Nutritional evaluation is an important component in assessing risk for pressure ulcer development. Limited evidence exists regarding solid indicators for such an evaluation (Doughty, 2008). This project started as a quality improvement initiative. Observations in clinical practice showed that threshold scores on the Braden nutrition subscale resulted in many clinical nutrition consults occurring due to “false positives.” To better understand what was happening, clinical nutrition interns reassessed Braden Scores on 147 patients. Findings showed for 68% of cases a Braden-triggered consult directed the dietitian to a patient who did not require nutrition intervention; and 62% of patients with a nutrient intake deficit and low Braden score were not identified for intervention. Other findings included identification of 13 patients where nurses indicated need for a nutrition consult, and identification of 14 patients that nutrition interns indicated needed a consult. In only 5 patients was there agreement between the two assessments. This inefficient use of resources and lost opportunities for appropriate intervention prompted the need for further investigation.

### OBJECTIVES

1. Describe components essential to initiating, developing, and assembling a multidisciplinary team for applied clinical research.

2. Identify collaboration and consultation needed for protocol development, data acquisition and analysis.

### SUMMARY

- Collaboration between nursing and non-nursing professions can be fruitful in obtaining research funding and in discovering new knowledge for practice.
- The direction taken in a project will be different when it is multidisciplinary than if a single discipline undertakes the project alone.
- Acceptance of the research findings and solutions to problems are more easily embraced by all disciplines if all disciplines are part of the research.

### Bibliography
