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Title: University Collaboration in Delivering Applied Health and Nursing Services Research Training

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Key Messages:

In 2001 – 2002, the Canadian Health Services Research Foundation (CHSRF) and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) committed 10 years of funding for the creation and implementation of three Regional Training Centres (RTC) to build capacity in health services and policy research in the Atlantic, Ontario and Western regions of Canada and one training centre in Quebec to focus on the development of nursing services researchers. Each RTC comprises several universities that collaborate to deliver the graduate training. The authors of this paper describe the consortium-related features of the RTCs, including approval processes, formal agreements, governance, communication, students, curriculum, administration and use of educational technology. The discussion outlines the benefits and challenges of university collaboration for participating students, faculty and universities and summarizes lessons learned. In their conclusion, the researchers write that while successful university collaboration entails considerable expenditure of time and resources, the benefits for students, faculty and universities outweigh the challenges. Increasingly, university collaboration will be important for the creation of new capacities and resources. The RTC models described in this paper illustrate the complexities of collaboration as well as approaches to facilitating its success.