Scoundrels Day: Promoting Active Learning in Nursing Research through librarian-presented case-based problem solving challenges

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BACKGROUND: The goal of this course is to prepare entry level nurses to evaluate biomedical research for incorporation into professional practice. Throughout the semester the NSG 343 Nursing research class receives instruction from both the nursing professor and the medical librarian to locate and evaluate many primary evidence-based resources and concepts. Students learn to use library resources like PubMed, CINAHL, ClinicalTrials.gov, Natural Standard, UpToDate, Lexicomp, RetractionWatch, and QuackWatch. Awareness of scientific peer review, bias, critical appraisal, and predatory publishing are infused into the student inquiry process as they discover, investigate and write about their research interests.

However, developing informed skepticism is also an aspect of critical thinking. Scoundrels Day is an advanced class exercise, developed and conducted by the librarian, in which students receive published research papers in class and use their resources to determine what is not as it claims.

Using health/research cases, this team classroom activity and "lightning presentation" allows students to engage and appraise unfamiliar research, using resources, skills and concepts encountered throughout the semester. Using web-based library resources, each team ultimately discovers how a research study, author or concept has been a "scoundrel."

Take a picture to view the cases & references

Scoundrel Case Examples:

"Green Tea Extract and TV doctors – Dr. Oz"
- Unsupported medical advice
- Citing sources
- Critical appraisal
- Retractions

"Ileal-lymphoid-nodular hyperplasia"
- The false vaccination autism study
- Retractions
- Bias
- Ethics

"A randomized trial of facilitated family centered rounds"
- Critical appraisal
- April fools
- Citing without reading
- Literature pollution

"Reiki Therapy and Neutropenic Patient"
- Convicted felons
- Preposterous claims of mind power
- Predatory publishing