2019 Twelfth National Doctors of Nursing Practice Conference: Washington, D.C.

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AUGUST 7-9, 2019

Contributions of the DNP Prepared Nurse: Policy Influencing Outcomes

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CONFERENCE HOMEPAGE
We recognize that doctorally nursing professionals can contribute to healthcare, but that point of view has been limited to the United States. How is the practice doctorate viewed in other nations? An internet search identified interesting information that gives us all a reason to pause and reflect on what we are trying to accomplish with the DNP degree.

A Mixed Bag
Several web sites shed some light on practice opportunities and limitations in select countries. The top recommendation is the International Advanced Practice Nursing site, https://internationalapn.org, which allows the visitor to explore all listed nations. The availability of the APRN role and its parameters of practice can be found in this compilation.

A review of this site, its blogs, as well as other sites that address advanced practice and doctoral education, show that the Anglophone countries have a tendency to accept and grow what we in the United States recognize as advanced practice nurses. Canada has recognized advanced practice nursing for more than 40 years; the United Kingdom for more than 30 years; Ireland for 15 years; Germany for 8 years; and Hong Kong for close to 30 years. Mainland China has no formal advanced practice or doctorate degree in nursing … yet.

I think you’ll agree it’s a mixed bag of education and practice for our nursing colleagues in other countries. This begs the question: Are doctorally prepared advanced practices in the United States blazing a trail for nursing practice and education internationally, or are we an aberration compared to the rest of the world? Asked another way: Are our efforts to produce a practice doctorate in nursing truly advancing healthcare outcomes and providing a model of practice that can be translated to other countries?

We have an opportunity to look at ourselves in the context of what our colleagues are doing around the planet. Are we actually performing the goals and expectations that we have been charged to accomplish with our educational preparation?

Access, Efficiency, Equity
The above questions could be sources of data collection, research and analysis for scholars now and well into the future. The Commonwealth Fund shared some interesting information in its 2014 “Mirror, Mirror” report comparing the U.S. health system with that of other countries (http://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/fund-reports/2014/jun/mirror-mirror): Among the 11 nations studied—Australia, Canada, France, Germany, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States—the U.S. ranks last, as it did in the 2010, 2007, 2006, and 2004 editions of Mirror, Mirror.

Most troubling, the U.S. fails to achieve better health outcomes than the other countries, and as shown in the earlier editions, the U.S. is last or near last on dimensions of access, efficiency and equity.

In 2016, the Peter G. Peterson Foundation made this sad commentary: “Although the United States spends more on healthcare than other developed countries, its health outcomes are generally no better.” (Visit http://www.pgpf.org/chart-archive/0011_health-outcomes.)

Other indicators of successful outcomes explore parameters including disease management, expenditures, and morbidity and mortality rate. It’s sad to see that the United States is not leading the planet with success stories. Is the practice doctorate degree in nursing, a relatively new and rapidly growing terminal practice degree, influencing the data reflecting our high costs and low outcomes compared to other nations? Would other countries that are new to advanced practice and doctorally prepared nursing have improved outcomes as a result of higher education and practice? For nations that do not ascribe to advanced practice or doctorally prepared nursing, could they improve the health of citizens by following the path of the nursing discipline in the United States?

After reviewing this information and pondering these challenges, I have a thought. Doctorally prepared advanced practice nurses have a tremendous duty that begins at home. Influencing outcomes is our concern. We are growing, evolving and blazing paths that can support this goal, but we have a long way to go. Keeping a laser focus on dynamics here in this country while applying what works in other countries may help turn the tide in quality and cost. Our nation, healthcare system, and nurses at all levels of practice are in exciting and challenging times. Are we ready to press forward together?
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If I only knew then that all preceptorships are not created equal.

As I reflect going into my sixth year as a practitioner, I realize that I am a product of a great school but most importantly, exceptional preceptors.

But how does one differentiate a good preceptor from one who is exceptional if there is no standard?

Unfortunately, most students discover that the quality of their preceptorship differs from their peers after they share their experiences. Only to discover that one preceptor may not have permitted a student to perform hands-on skills until four weeks into the practicum experience or preceptorship. Whereas, another preceptor may have started Day 1 with “let me see what you can do.” I am confident that you are familiar with this variety and, like me, your greatest concern is the health care outcomes that will be delivered by our next-generation nurse practitioners (NEXGENNPs).

Of course, I wasn’t surprised when I conducted a pilot survey amongst my fellow Atlanta NPs to assess their preceptor search experience. I learned that the second greatest concern among NP students after landing a preceptor was the quality of the preceptorship. Over 60 percent of the students who started their preceptorship stated it was a “hit or miss.” This is when I recognized the possibility that I am who I am today because of the quality of my preceptorship established by my preceptors. This academic year, I challenge preceptors and our NEXGENNPs to work together and devise a learning plan.

Here are some things to consider when beginning your preceptorship:

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- Showcase DNP practice projects to share outcomes with colleagues and consumers.
- Educate patients, organizations and health care systems on the contributions of the DNP prepared nursing professional.
- Support DNP educational programs and practice partners to demonstrate the influence of the DNP prepared nurse.
- One time charge per student listing of $30 to defray cost of repository development and maintenance.

CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION
Dissemination Team Information

Welcome San Jose State University and Purdue University Global for joining the Dissemination Team. They have made a commitment to supporting their students in sharing the scholarly practice work of their DNP graduates. Their investment provides a $5 discount for all students that upload their completed projects to the DNP Repository.

DNP Repository Featured Scholars

The contributions and posting of doctoral projects in the DNP repository continue to reflect the skills and talents of DNP prepared colleagues. Here’s a sample of what can be found in the DNP Doctoral Project Repository:

**Quality Improvement Project to Implement Perinatal Depression Guidelines**, by Maria Lisa Rubolino-Gallego, DNP, MSN, FNP-C, RN, a graduate of Touro University Nevada.

**Mental Health Education for Educators**, by Susan Ann Rufolo, DNP, RN, CEN, a graduate of Bradley University.

**Patient Education and Medication Adherence in COPD: The Effects of Education Related to Exacerbation Events**, by Amelia Schreibman, DNP, APN-BC, a graduate of Grand Canyon University.

The Doctoral Project Repository is an archive of curated documents. This archive is not peer-reviewed and does not replace or presume any publication effort. Each listing is owned by the individual that uploads the completed academic scholarly practice project. This service allows you to share ideas and work products into both the scholarly and consumer communities.

Is your doctoral project in the repository? Are colleagues and graduates of your university listed? [Click here](#) to learn more and to upload your project.
Social Determinants of Health Survey: Calling All APRNs and Nurse Executives, posted by our colleague Simone Rose Verela. Please participate in this phase of her doctoral studies.

DNP Candidate Seeking Nurse Practitioner Volunteers Who Provide Care to Older Adults for Scholarly Project, posted by Angela Pickerel. Please assist Angela in her doctoral studies by participating in this survey.

Seeking Practicum Site, posted by Marsha Powell-Williams who lives in New York but is happy to partner remotely with an organization for a quality improvement project.

APRNs should be able to practice to full scope of their practice! A Forum discussion initiated by Dawn Lyke in the DNP Practice Issues area of the DNP Online Community.

Strength of Weakness in DNP Diversity, with over 90 replies, check it out and share your thoughts and insights.

Should the DNP be required for Nurse Educators? Started by Ellen Huenink had garnered a lively discussion. She what colleagues are saying and join the conversation.

DNP Groups of Interest: (the latest activity in the Online Community)
California Organization of Doctors of Nursing Practice (CODNP)
New England Organization of Doctors of Nursing Practice (NEODNP)
Population/Public Health DNPs
DNPs of Color - DOCs
Pediatric DNPs

Events of Interest to DNP Students and Graduates
Nursing Informatics Boot Camp, August 2-3, 2019
12th National Doctors of Nursing Practice Conference, August 7-9, 2019, Washington, DC
American Association of Nurse Attorneys 2019 Annual Conference, August 8-10, 2019
American Association of Diabetic Educators Annual Conference, August 9-12, 2019
American Association of Nurse Anesthetists Annual Conference, August 9-13, 2019
Academy of Spinal Cord Injury Professionals 2019 Conference, September 1-4, 2019
Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses 2019, September 5-7, 2019
2019 International Conference on Forensic Nursing Science & Practice, September 11-14, 2019
12th Annual Advanced Practice Provider (APRN & PA) Leadership Summit, September 11-14, 2019
American Society for Pain Management Nursing 29th National Conference, September 18-21, 2019
Nursing Informatics Boot Camp, September 20-21, 2019
NLN 2019 Education Summit, September 25-28, 2019

If you know of an event that supports the growth and development of nursing colleagues, please post it to the EVENTS page. It’s free, and reaches thousands every month. Click the ADD button on this page to post an event.
The July 2019 Survey explored Essential VIII addressing the development of specialization within the larger domain of nursing. What are your thoughts on these findings? Do you agree with our peers?

Question 1: Essential VIII assures the DNP graduate is prepared to practice in an area of specialization within the larger domain of nursing. As a result of your DNP education, have you conducted a comprehensive and systematic assessment of health and illness parameters in complex situations, incorporating diverse and culturally sensitive approaches?
81% very much to absolutely, 19% somewhat to not at all

Question 2: After graduation, have you designed, implemented, and evaluated therapeutic interventions based on nursing and other sciences?
88% very much to absolutely, 12% somewhat to not at all

Question 3: As a result of your earned DNP degree, have you demonstrated advanced levels of clinical judgment, systems thinking, and accountability in designing, delivery, and evaluating evidence-based care to improve patient outcomes?
94% very much to absolutely, 6% somewhat to not at all

Question 4: As a DNP prepared nurse, have you guided, mentored, or supported other nurses to achieve excellence in nursing practice, and/or educated individuals or groups through complex health and situational transitions?
94% very much to absolutely, 6% somewhat to not at all

Question 5: After graduation, have you used conceptual and analytical skills in evaluating the links among practice, organization, population, fiscal, and policy issues?
94% very much to absolutely, 6% somewhat to not at all

Do these findings reflect your experience and point of view?

Click HERE to take the August 2019 Survey
ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATE

As this electronic newsletter is published, we are a few short days away from the 12th National Doctors of Nursing Practice Conference taking place at the Fairmont Georgetown, Washington, DC August 7-9, 2019. This single even is a culmination of efforts of colleagues, supports, and friends of the organization. This national conference reflects the talents and willingness to share and give back to our profession and our patients. I am excited to re-connect with colleagues and be a small part of growing our profession and the DNP degree so that we can collectively grow and address the ever-changing dynamics of health care.

All presentations focus on the integration of policy into complex practice. Each presentation has been converted to PDF and are posted on the DNP web site for viewing before, during, and after the event.

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Annual National DNP Conference  
Repository of Scholarly Practice Projects  
Dissemination Team to promote DNP scholarly and practice  
DNP University Program Listing  
OUTCOMES Monthly electronic newsletter  
DNP Inc. Foundation: Grants and Scholarships to expand and implement projects

Valuable Links
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Continuing Education (in development)  
DNP Online Community

Best wishes to all colleagues,  
David Campbell-O’Dell, DNP
A Natural Collaboration: An Extra Benefit to YOU

We are proud of the affiliation and mutually supportive efforts between the Journal of Doctoral Nursing Practice and Doctors of Nursing Practice, Inc. Both the journal and this non-profit service organization have mutual goals of supporting the growth and development of doctoral prepared nurses to improve healthcare outcomes.

Journal of Doctoral Nursing Practice is a biannual, peer-reviewed publication focused on presenting articles that demonstrate clinical excellence in the application of evidence-based practice of doctoral nursing. Articles submitted for consideration discuss clinical practice and patient care; case studies; practice issues, including management, scope of practice, and reimbursement; ethical dilemmas, legal issues, and business practices; and innovative methods of teaching and evaluating advanced practice and profiling the scholarly nature of the clinical practice of nursing.

The mission of Journal of Doctoral Nursing Practice is to support the advancement of the doctoral practice of nursing.

The editor of this journal, Dr. Stephen Ferrara, along with Springer Publishing Company has agreed to share a link to one of the published articles. This is a FREE article exclusively for members of Doctors of Nursing Practice, Inc.

This month’s FREE article from the Journal of Doctoral Nursing Practice is:

Grieving the Loss-of-Self: Challenges in Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus Self-Management (https://connect.springerpub.com/content/sgrjdnp/11/1/25)

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