

## NURSING

# Foundation initiatives spur research and education

BY TAMMY LABER

“When we think of research, we think of doctors and Petri dishes. But research funded by the Canadian Nurses Foundation (CNF) is about the interaction between nurses and patients. It’s applied research,” explains Linda Piazza, the executive director of CNF.

CNF is a national non-profit organization working to advance nursing knowledge through research grants, awards and scholarships supported through partnerships with individual donors, as well as concerned organizations such as the Canadian Nurses Association (CNA) and companies such as pharmaceutical giant Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd. (Roche Canada).

CNF’s Nursing Care Partnership Research Program, made possible by a grant from the Canadian Health Services Research Foundation, for example, has achieved or surpassed its goals since it began in 2003. “We fund both quantitative and qualitative research into a whole range of nursing practice – the way nurses care for people. For example, we’ve supported research on such matters as how to best help mothers during childbirth, improving the care of people with Alzheimer’s disease, the effect of a certain drug on



PHOTOS: SUPPLIED

**With help from its corporate partners, the Canadian Nurses Foundation supports research and provides approximately \$200,000 annually in scholarships at baccalaureate, master and doctoral levels to students who are nurses or studying to become nurses.**

breast milk, and the effect of feeling ‘known’ on women in a long-term care setting,” Ms. Piazza explains.

CNF was founded in 1962 by the CNA with a grant from the Kellogg Foundation. Over the last three years, CNF has committed \$1.4 mil-

lion to nursing care research projects and leveraged \$2.8 million, for a total investment of \$4.2 million, resulting in over 100 research projects to date. This research impacts every nurse in Canada. It involves research partners in all provinces

and six national level partnerships.

CNF also fuels education for nurses by providing approximately \$200,000 annually in scholarships at baccalaureate, master and doctoral levels to students who are nurses or studying to become nurses.

However, the demand still far outweighs the number of scholarships available. In 2006, for example, CNF received over 220 applications for approximately 30 scholarships.

One such scholarship has been

made possible by CNF partner Roche Canada. Since 2003, Roche has supported the CNF through the Roche Hepatology Nursing Fellowship. This fellowship provides \$20,000 over two years to support a graduate nursing student pursuing specialty education in viral hepatology.

“At Roche, partnerships are a core element of our success,” said Ilona Torontali, vice-president of public affairs at Roche Canada.

“Because of the importance of high-quality nursing and the vital role nurses play in patient care, Roche remains committed to supporting nurses in other therapeutic areas as well, such as oncology, rheumatology, transplantation and virology.

“In Canada, we actively invest in research and education through partnerships with universities, medical schools and biotechnology companies across the country. As leaders in providing pharmaceutical and diagnostic solutions, we strive to make a profound difference in people’s lives,” Ms. Torontali added.

CNF is especially proud to have Roche Canada as a partner, and hopes that eventually more nursing scholarships from concerned firms are available to help bridge the gap between supply and demand. ■