what they see and hear in their practice and then begin asking questions such as why?, how?, what if?. If something intrigues you about your practice or agency practice, would finding the answers or more information help to improve service provision?

Following the above tips with a conversation among a group of like-minded colleagues in your agency or area of interest will help you bring together some thoughts on what can be a potential research topic that can be followed up later for a grant proposal. For fuller details of Jill’s lecture, please refer to the lecture notes and video in the following links at the side bar on the left.

Final Thoughts

We are currently thinking through the theme and programme for the 2nd Singapore Social Work Practice Research Conference and would value your input in the process. Please do connect with us via the Secretariat if you have any thoughts on these areas.

With warm wishes and best regards,
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Don't miss out our announcement!

Let us know so that we can add you to our mailing list.

About the Mrs Lee Choon Guan Endowed Research Fund

The NUS Department of Social Work is honoured to be the recipient of a gift by the Mrs Lee Choon Guan Trust Fund to establish an endowed NUS Social Work Practice Research Fund. This endowed fund resources the Department to engage with frontline practitioners to conduct practice research that will enhance service provision and delivery. The distinguishing features of these practice research projects lie in the involvement of service providers, service users, and caregivers in the entire research process. These stakeholders are involved in the conceptualisation, implementation, analysis and utilisation of research findings etc. The objective is to produce more practice research and to turn them into teaching and training materials. These practice research projects have the potential to: (1) improve the accessibility, delivery and design of services, (2) enhance the well-being of service users, as well as (3) contribute to policy discussions at the agency and governmental levels.



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