Significance and Background
As health care institutions strive to develop a 'spirit of inquiry' among their nurses, a support system must also be in place to maintain and fulfill this mission.

Nurses working clinically are interested in research and evidence-based practice but often struggle with the process of asking and answering a clinical question.

At our institution, a survey of nurses revealed that most (96%) think research and EBP should guide practice and that 63% of nurses would be interested in doing a research or EBP project but only about half feel supported to participate in this endeavor.

Purpose
To discuss a successful partnership between medical library services, a designated clinical librarian and nursing staff at a large comprehensive cancer center.

Integration within the Department of Nursing
CL is a member of the Nursing Research Committee (along with other committees and councils)
- Attends meetings to share expertise during 'works in progress' presentations
- Provides guidance to staff as needed

Evaluation
Our CL is integrated and visible within our department and is often mentioned as a significant benefit by nurses. Annually our CL conducts approximately 200 literature searches for nurses.

Case Study
A clinical nurse in outpatient Radiation Oncology noticed a gap in practice in that she did not have evidence-based recommendations for skin care for her patients who were receiving post mastectomy radiation therapy to the chest wall.

She reached out to our CL for a literature search. Following a review of the literature she identified that no standard guidelines existed and reached out to a Nurse Scientist and her physician colleagues to develop a research protocol aimed at identifying the optimal skin care regimen for these patients.

Collaboration continues as a manuscript is being prepared and abstracts are being submitted.

Implications for Nursing
Clinical nurses are in the ideal position to ask relevant questions about patient care and nursing practice.

A strategic and ongoing partnership between medical library services and nursing can support these nurses as they embark on the process of answering these questions and ultimately improving patient care and clinical outcomes.