tionship with adherence to medication regimen ($p = .009$). Regression analysis showed that more challenge and less threat to self concept and its components (body sensation, body image, self-consistency, self ideal, moral-ethical–spiritual self) was associated with increase in adherence of medication regimen.

**Conclusion:** Nurses need to identify methods that patients perceive heart failure in way that are less threatening and work to empower patients to face heart failure as a challenge. Therefore it may increase adherence to medication regimen in this patients.

**Tracks:** Cardiac Nursing.

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**SHA 36. Nursing staff development: Strategies for success in a unique critical care unit**

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**Objectives:** Creation of innovative retention strategies is a major focus for nursing administration as a shortage of nurses recurs and turnover of staff becomes a problem. Retention strategies, to be effective, need to be targeted specifically to particular conditions of the nursing staff. The Cardiac Surgical Intensive Care Unit (CSICU) at the King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Center is a unique Unit where it combines adult, pediatric and neonatal cardiac surgical patients. This demands well trained and skilled nurses to be able to look after this complex variety of patients. The big majority of nurses recruited to CSICU have adult educational background only. Therefore the Department of Nursing Development and Saudization together with Cardiovascular Nursing Department developed and implemented different education strategies to improve nurse’s skills and competencies according to the unit’s needs.

**Methods:** The strategies implemented included: comprehensive and periodic assessment of nurses, regular inservices in the form of lectures, skills review sessions, progressive orientation program divided in different phases, bedside teaching, provision of a wide educational references, and professional development workshops.

**Results:** In a survey done in 2006, for a database of 64 nurses, 18 (28%) had only adult experience. About 14/18 (78%) were unable to progress to pediatric care phase (PCP). Another survey in 2007 and for a database of 68 nurses, it showed that 15 (22%) had only adult experience. About 8/15 (53%) could not progress to PCP. A third survey performed in 2008, for a database of 82 nurses, 25 (30%) had adult experience, 6/25 (24%) were not able to progress to PCP.

**Conclusion:** Implementing comprehensive education strategies targeting different approach of training contributed to a considerable progressive staff development and retention in CSICU.

**Tracks:** Cardiac Nursing.

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**SHA 37. “Moving into a technological era” electronic patient care documentation in adult cardiac surgical ICU**

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**Objectives:** A new era in Saudi Healthcare has dawned with the integration of an electronic patient charting system, Intellivue Clinical Information Portfolio (ICIP). This nursing documentation application in the health care setting has the potential to transform the delivery of care, by streamlining processes, making procedures more accurate and efficient, and reducing the risk of human error, but only if the staff nurse is empowered and properly supported within the organization.

**Methods:** Having been implemented 2 years ago in the Cardiac and Liver Centre, National Guard, Riyadh, the organization has experienced rapid change and development. While early evaluation of this system shows positive outcome measurements, the technical, and organizational hurdles to widespread implementation still remain. During this process the impact on patient care can be reflected through the eyes of the end user, the staff nurse and their delivery of patient care utilizing ICIP as an extension of that care.

**Results:** A major issue facing a healthcare organization taking the step towards a technological age by implementation of ICIP is re-defining the traditional roles of the end users, in this case the staff nurses. This is accomplished by adequate and appropriate staff training, 24/7 technical support staff involvement and auditing.

**Conclusion:** While it is gratifying to see that nursing practice is the driving force into this leading-edge field, it is even more rewarding to see staff nurses move beyond the concepts of simple computing into the bigger picture, understanding how clinical decisions are made and their impact on patient outcomes.

**Tracks:** Cardiac Nursing.

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**SHA 38. A systems biology approach to rheumatic heart disease**

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a Shifa College of Medicine
b Bio-Medical and Genetic Engineering Laboratories

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