

## So You Wanted To Know What? Identifying a Research Question

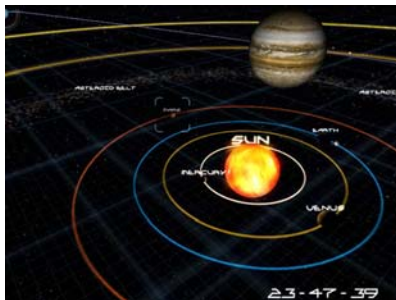
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## A History of One Question....



Guess Who?

## What Was His Question?



## What Was The Result of His Inquiry?

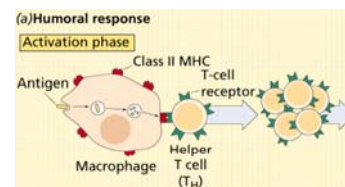


...His Trial

## The World Is Replete With Questions....



Can Cats Really Sing?



How Does The Immune System Work Anyway?

### The Research Question

- A research study begins as a problem that a researcher would like to solve or as a question (or set of questions) that the researcher would like to answer
- The research question often evolves from a broad topic area
- In order to study a problem or question, the topic area needs to be narrowed

### Sources of Research Problems

- Experience
- Nursing Literature
- Social Issues
- Theory
- Ideas from External Sources

### For example.....

My research of family caregivers of people with Alzheimer's disease.....

The problem: Caregiver discomfort

The observation: Families continue to be distressed even as AD victim improves

The research question?

### Then what?

Research the existing knowledge base regarding this topic area.....



### Refining Your Question

What is that you really want to know?



### For example...

#### Caregiver distress

Researcher defined versus Participant defined  
Is distress the measure?

Are there are measures (e.g. depression, anxiety, physical problems)?

Is there a measure that has not been researched or has been thoroughly researched that you are interested in?

## Frame the Clinical Question in the PICO format

Patient population  
Intervention or interest  
Comparison intervention or group  
Otcome

In premature infants, is light versus music more effective in improving oxygen saturation

## Which of the following is a well-defined nursing research question?

- Why do so many patients fall in the hospital?
- Do slippery floors cause falls in the hospital?
- In hospitalized rehab patients, does scheduled rounds versus room signage reduce falls?

Fantastic!!!!



## Evaluating Research Questions

- Significance of the Problem
- Researchability of the Problem
- Feasibility
  - Time and Timing
  - Availability of Participants
  - Cooperation of Others
  - Facility / Equipment
  - Money
  - Experience of Researcher/s
  - Ethical Considerations

## Communicating the Research Question

- Problem Statements
- Purpose
- Research Question
  - Hypotheses...what are they, when are they appropriate, how are they worded?

## Group Exercise



### Which of the following is a well-defined nursing research question?

- What are the best delivery system for pain medication?
- In elderly post-surgical patients, does nurse controlled analgesia versus patient controlled analgesia provide better pain relief?
- Are elderly patients able to control their own analgesia?

### You're all really getting it!!!



### Which of the following is a well-defined nursing research question?

- In patients with diabetes, does a case management model versus usual care improve patient glycemic control?
- In patients with diabetes, what factors cause increased hospitalizations?
- Do diabetics with a case management model do better than diabetics without care managers?

### We Did It Together.....



### How Do We Know We've Succeeded?

- Our findings are answering the questions we have posed
- Some of our initial hunches are verified
- Some of our initial hunches are not verified
- We've discovered new or confirming evidence about our topic area

### Hints For The Journey

Try to find a collaborative team....



### Hints For The Journey

- Believe in and enjoy what you are doing



### Hints For The Journey

Be open to new discoveries.....



### Questions?

