

Editorial

Nursing: to dare, to dream and to deliver



Dare Dream Deliver – the exciting theme for the 2023 Forum for Professional Nurse Leaders (FPNL) and the Nursing Education Association (NEA) joint conference. The theme challenges nurse educators, leaders and practitioners to dare to dream for the profession, but also dares them to deliver on those dreams.

We, as a profession, are sailing turbulent waters and the challenges some days make us feel as if the future will never deliver on our dreams and our needs. The leaders are concerned about today and tomorrow and feel we might not have what it takes to deal with the situation! The challenge to dare, to dream, and to deliver are discomfoting, and the future of our profession now needs us to use our discomfort as fuel to launch our dreams into action!

“When everything seems to be going against you, remember that the airplane takes off against the wind, not with it” (Henry Ford).

Over the last few years, nursing as a profession was able to take off against very strong and turbulent winds and earn a definite recognised place in the hall of fame! Nursing as the profession managed to shine bright, to be on the frontline of saving lives and, for numerous patients, the only communication and contact with the outside world.

The unplanned, unforeseen and frightening pandemic that crossed our paths taught not only the healthcare systems but also nursing as a profession that, with our inherent courage, we can be winners and overcome challenges. With a concerted team effort, focused communication and the will to dare, we can deliver on our dreams to grow as a profession.

With the desperate skill shortages, experienced nurses had to work in areas unfamiliar to them. This highlighted the need for additional training and as such gave nurses the opportunity to expand their skills and knowledge. However, nursing is now faced with an exodus of nurses due to burnout, post-traumatic stress and just no courage to face the everyday challenges any longer, leaving the healthcare institutions struggling to deliver comprehensive nursing services to the patients and their families.

Now that we know that we can overcome the most difficult challenges, we must focus our dreams in delivering on the most daring challenges in nursing. Ride the wave of public awareness of nursing and dare to put in the effort to strengthen leadership and optimise this workforce for an effective response to the health needs of the population.

“Over the last few years, the profession has proven its determination to continuously provide the best care and education; Resilience to persevere with innovative efforts to provide education and nursing care under difficult conditions; Energy, competence and willingness to drive change as accountable practitioners committed to quality education and practice; and the ability to maintain and monitor practice and education standards”. ***Dare Dream Deliver***, an invitation to all Nurse practitioners – “... winners don’t lose hope; instead, they persevere and keep working until they find a viable solution” (Dr Irene C Kassorla)

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