NURSING ADVOCACY:
LEADING CHANGE THROUGH
GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

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“The more intensely we feel about an idea or a goal, the more assuredly the idea, buried deep in our subconscious, will direct us along the path to its fulfillment.”

~ Earl Nightingale
Approximately 234 million surgeries/year worldwide
- large variations in quality, safety

Wrong site surgery occurs across the globe
- WHO checklist launched

Developing nations perform surgery with insufficient equipment in substandard buildings with poorly trained personnel
- WHO handwashing campaign, Lifebox program

Much remains to be discovered about worldwide perianaesthesia nursing care delivery

Many countries still without establishment of post anaesthetic care unit

- some developed countries do not yet recognize this nursing specialty

Severe shortage of global health professionals

- increasing migration of patients and nurses

Globalization changed dynamics of the healthcare workplace

Cultural intelligence quotient needed

- cognitive
- physical
- emotional/motivational

National health care budgets and research grant funding increasingly stressed

Nurses called to engage in multinational partnerships
- prudently allocate resources
- grow shared body of evidence to support best practice

Collaboration can …
- change existing attitudes, promote understanding
- foster multicultural experiences and nurses’ cultural competence
- further nurses’ understanding of socioeconomic conditions and related health disparities

… ultimately advance global practices!

“So never lose an opportunity of urging a practical beginning, however small, for it is wonderful how often in such matters the mustard-seed germinates and roots itself.”

~ Florence Nightingale
Historical nursing image

- Rooted in early Christianity
- Based in emotional realm versus skill level
- Charitable / altruistic / devotional
- Voice is silent, anonymous

Common nurse personality traits

- Intelligent
- Educated
- Caring
- Devoted
- Committed
- Trusted
The nursing profession must be both vocal and actively engaged in major health care issues.

Barriers affecting advocacy

- Apathy - not caring
- Disempowerment
- Feelings of inadequacy; preparedness, message
- Lack of knowledge, education, tools, strategy
- Lack of time on part of advocates
Advocacy & the power of voice

- Speaking on behalf of a particular issue, idea or person
  - pleading, supporting a cause
  - ability to influence, transform, mobilize

- Process of actions to bring about change

- Collaborate with other health care professionals to promote community, national, international efforts

- Commit to continuous learning through education, skill development, evidence-based practice (EBP)
I'm just a Nurse. I just make the difference between life and death. I just have the educated eyes that prevent medical errors, injuries, and other catastrophes. I'm just a researcher who helps nurses and doctors give better, safer, and more effective care. I just work in a major teaching hospital managing and monitoring patients who are receiving experimental, cutting edge treatment.

just a Nurse

I just educate patients and families about how to maintain their health. I just make the difference between a person staying in their own home and going to a nursing home. I'm just a professor of nursing who educates future generations of nurses. I just make the difference between dying in agony and dying in comfort and with dignity. I'm just central to providing the real bottom-line in health care.

Don't you want to be just a Nurse too?

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Using our voice to advocate with authority

• Feel ownership over an area of practice or inquiry
• Articulate and be confident that our voices should be heard
• Science based practice improves nursing and patient outcomes
  - the gift of nursing research and evidence-based practice
• Share best practices
  - global collaboration
  - embrace diversity
• Provide outreach for underserved colleagues/patients around the world
• Foster our young nurses, act as mentors

Photo available at http://www.lonestar.edu/departments/libraries/kingwood-library/NurseLeadership.jpg
Embrace collegial relationships

Learn to better articulate / explain the intellectual characteristics, specialized role and value of nursing in health care delivery to consumers (patients, families, interprofessional colleagues)

Participate in professional nursing organization activities to support a mission to contribute to future of our chosen profession
Thank you for attending ICPAN 2015!

"I think one's feelings waste themselves in words; they ought all to be distilled into actions which bring results.

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE