NURSING CONFERENCE
2012

25-26 JULY 2012
SOUTHERN SUN ELANGENI HOTEL
DURBAN

PROGRAMME
Dear delegate,

We take great honour and courage to acknowledge your presence at our 1st National Nursing Conference. This conference upholds the notion of unity in diversity as it brings under one roof Nursing Education and Nursing practice brainpower as opposed to deliberating on nursing issues in the silo approach of “Nurse Educators” - “Nurse Managers”

This conference is convened during the historic year when the Nation is beginning to realise the goals of the long and healthy lifestyles for all South Africans through the implementation of the first phase of the National Health Insurance. Nurses have been and will in future remain the heart and soul of health care delivery. It is in the same vein that the conference committee hosts this conference under the theme “Enhancing the quality of Nursing Education and Nursing Practice” as the main focus to drive the proceedings and deliberations of the conference.

The objectives of the conference are:

- To explore health policy and legislative issues as they impact on the quality of nursing education and nursing practice
- To examine the responsiveness of nursing education programmes to the health needs of society
- To share and discuss quality innovations to close the theory-practice gap
- To reflect on professional practice standards, nursing ethics, culture, values and human rights as they influence quality of health care.
- To contribute to the improvement of quality care through research-based nursing innovations
- To reflect on the role of leadership in maintaining quality of the institutions’ management practices

Signed on behalf of the conference committee

Dr. Lungile Ndlovu
Chair
WEDNESDAY 25 JULY 2012

Director of Proceedings
Thokozani Ndlovu

07h00 -08h00  Registration / Arrival Tea

08h00-08h15  Opening & welcome
Councillor Logie Naidoo
Ethemwini Municipality Speaker

08H20-09H20  Keynote Address
Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo
Honourable MEC for Health
KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Government

PLENARY SESSION 1: POLICY / LEGISLATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS

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<tr>
<th>TIME SCHEDULE</th>
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| 09h20-09h50   | Gearing up for the implementation of the National Health Insurance in South Africa | Prof Rachel V. Gumbi  
Acting Chief Executive Officer – Prince Mshiyeni Memorial Hospital  
DLitt et. Phil (UNISA) M cur (University of Liverpool-UK) Bcur (UNISA) DNE University of Natal; RN RM |

10H00-10H30  MID – MORNING TEA BREAK (BANQUETING FOYER)

10h35-11h05  “A Model for the Integration of Primary Health care Services in South Africa: The KwaZulu-Natal case study”
Dr Nokuthula Sibiya  
Head of Nursing Sciences Department at the Durban University of Technology  
D Tech, M Tech(DUT), B Cur Hons, B Cur E et. A, (UNIZULU)

11h10-11h40  Cultural competency in South Africa: The Nursing Education Perspective
Prof Thokozani P Mhlongo  
HOD: Nursing Science Department University Of Zululand  
DLitt et. Phil (UNISA); MBA (University of Hull, UK) MA (University of Iowa) Bcur; DNE & DNA (UNIZULU)
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<tr>
<td>11h45-12h30</td>
<td>The Changing landscape of Nursing Education and Training in South Africa</td>
<td><strong>MR Tendani Mabuda</strong> Registrar &amp; Chief Executive Officer South African Nursing Council</td>
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<td>MA ( cur) Health studies (UNISA) BA (cur) Nursing education and Nursing Administration (UNISA) Diploma in General, community, psychiatry and Midwifery Nursing Science -Venda Nursing College in association with UNISA</td>
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<td>13h35-14h05</td>
<td>TB infections amongst health care workers : A challenge facing the country’s Human Resources for Health</td>
<td><strong>Dr Muzimkhulu Zungu</strong> Head of Unit : TB HIV in the workplace National Institute for Occupational Health National Health Laboratory Services</td>
<td>FCPHM (CMSA) DOHM, NMed (PRETORIA) MBCHB (University of Cape Town)</td>
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<td>14h05-14h35</td>
<td>A Paradigm shift in performance management : A South African Model</td>
<td><strong>Dr Lungile Ndlovu</strong> Managing Director : Khanyanjalo Consulting</td>
<td>D Phil Nursing Management (UNIZULU) M cur University of Natal; Bcur Hons (UNIZULU) Bcur (UNISA) PHC RN RM</td>
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THURSDAY 26 JULY 2012
Director of Proceedings                                           Thokozani Ndlovu

07h30-08h00       Arrival Tea & Coffee
08h00-08h10       Opening and Welcome

PLENARY SESSION 2: NURSING EDUCATION AND SCENARIO PLANNING

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<th>TIME SCHEDULE</th>
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| 08H10-08H40   | Enhancing the quality of clinical teaching and learning in South Africa | **Dr Eunice Seekoe**
|               |                                                                      | Head of Department Nursing sciences
|               |                                                                      | University of Fort Hare                                               |
|               |                                                                      | PhD (UJ), MBA (UFS), M. Soc. Science (UFS), B. Cur (UNISA)            |
| 08h45-09h15   | The complimentary roles of Nursing Education and Nursing Service and the impact of these on the quality of nursing practice | **Dr Phumelele Kunene**
|               |                                                                      | Managing Director at Thembanani Training and Development Institute    |
|               |                                                                      | D Phil Nursing Management, Mcur, Bcur, Hons, University of Zululand, Bcur UNISA |
| 09h20-09h50   | Attrition of nursing students: Based on Nurse Educators’ experiences | **Dr Thembekile Masango**
|               |                                                                      | Senior Lecturer- Nursing Education : University of South Africa       |
|               |                                                                      | D Phil Nursing Education, Mcur, Bcur, Hons (UNIZULU) Bcur. (UNISA)     |

10h00-10h30       MID – MORNING TEA BREAK (BANQUETING FOYER)
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<td>10h35-11h05</td>
<td>Professional negligence in South Africa: The Nurse/Doctor perspective</td>
<td>Adele Van der Walt</td>
<td>Head of the Medical Law Firm Waterkloof-Pretoria B.Proc. LLB (University Of Pretoria)</td>
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<td>11h10-11h40</td>
<td>Ubuntu in the Nursing Profession: An Eclectic Model</td>
<td>Prof Fhumulani Mavis Mulaudzi</td>
<td>Associate Professor and Head of Nursing Sciences Department University of Pretoria D Litt et. Phil (UNISA), M Cur (UNISA), Bcur HONS (UNISA) Bcur (UNISA) RN, RM</td>
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PLenary chairs

prof magda mulder
head of school of nursing
university of the free state

prof susan wright
head of school
adelaide tambo school of nursing science
tshwane university of technology
Gearing up for the implementation of the National Health Insurance in South Africa

Professor Gumbi was the President of the South African Nursing Council from August 1995 to June 2003. She was the first black from 1944 to hold this position.

She was chairperson of the WHO Global Advisory Group for Nursing and Midwifery from 2001 to 2009. Honorary Professor – UNISA 1998 to date.

Professor Gumbi has had a number of awards Nationally & Internationally. She is still active in Research activities & community empowerment.

PROF RACHEL V. GUMBI
Acting Chief Executive Officer – Prince Mshiyeni Memorial Hospital
D Litt et. Phil (UNISA) M cur (University of Liverpool-UK) Bcur (UNISA) DNE university of Natal: RN RM

South Africa has moved one step closer to National Health Insurance Scheme, with Finance Minister Pravin Gordon announcing a sizeable Health care budget for 2012/2013, aimed at improving hospitals and strengthening public health ahead of the scheme’s introduction.

The National Health Insurance is a financing system that will ensure that all citizens of South Africa are provided with essential health care, regardless of their employment status and the ability to make a direct contribution to the NHI fund.

This paper will:
✓ Outline mechanisms for ensuring quality of health care under the NHI
✓ Reflect on the management of health facilities and health districts
✓ Reflect on other quality improvement issues
✓ Discuss the plans for infrastructure development
✓ Reflect on human resources planning, development and management
✓ Reflect on information management and systems support
✓ Reflect on the need for the national health insurance fund
✓ Outline the responsibilities of management teams in hospitals and nursing education institutions
✓ Outline the role of the office of health standards compliance,
✓ Respond to frequently asked questions on the national health insurance

ABSTRACT

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ABSTRACT

The vehicle for providing health care services in South Africa is the Primary Health Care approach through the District Health System.

The concept of PHC as determined at Alma Ata is essential care based on practical, scientifically sound and socially acceptable methods and technology, made universally accessible to individuals and families in the community through their participation and at a cost that the community and the country can afford, to maintain at every stage of development, in the spirit of self-reliance and self determination (WHO, 1978).

The Policy on integration of health services at Primary Health Care level in South Africa was enacted in 1996. The main aim of the policy was to increase access and utilization rate of PHC services. The problem, however, with the policy arose in the implementation of integrated PHC (IPHC) as there was no agreed upon understanding of what this phenomenon meant in the South African context.

A qualitative cross sectional study was conducted in 2008 in KwaZulu-Natal with an aim of analysing the Integrated Primary Health Care (IPHC) approach

This paper will:

- Outline the National Policy framework that guided the introduction of IPHC
- Outline the conceptualization of IPHC
- Delineate the concept of comprehensive services at a PHC facility level
- Reflect on challenges in implementation of IPHC.
- Share knowledge on the current government strategy of PHC re-engineering in South Africa
Cultural competency in South Africa: The Nursing education perspective

PROF THOKOZANI P. MH LONGO
HOD: Nursing Science Department (UNIZULU)
DLitt et Phil (UNISA)
MBA (University of Hull, UK)
MA (University of Iowa)
Bcur; DNE & DNA (UNIZULU)

Professor Thokozani Mhlongo is a registered nurse, educator and manager, with more than twenty (20) years of experience in nursing and education.

His experience includes the following: (a) Nursing Education, (b) Nursing Management, (c) Business Administration, (d) Academic Research and Publication, (e) Lecturing and conducting research at university level.

The overall aim of this presentation is to discuss/suggest the development of nursing education that is culturally appropriate to the South African context.

Garity (2000) defined cultural competence as having sensitivity towards different cultural groups. It is clearly necessary to produce nursing professionals that are cultural competent – and are sensitive to cultural diversity. The South African Constitution (1996) enshrines multiculturalism as a national resource to be protected and promoted in all spheres of public life, including education.

Cultural competence pedagogy is particularly inadequate in nursing, and this is the discourse that is primarily addressed in this paper. It is argued that the South African Nursing programs which prepare nurses have for the most part assumed a ‘one-size fits all’ approach in the education and training they provide nursing students, largely ignoring the historical and cultural experiences and the world views of Indigenous peoples which differ significantly from the mainstream Western cultural framework.

This presentation, therefore, will discuss how cultural competency content can be incorporated in our South African nursing education. The objectives of this presentation are to:

- Define the concept of “cultural competency”
- Discuss the significance of cultural competency to South African nursing education.
- Discuss existing cultural disparities in South African nursing education.
- Describe models of cultural competency which could be used in nursing education.
- Discuss how the cultural competency nursing education can be introduced.
- Discuss the implications of this information for South African nursing

The paper concludes by highlighting the flexibility of the cultural competency model. The capacity of the framework to be adapted in the different university structures and systems of South Africa, as well in other countries worldwide.

Keywords
Nursing education, cultural competence, transcultural nursing, South Africa

ABSTRACT

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The Changing landscape of Nursing Education and Training in South Africa

ABSTRACT

The 18 years of democracy of South Africa has been characterized by major transformation of health care system. The government and the ruling party have introduced number of legislative and policy framework to ensure equal access to health care services in the country.

Some of the legislative framework impacts directly to nursing education and practice, such as the Nursing Act, 2005 (Act no 33 of 2005), Higher Education Act, 1997 (Act no 101 of 1997), National Qualifications Framework, 2008 (Act no 67 of 2008), South African Qualifications Authority, National Health Act, 2003 (Act no 61 of 2003), and policies such as Reconstruction and Development Program, District Health System and Nursing Strategy of South Africa (2008) to just mention few.

In the 18 years of democracy nursing curricula has not been adequately reviewed commensurate with the changing disease burden such as HIV/AIDS, TB, Drug and alcohol abuse and to prepare a nurse practitioner who will be able to meet the challenges of Millennium Development Goals, and the ever changing medical technology while aligning and positioning nursing within appropriate National Qualifications Framework of the country.
TB Infections amongst Health care workers in South Africa: A challenge facing the country's Human Resources for Health

DR MUZIMKHULU ZUNGU
Head of unit: TB HIV in the workplace
National Institute of Occupational Health
National Health Laboratory Service
JOHANNESBURG
MBCHB Medicine (University of Cape Town)
NMed Community Health; DOHM
Occupational Health (University of Pretoria)
FCPHM Public Health Medicine (CMSA)

Dr Zungu is a Public Health Medicine specialist, and the Head of Unit of TB HIV in the workplace at the National Institute of Occupational Health.

He has worked in project management, health management, communicable disease control, occupational health services, clinical management of diseases, management and strategic development, teaching undergraduate and post graduate students as well as civil servants.

Specific workplace interventions include HIV/TB in the workplace for the NIOH/NHLS, and workplace occupational health services as well as EAP planning and provision for government departments and the private sector.

ABSTRACT

Healthcare workers in South African healthcare facilities work in environments with a high density of tuberculosis patients due to the dual burden of tuberculosis and human immunodeficiency virus in the population, thus predisposing them to contracting tuberculosis. Despite the knowledge of the high tuberculosis incidence and the likelihood of tuberculosis transmission to both health care workers and patients, and the availability of basic infection control measures in our healthcare facilities, there is still inadequate implementation of infection control measures in healthcare facilities.

This paper seeks to review the knowledge base, instruments for tuberculosis control, the implementation of these tools and the knowledge gaps within the healthcare system in South Africa.

A comprehensive review of scholarly literature was conducted based on Internet search engines. The review revealed the availability of adequate knowledge and tools for the control of tuberculosis in healthcare facilities, but inadequate implementation of infection control measures.

Keywords

Occupationally acquired tuberculosis, healthcare workers, infection control, healthcare settings
A Paradigm shift in Performance Management: The South African Model

DR LUNGILE NDLOVU
Managing Director: Khanyanjalo Consulting
DPhil Nursing Management (UNIZULU)
Mcur (University of Natal: Howard College)
Bcur Hons (UNIZULU) Bcur (UNISA)
DNA (UNIZULU) PHC RN RM

Dr. Ndlovu is a founder member and the Managing Director of Khanyanjalo Consulting. She served in the Department of Health for twenty one years. She completed her training as a General Nurse and Midwife in 1986, and in the same year joining the Department as a junior professional nurse, moving quickly from novice to expert along the various ranks of nursing. She worked as a Deputy Director-Nursing services (Chief Matron) at a regional hospital, a Chief Executive Officer in District and Regional hospitals in KwaZulu-Natal, turning hospitals around in their physical outlook, systems and processes, as well as the general ethos and attitudes of staff within a short period.

In 2006 she represented the country at the regional World Health Organization conference (WHO-AFRO) on “Strengthening the role of hospitals in Africa, held in Congo-Brazzaville.

In 2007 Dr. Ndlovu left the Public service to venture into private business, hence the birth of Khanyanjalo Consulting. She has since then been involved with the Provincial Health Departments, doing training and consultancy work in many areas. This includes conducting quality audits, designing and implementing successful quality improvement strategies for Nursing Services in various Health Districts.

Dr. Ndlovu projects an image of the highest personal and professional integrity, and she is a mentor and a role model to a number of professionals and managers.

ABSTRACT

The establishment of the Department of Performance Monitoring and Evaluation on 1 January 2010 was a clear demonstration of Government’s commitment to ensure that performance of departments makes meaningful impact in the lives of all South Africans. To this end, the office of Minister Collins Chabane at the Presidency has developed and published indicators clustered into about ten themes, against which the performance of the country will be measured. The assessments will include the institutions performance against the strategic plan, as well as the quality of the institutions management practices.

This paper seeks to:

- Outline the objective of performance management
- Reflect on the challenge of managing performance in the Public Sector
- Outline the principles of setting the scene for performance management
- Reflect on the process of performance management
- Share experiences of Performance management in the Public sector
- Identify mechanisms for implementation
Enhancing the quality of clinical teaching and learning in South Africa

DR. EUNICE SEEKOE
Head of Department Nursing Sciences
University of Fort Hare
PhD (UJ), MBA (UFS), M. Soc. Science (UFS),
B. Cur (UNISA)

Eunice commonly known as Pinky Seekoe is a nurse by profession and has extensive experience as an academic, clinician and held management positions in Health care organisations. She has experience in conducting research and leading research projects independently. She has written and published in national and internationally accredited journals. She supervised post-graduate students and has served as an external examiner in this regard. She has the experience and the capacity to fundraise for different types of projects including research. She travelled internationally (UK, Australia, USA, Egypt, Korea and Europe) and presented papers at conferences.

She has worked and gained experience in management at government level which make her understand and be able to negotiate and advocate for the nursing profession at policy development level.

She served in different committees and holds leadership positions in different organisations, few of which are indicated below:

- Director of the resource committee of STTI (Sigma Theta Tau International; Africa Honour Society of Nursing)
- Chairperson of the leadership succession committee of STTI (Sigma Theta Tau International; Africa Honour Society of Nursing)
- Chairperson of the Academic Leadership Development Academy of STTI (Sigma Theta Tau International; Africa Honour Society of Nursing)
- Chair CHBC programme: Free State Provincial co-ordinating committee of Health
- Representative and chair of Disciplinary and Appeals Committee of Ann Lastky Nursing College

The heart and soul of nursing education is the clinical practicum, where nursing knowledge is shaped into professional practice. It is in this vein that Infante (1987, p. 176) states: “A clinically active nurse teacher cannot only change the way nursing is taught, but can ultimately change the way nursing is practiced.” Commitment to clinical teaching is upheld also by Cox and Ewan (1985, p. 102) who maintain that “a basic tenet of clinical instruction is an enthusiastic teacher, a patient with an illness and a small group of enthusiastic students.

This paper will address:
- The purpose of clinical teaching
- Theoretical framework guiding clinical teaching and learning
- Stakeholders involved in clinical teaching and learning
- The process of clinical teaching and learning
- The related dynamics
- The outcome

ABSTRACT

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This paper will address:
- The purpose of clinical teaching
- Theoretical framework guiding clinical teaching and learning
- Stakeholders involved in clinical teaching and learning
- The process of clinical teaching and learning
- The related dynamics
- The outcome
Quality nursing education is key to quality nursing practice. It is where the ‘future’ nurse practitioner is nurtured through acquisition of knowledge, skills and values designed to make her an asset rather than a liability to provision of quality nursing practice and the nursing profession itself.

Concerns exist within and external to the profession that quality nursing is dangerously ‘slipping through our fingers’, to the detriment of the image of the profession and harm to customers of nursing practice. Instead of pointing fingers, the paper will give both nurse educators and nurse managers an opportunity to examine their complementary roles and factors that weaken instead of facilitating these roles.

Ownership by both parties, of strategies identified to strengthen these roles will be an important outcome of this paper.

This paper will address the following:

- The profile of the nurse-learner
- The difference in focus of nurse educators and nurse managers and clinical staff and how each perceives her/his scope of responsibility for the quality of the product of the nursing education system.
- Factors that facilitate or inhibit each from taking their responsibility will be analysed
- The stages of skills acquisition in clinical nursing and the importance of coaching and mentoring throughout all these stages, reinforced and improved through life-long learning
- Theory load versus clinical practice load for both nurse educator and learner and how each contributes to quality of nursing practice.
- Factors that constitute dilemmas for the nurse learner in the clinical environment
- Role of continuous self-assessment and assessment by those responsible for and affected by the nursing education system will be emphasised.
Attrition of students is a major concern not only for the nursing profession but also the government. Attrition negatively impacts on the needed supply of professional nurses to perform administrative and teaching duties. The South African Nursing Council does identify the shortage of nurses in South Africa. It asserts that the overall production of nurses does not keep up with the increase in population and this affects among other things the implementation of Primary Health Care.

The Democratic Nursing Organisation also asserts that there is shortage, stating that South Africa is not producing/training sufficient nurses to deal with the health needs of the country. Other organisations allude to the shortage of health personnel generally and nurses specifically. For instance the Department of Labour master list of scarce and critical skills list a shortage of 10,250 professional nurses and 4,120 primary health care nurses, thus advocating a total need of 14,370 nurses. According to the nurse educator’s experience, there is recurrent relation between attrition and the shortage of nursing workforce.

This paper presentation therefore discusses some of the underlying issues that may contribute towards attrition of student nurses and propose measure to address it.

**Key words:** attrition, student nurse, commitment, nurse educator, Professional nurse and South Africa

Dr. Masango’s career in Nursing Education started at the Nursing Science Department of the University of Zululand, as a junior lecturer with a lot of passion in teaching Ethos & Professional Practice both at undergraduate and post graduate levels. She moved quickly along the various ranks as a lecturer until she became a senior lecturer, supervising research both at undergraduate and post graduate levels, and at the same time in charge of the international linkage programme at the University of Zululand.

Dr. Masango was an external moderator for the KwaZulu-Natal College of Nursing. She has a passion on the strategic health programmes, that is TB & HIV / AIDS and as such was employed by the University Research Cooperation, as a Co-ordinator for TB / HIV & AIDS in KwaZulu-Natal.
Professional negligence in South Africa: The Nurse-Doctor perspective

ADELE VAN DER WALT

Head of the Medical Law Firm
Waterkloof-Pretoria
(B.Proc. LLB )
University Of Pretoria)

Adele Van der Walt heads a corporate law firm specializing in medical law and more specifically in medical negligence cases on behalf of patients. The firm operates from Pretoria, Waterkloof Ridge and represents patients throughout South Africa and abroad. As a specialist medical law practitioner Adele has represented clients on a national base in actions against State hospitals, private hospitals and medical practitioners in both the High Court and the Constitutional Court.

Adele has addressed many interest groups in the health care fraternity on all aspects of medical law. Various articles have been published by her over a number of years and she partakes in Radio and TV programs in this field on a regular basis

ABSTRACT

Practicing as a health care professional is based upon a relationship of mutual trust between patients and health care practitioners. The term “Profession” means ‘A disciplined group of individuals who adhere to high ethical standards and uphold themselves to, and are accepted by the public as possessing special knowledge and skills in a widely recognised, organised body of learning derived from education and training at a high level, and who are prepared to exercise this knowledge and these skills in the interest of others.

It is implied that the labour and skill used will be of a specific standard. If professionals fail to do this, and their patients’ lives are put at risk professionals are liable for damages.

The Professional bodies may also institute an inquiry into any complaint, charge or allegation of unprofessional conduct against any practitioner, agency etc.. In the absence of a complaint, charge or allegation, these bodies may institute an inquiry into any alleged unprofessional conduct that comes to its notice.

This paper seeks to:

✓ Clarify the concept of professional negligence
✓ Outline the evolution of medical malpractice law in South Africa
✓ Outline the magnitude and different forms/types of professional negligence in health care
✓ Reflect on professional liability and vicarious liability
✓ Explain the elements of professional negligence
✓ Outline the principles of handling the patients and relatives in the process of litigation
✓ Reflect on the quantum of the case
Ubuntu in the Nursing Profession
An Eclectic Model

PROF FHUMULANI MAVIS MULAUDZI
Associate Professor and Head of Department
University of Pretoria
DLitt et. Phil (UNISA), M Cur (UNISA), Bcur HONS (UNISA) Bcur (UNISA). RN, RM

Fhumulani Mavis Mulaudzi is the head of the Department of Nursing science at the University of Pretoria. She completed her doctoral studies at the University of South Africa in 2004 and has held teaching positions at the University of South Africa, University of North West and University of Pretoria. Based on her contribution in nursing scholarship, she is also one of the founder members of the fellows of Academy of nursing in South Africa(ANSA).

Prof Mulaudzi is a preeminent international scholar in the field of Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) and Healing as it is applied to nursing science.

She has chosen IKS as her research focus and has contributed significantly to the advancement of IKS in health care. She is known among her peers as an advocate and a pioneer of Indigenous knowledge. She is currently advocating for mainstreaming of the healing traditions in the nursing curriculum.

She has also been instrumental in assisting in the development of the international Bamboo Bridge community, an international community of nurses dedicated to the development of integrative nursing practice, scholarship, and community programs based on a philosophical foundation of cultural diplomacy. Her International work on healing traditions was also acknowledged by the World Health Organization in 2009.

She received an award as a runner-up for the distinguished women in Science (Indigenous Knowledge System 2011) for her outstanding contribution to building South Africa’s scientific and research knowledge base. She is the vice chairperson of the Forum for University Nursing Deans in South Africa (FUNDISA) She is a member of the CSIR ethics committee.

ABSTRACT

Nursing remains one of the noblest professions in which ethical principles such as respect for autonomy, justice, beneficence, fidelity and veracity take precedence. Nurses have always provided nursing care to all patients regardless of race, creed, nationality, social and economic standing. Nurses embody the virtues of humanity, compassion, trust and honesty. However, lately the nursing profession faces many challenges including lack of or poor quality of care in our hospitals and clinics as a result of narrow socio-political constructs. At fault is the fact that theories and concepts at the core of nursing leadership, practice, education and research emanate from foreign western epistemologies.

This on-going ‘intellectual colonisation’ drastically retards innovative thinking requisite to redress the past with philosophies that define professional nursing. This paper aims to promote the African philosophy of Ubuntu and its trademark values of caring and how these can be infused into the fundamentals of modern day nursing to rekindle the caring ethos traditionally synonymous with the profession.

Ubuntu appeals for intellectual dynamism and visionary leadership to explore windows of opportunities to implement nursing policies and programs that will better reflect the needs and wishes of the communities we serve.
NOTES
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