

Principal author: Salminen Leena, leena.kaarina.salminen@utu.fi

RENE, research group – working for effective and high quality research in health care education

Topic: Research in education for nursing sciences: projects and results

In 2012, the Department of Nursing Science at the University of Turku set up the research group RENE (Research in Nursing Education at the University of Turku) in order to promote research in the field of health care education.

It is difficult to keep pace with the changes in the health care sector and health care education. Both players in society at large and the students expect representatives of health care education to respond to these changes. Health care education needs a knowledge base founded on facts. We can only talk about effective learning environments when they are based on evidence. It has been concluded on many occasions, both at national and international level, that little research is carried as part of health care education and that the methods applied are one-sided. The number of channels for publishing the research results is also fairly limited.

The aim of RENE is to

- promote research in the field of health care education and ensure its continuity and high quality;
- assess and identify research needs;
- carry out research and implement research results in a systematic manner in cooperation with polytechnics, other parties in the field of health care education and health service organisations;
- bring together researchers in the field of health care education;
- support the career development of researchers in the field of health care education;
- act as an expert forum in educational research.

The RENE research group comprises students conducting educational research at the Department of Nursing Science (ranging from those studying for a Bachelor's degree to those doing post doctoral research) and teachers and professors working at the department.

Work of the research group:

RENE plans to meet between three to four times each year. At its meetings the group discusses research in health care education, research fields, quality of the research and future of the research. RENE has helped post doc researchers to find junior researchers to their own research team. Junior researchers have been able to contribute to the debate by raising research issues that are of interest to them. Sharing research expertise and ensuring continuity are central to the work of RENE. There are plans to expand the activities at both national and international level.

In the conference we present the work the RENE group.

The biography of the author:

PhD, Docent Leena Salminen is a senior lecturer at the University of Turku department of Nursing Science. She is responsible of health care teacher education in the University of Turku. She has a long working experience in nursing education and also in education and training of nurse educators. Her main research area is the competence of health care teachers.