

Contact: Cynthia Allen
(877) 619 – 9885
callen@seacrestcompany.com

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Nursing Summit Establishes Priorities for Research Agenda Focused on Certification and Competency

The Nursing Certification & Competency Summit marked the start of an industry-wide collaboration to build and implement a unified research agenda.

Aurora, OH (November 2, 2009)—The American Board of Nursing Specialties (ABNS) and the Competency & Credentialing Institute (CCI) announced today the priorities for a unified, international research agenda supporting nursing certification. The priority projects focus on linking certification and patient outcomes, continuing competence, and the critical thinking skills of certified nurses.

CCI, in partnership with ABNS, convened the summit in October to bring together nursing leaders and obtain consensus on the research agenda.

“Both ABNS and CCI are committed to industry collaboration and understand the value of research data to the healthcare community,” Mary O’Neale, RN, MN, CNOR, ABNS President and CCI Director of Credentialing and Education, said. “The energetic and engaged participants at the summit have also demonstrated their interest and commitment in taking this project to the next level.”

Nearly 100 representatives from nursing certification organizations, affiliated credentialing agencies, testing companies and consumer advocates participated in the event. Their goal was to achieve the following objectives:

- Identify research projects that address the research priorities.
- Create opportunities for certifying agencies to partner on research activities.
- Establish plans for certifying agencies to adopt the research agenda.
- Design a communication and marketing plan to disseminate key messages about the research agenda.
- Develop a funding plan to support nursing certification research.

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Through an innovative, iterative design process, the participants developed and gained consensus on three overarching research priorities that serve as the framework for future projects.

The priorities, outlined in the *Nursing Certification and Competency Assessment: An International Research Agenda*, are based on a set of shared values and a collective commitment to furthering the state of the industry's understanding of nursing certification.

<u>Priorities</u>	<u>Projects</u>
Patient Outcomes	Nursing certification and its impact on adverse events, symptom relief, failure to rescue, and other outcome-specific topics.
Continuing Competence	Best practices, methods, frequency and processes for competency assessment.
Work Environment	Critical thinking skills of certified nurses.

“The participants’ interactions were described as ‘thought-provoking,’ ‘inspired’ and ‘energetic’ throughout the meeting,” Michelle Byrne, RN, PhD, CNOR, CCI President, said. “This is the energy that ABNS and its membership needs to move the agenda from a concept to reality.”

ABNS is spearheading the next steps of this important project, including investigating the supportive structure needed to implement projects that might include funding, staffing, data collection, and marketing options.

“The Board and Research Committee understand that there is much work left to be done to implement actual research projects,” O’Neale said. “The summit served as a forum to build on the research that has already been done and create the next steps as a community, rather than individual nursing group. The ultimate goal is to conduct research that will drive improvements and refine the certification and recertification processes to ultimately improve patient safety.”

A detailed outline of the summit and outcomes is available online at <http://www.innovationlabs.com/research/index.html>. For more information on the research agenda contact Melissa Biel at melissabiel@bielconsulting.com.

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