March 2016 meeting:

Hello from the Boston Chapter of IACRN!  The chapter held its first meeting of 2016 on March 3rd at the Countway Library.  A business meeting was held, followed by an excellent panel on “They Don’t Teach You This in Nursing School:  Developing Competency as Clinical Research Nurses.”

New President Amy Sbrolla began the meeting with an introduction of the new board and the attendees at the meeting.  Chapter business was then discussed, with the following topics being covered:

1. Upcoming Chapter meetings will be held on June 2nd and November 3rd.
2. We will be sending out a member survey in the next few weeks to get a pulse on our membership and their needs.
3. This year, we will continue our policy of collecting annual dues in June.  An email will be sent out reminding members of payment options.
4. Our treasurer, Maureen Demenna, reported that we have a current balance of $1149 with very few pending expenses.
5. The 2016 IACRN Annual Conference will be held from October 24-26th in Lake Buena Vista, Florida, right next door to Disney World.  Bring the whole family for some fun in the sun and the chance to meet research nurse colleagues from around the world.

After the business meeting, our volunteer panel introduced themselves and began a discussion their training and experiences as new research nurses.  The inspiration for this program was a twitter chat run by IACRN on this topic with input from nurses from around the world, including Boston, New York, Pennsylvania, California, England, and Ireland.  Our panel was chosen specifically because they had a myriad of experiences, with some starting out as nurses and “falling into” research and others starting out in research and becoming a nurses, as well as a wide variety in years of nursing practice, ranging from almost new grads to, well, many, many years!   As the panelists shared their stories, a lively discussion of all the meeting attendees ensued.  Oh, how things have changed over the years!  We heard a lot of interesting tales of how we all got started in research nursing, a lot of us with very informal “on the job” training, and why we have stayed.

We’d like to thank our panelists, as well as Mary Larkin, Boston Chapter IACRN Past President, who gave us this awesome idea!  Our panelists were:

* Lindsey Wilkinson, a Clinical Research Nurse in the MGH Diabetes Center
* Linda Pitler, a Clinical Research Nurse in the MGH Thoracic Center
* Emily Clermont, a Nurse Project Manager in the CTSU at Children’s Hospital
* Gina Masse, a Clinical Research Nurse in the MGH Diabetes Center
* Kiley Strange, an Ecare Nurse Resident in the MGH CRC