

# Research focus: “Improving health in communities through health communication”

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VRYSTAAT  
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FREISTATA



**UFS·UV**  
HEALTH SCIENCES  
GESONDHEIDSWETENSAPPE



Health communication encompasses many identified research fields, e.g. health literacy and health informatics. Health dialogue is only one such an area/field.

Currently four master's students form part of an interdisciplinary research team, with Dr Reid acting as principal investigator, with the aim of developing a health dialogue model for adult patients with type 2 diabetes living in South Africa.

The research programme will follow a phased approach in order to develop and evaluate a model of intervention to facilitate health dialogue with patients attending health services in low and middle income countries. The complex research intervention will consist of various component projects which are depicted as phases – the main theme for the first phase being descriptive in nature and the following two phases creating the opportunity to develop and evaluate the identified health dialogue intervention. NRF funding has been received for the first phase of the research programme, consisting of four projects

*Project 1:*

- To analyse the concept health dialogue.

*Project 2:*

- To review communication strategies to accomplish effective health dialogue in adult patients with chronic diseases in low and middle income countries: a systematic review.

*Project 3:*

- To describe knowledge, attitude and practices of adult patients with type 2 diabetes pertaining to diabetes mellitus in the Free State, South Africa.
- To describe knowledge, attitudes and practices of health care workers working with type 2 adult diabetes patients in the Free State, South Africa.

*Project 4:*

- To explore perceptions of patients regarding diabetes related Health Communication strategies in the Free State, South Africa.

Various exciting new projects are planned, with emphasis placed on interdisciplinary research ventures.

Students/research colleagues interested in studies within the field of health communication are welcome to contact Dr Reid at the School of Nursing.