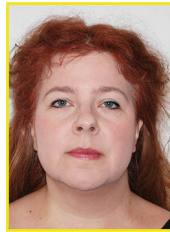




Sek Ying Chair



Elizabeth Papathanassoglou

EDITORIAL

Sek Ying Chair, Elizabeth Papathanassoglou Being the voice of nurses

The International Council of Nurses (ICN) defined nursing as the autonomous and collaborative care of individuals of all ages, families, groups and communities, sick or well and in all settings. Nursing includes the promotion of health, prevention of illness, and the care of ill, disabled and dying people. Advocacy, promotion of a safe environment, research, participation in shaping health policy and in patient and health systems management, and education are also key nursing roles (ICN, 2002). Therefore, the voices of nurses are not only important for patients' health, but also for professional development, and health policy for the population.

The professional development of nursing varies across countries in the world. Critical care nursing (CCN) is relatively a young specialty in some developing countries. In this issue, one paper introduced the launch of the network of CCN in Zambia. CCN was a relatively new specialty with recognition by the Ministry of Health since 2012. However, with the increasing demand of critical care service, CCN develops very quickly in Zambia and the critical care nurses have developed a very broad scope of practice. To address the profession isolation in CCN, a professional network across organizations was officially established in May, 2016. Moreover, the network had applied the associate member of the World Federation of Critical Care Nurses (WFCCN) to facilitate further international collaboration. It is expected that the voice of critical care nurses from central Africa will be heard internationally.

In the current issue, another paper reported the study among 51 patients with subacute dichloroethane (DCE) intoxication. All the participants had worked in unregistered factories using DCE but with poor occupational protection. In addition to identifying the long-lasting and dynamic clinical course of DCE intoxication, the authors also advocated to provide effective occupational protections for workers. This is a good example of nursing roles in advocacy for patients and promoting a safe environment. Another article discussed the possibility of accepting industry-sponsored publications in CONNECT: The World of Critical Care Nursing. The number of industry-

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sponsored research has been increasing. With close collaboration between industry and academia, these studies could contribute to improvements and knowledge transfer in clinical practice and specialty development. Most medical and nursing journals with high impacts hold acceptable attitudes towards industry-sponsored publications. Therefore, it is suggested accept industry-sponsored publications based on the quality and validity, and require disclosure of funding and conflict of interest from all papers.

As the official journal of WFCCN, CONNECT works as the voice of critical care nurses and allied practitioners worldwide. Nurses are encouraged to enhance their impacts on shaping health policy through conducting high quality research.

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