

# NDE Research Impact on Educational settings

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THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS  
MD ANDERSON  
CANCER CENTER  
*Making Cancer History®*

## **NDE Research Impact on Educational Settings**

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## Objectives

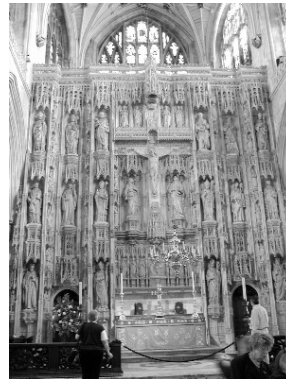
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- Describe selected results of NDE research in educational settings.
- Discuss ethical implications of NDE research for educational settings
- Suggest areas for future NDE research in education

## Educational Settings

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- Formal
  - Schools
  - Universities
  - Hospitals
  - Training Programs
  - Churches
  - Meetings
  - Support Groups



## Educational Settings

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- Informal
  - Airplanes
  - Malls
  - Parties
  - Dinner Table
  - Confessional



*An educational setting is anywhere learning/  
understanding takes place*

## Looking Back

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- 1986 Strom-Paikin
  - 1984 the first IANDS Conference
  - Group goal: to “educate other professionals about how to help NDEers integrate the experience into their lives”
  - Also discussed that “NDEers cry frequently, express their emotions openly. And many need to be hugged”.

## **Selected Results of NDE Research**

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**126 NDE research articles reviewed**

**Results:**

- **Disclosure issues noted**
- **Need for professional education regarding NDEs**
- **Few suggested educational methods or settings**

## **Selected Research Review of Nursing Articles**

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- **1981(Orne) also 1994 (James)**
- **Nurse is chosen for disclosure.**
- **Orne, R. (1994). 70% of nurses familiar with NDE**
- **56% limited knowledge (gained from the lay media).**
- **ER nurses had the highest knowledge base OB/GYN the least**
- **69% of the nurses stated they offer support**

## Other interesting results included:

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- Of 912 nurses in the Orne study:
  - 28 report having an NDE
  - 74 knew someone
  - 65 cared for someone who had an NDE
  - Nearly 100% stated they “wished to learn more”



## Nursing Articles (continued)

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- 1981 – Oakes, “Topics in Critical Care Nursing”
  - “Survivors stated they would select a nurse to talk with rather than a clergy member, physician, psychiatrist or psychologist”.

## Nursing Articles (continued)

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- 1997, Bucher et al
  - More patients survive resuscitation efforts.
  - Explored critical care nurses' interest in, knowledge of, and attitudes toward the NDE.
  - Identified 8 Nursing Interventions that nurses can use during and after resuscitation.
  
- 1985 Freeman, *Occupational Health Nursing*
  - Medical personnel “listen and support the patient despite their own beliefs”.

## Nursing Articles (continued)

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- 1992 Olson, *Holistic Nursing Practice*
  - Found “richness in the description of the NDEs of the elderly”.
  - “it is not uncommon to find elderly people who have never talked about NDEs that occurred early in their lives”.
  
- 1993 Olson, *Journal of Holistic Nursing*
  - Nurses should “listen carefully to develop new techniques that help the whole individual move toward integration”.

## **Additional Nursing Articles**

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- 1988 Corcoran, *Nursing*
- 1988 Byl, *The Kansas Nurse*
- 1989 Serdahely/Drenk/Serdahely, *Geriatric Nursing*
- 1989 Walker, *Death Studies*
- 1990 McEvoy, *Nursing Education in Thanatology*
- 1990 Hayes/Orne, *Nursing Education in Thanatology*
- 1991 Shoenback/Hocutt, *Journal of Near-Death Studies*
- 1993 Shoenback, *American Journal of Nursing*

## **Additional Nursing Articles**

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- 1994 Martinson, *Journal of Pediatric Nursing*
- 1993 Shoenback, *American Journal of Nursing*
- 1994 Martinson, *Journal of Pediatric Nursing*
- 1994 Callanan, *American Journal of Nursing*
- 1995 Milne, *CACCN*
- 1996 Manley, *Journal of Emergency Nursing*
- 1996 Papowitz, *American Journal of Nursing*
- 2001 Hayes, *Nursing*
- 2003 Morris/Knafl, *JNDS*
- 2006 Tutka, *American Journal of Nursing*



## **WHY?**

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**Why is this information not routinely included in the curriculum of all Nursing programs?**



## **Educational Settings**

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**In many medical settings death is considered the enemy...**

**or professional defeat**



## **Medical**

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- **1997 Greyson, “NDE as a Focus of Clinical Attention”**
  - **Patients “benefit from referral to NDEr support groups”**
  - **Many “need counseling to address dissolution of the previous lifestyle or the reconstruction of a new, compatible one”.**
  - **“Couples or family therapy may be indicated when changes in the NDEr demand complementary changes in close relationships”.**
  - **Need for awareness-“to minimize or prevent suffering from misdiagnosis and inappropriate care”.**

## **Medical**

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- **1977 Moody**

- **“A greater awareness on the part of physicians of the possible occurrence of such experiences is indicated.”**

## **Medical**

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- **1994 Morse**

- **Noted rich anecdotal literature on adult NDEs, but no specific articles discussed counseling children and families**
- **Pediatricians have been described as not being able to handle children’s deaths.**
- **Residency training often provides a model that death occurs b/c either we have failed or our medical systems have failed”.**
- **“Experienced physicians acknowledge that there is a faith or a spirit or vague undefined something that motivates the human body to heal or to die”.**
- **Clinicians make decisions based on clinical research.**
- **Medical professionals and society can benefit from learning about NDEs.**

## Medical

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- 1985 Herzog/Herrin, *Critical Care Medicine*
  - Quotes Pediatric Section of the Society of Critical Care Medicine: “more attention should be paid to the critically ill child’s emotional condition during procedures and after recovery”.



## Medical

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- 1978 Sabom/Kreutziger, *Theta*
- 1980 Sabom, *Journal of Religion and Health*
- 1995 Hoffman, *JNDS*

## Question

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**How many medical schools today include *ANY* discussion regarding NDEs?**



## Other Disciplines

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1987 Furn, *JNDS*

1991 Insinger, *JNDS*

1992 Bechtel, *JNDS*

1997 Horacek, *JNDS*



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**Does the training  
of psychotherapists,  
clergy and counselors  
address these issues?**

## **NDE research ethical implications for educational settings**

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- **Patients deserve respect**
- **Providing healthcare based on principles of ethics discussed in the first session**
- **Is difficult ... without a foundation is impossible**

**Ethically speaking, if we know hundreds of NDEs have been reported by people who:**

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- **have questioned their own sanity**
- **are reluctant to share because no one would believe them**
- **lack comfort**
- **are unsettled or unresolved**

**What are we doing to train healthcare providers to assist these individuals?**

## Ethical Principles

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- **Autonomy**
- **Justice**
- **Beneficence**
- **Nonmaleficence**
- **Veracity**
- **Respect for individuality and diversity**
- **Competence**



## Future Research

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**To address community attitudes  
detailed by Kellehear in 1989,  
public educational activities  
need to be more available.**

## **The Future**

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**Think...**

**Just imagine...**



## Imagine

**ACLS Courses  
(and textbooks)  
incorporate  
interventions for Care  
of the Patients Post  
Resuscitation.**



## Imagine...

**Nursing school curricula  
would include required  
courses which address  
appropriate response to  
disclosure regardless of their  
own beliefs and content of  
information received.**



***Certainly this would include NDE disclosure.***

## Imagine...

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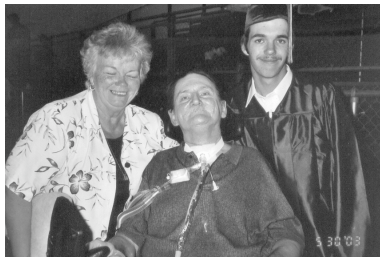
**Medical schools would offer courses which include discussion of NDEs within other required curriculum.**



## Imagine...

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**All seminars and training programs for clergy and pastoral caregivers would include required course work regarding the care of persons following a close brush with death or disclosure of an NDE**



## **Imagine...**

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**Interdisciplinary meetings that include considerations of NDEs in the discussion of Plan of Care for patients.**

## **Imagine...**

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**Preparation of teachers of all ages and grades would learn how to “hear” children who are impacted by an NDE.**

## **Imagine...**

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**Medical personnel and counselors in the VA hospital system would collaborate because of their awareness of NDE data.**



## **Imagine...**

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**A nurse in an educational setting is moved by knowledge of the NDE and decides to make a difference by collaborating with IANDS to produce a patient teaching pamphlet specific for M. D. Anderson**

## **Imagine...**

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**An environment of acceptance or  
“attitude of trust” where individuals like  
Nancy Evans Bush would have felt  
“more ready to disclose sooner”  
because we “found the words”.**

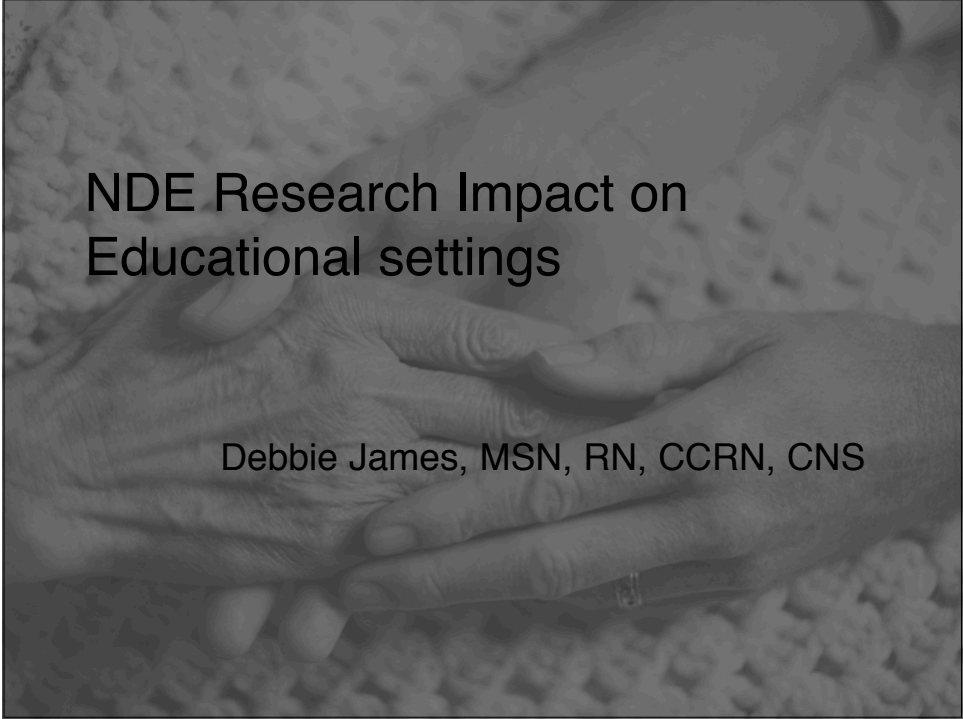


## **Imagine...**

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**The educational setting ...  
... is an IANDS conference ...  
with funding and resources to provide all  
caregivers with the knowledge base and  
awareness to truly care for NDErs.**





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