Precon -- JOSN Searching for Evidence: Finding, Evaluating, and Synthesizing the Literature

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Learning Outcomes:
As a result of participating in this educational activity, learners will be able to:

- Apply steps to conduct a thorough review of the literature;
- Describe the process for evaluating levels of evidence in a literature review; and
- Understand a process and system for synthesizing and writing a literature review.

About the Session:
A review of the literature is more than a summary of findings; it provides a synthesis and comparison of the research and current knowledge on a topic and allows us to understand the strength of evidence addressing a clinical problem. The purpose of this interactive workshop is to present, discuss and practice the systematic steps for searching, evaluating, and synthesizing the literature for a variety of purposes and ultimately strengthen practice. In the first part of the workshop, a three-stage approach to reviewing the literature will be presented. The first stage is focused on enhancing skill on how to search the literature, including the use of a systematic search process, types of databases to search, and specific search strategies. The second stage is the appraisal and evaluation of the literature. Using practical examples as a guide, participants can choose or will be given a topic and asked to systematically work through how they would conduct a search and evaluate its evidence. The final stage is writing up the review findings; participants will learn how to formulate the review for publication and for dissemination in practice. In the second part of the workshop, participants will break into small groups to discuss and obtain feedback on their search processes and articulate how they may incorporate and disseminate literature searches in their practice. Creative and engaging strategies will be used to discuss challenges and practical solutions for successful integration into practice.

Why this is important to a school nurse:
The purpose of this activity is to enable the learner to conduct a thorough search of the literature, identify rigorous strategies to evaluate and synthesize the findings, and to disseminate the findings for publication and practice. This preconference session builds upon the "Mini-boot Camp" and will do a deeper dive into how to conduct a literature review.

Additional Author(s): Mayumi Willgerodt, PhD, MS, MPH, RN, Professor and Director of Graduate Studies; Martha Kubik, PhD, MSN, RNC, Director of International Programming; Catherine C. McDonald, PhD, RN, Assistant Professor; Kristy K. Martyn, PhD, RN, CPNP-PC, FAAN, Professor, Assistant Dean, DNP Program; Julia M. Olsta, MSN, RN, NCSN, Certified School Nurse Director; Julia M. Cowell, PhD, RN, APHN-BC, FAAN, Professor Emeritus and Executive Editor of The JOSN