

ABNS/CCI Research Summit

Context to Support Decision Making by ABNS Member Boards

The information below, along with the referenced supporting documents, is intended to support an organization's discussion on how to participate in the implementation of the ABNS Research Agenda.

Context/History

The American Board of Nursing Specialties' (ABNS) membership represents the country's largest coalition of specialty nursing certification organizations. ABNS has a long, active history in facilitating collaborative research among their members.

The Competency & Credentialing Institute (CCI) is an organization that certifies over 30,000 perioperative registered nurses. In addition to its core certification business, CCI actively engages in activities that further the state of knowledge related to credentialing, competency and patient safety. As an Institute, CCI has an ongoing commitment to convening great thinking on topics of shared interest.

ABNS & CCI were seeking to leverage their respective strengths to create a collective research agenda for specialty nursing certification. As a result, the two organizations, in partnership with InnovationLabs convened the "Nursing Certification and Competency Summit."



As members of ABNS, we were represented at this meeting by **[insert representative names]**, who actively participated in the creation of the attached research agenda. The intent of this communication is to seek formal conceptual support of the agenda, as well as create awareness of the opportunity our organization has to participate.

Meeting Outcome

Over the course of two days of facilitated, iterative conversation, the Summit participants agreed on a set of research priorities (certification and patient outcomes, continuing competency, and the work environment) and possible affiliated research projects. The agenda, as reflected in the attached, "Nursing Certification and Competency Assessment: An International Research Agenda," is based on a set of shared values and a collective commitment to furthering the state of the industry's understanding of nursing certification.

Suggested Infrastructure

Participants unanimously agreed that ABNS is best positioned to assume the lead in actualizing the research agenda, but it was also the perspective of the group that the current infrastructure of ABNS needs to be evaluated in order to move the research agenda forward in an efficient and timely way. In considering alternatives, the following desirable elements were identified:

- The need for a separately incorporated supporting 510c3 research institute/foundation would provide a structure that is most suited to solicitation, receipt and disbursement of research related funds.
- The need for ongoing content experts, which may include the ABNS Research Committee and other assigned groups, is essential to ensure that the quality of the resulting research is consistent with expectations.
- In addition to the services of volunteer research experts, there will be a need to engage paid staff/contractor to pursue fund development and marketing/communications activities.

The group acknowledged that ABNS will require the support of ABNS members to provide the financial resources to pursue these activities.

Call to Action

ABNS is asking its members to endorse the attached research agenda. Our endorsement indicates our conceptual agreement on the importance of these research priority areas, and a willingness to have our organization's name included on a list of endorsing organizations.

In order for the effort to be successful, both endorsement and tangible support will be necessary. A specific request for financial support will be forthcoming. Whether the request will be in the form of increased ABNS membership fees, a scaled surcharge, or some other structure is yet to be determined. However, those organizations that are in the midst of budget development are encouraged to include an item in their budget based on whatever their particular financial situations will allow.

Summary

There is power in a collective effort. Research collaboration will enable us to achieve a greater impact than could otherwise be achieved alone. Our participation, in spirit, support and effort, has the potential to generate recognition for not only the nursing certification industry, but every organization who lends their support.

Supporting Documents

ABNS Research Agenda

ABNS/CCI Research Summit Website (www.innovationlabs.com/research)

ABNS/CCI Research Summit Summary