



2020 is the “Year of the Nurse and Midwife”



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2020 has been designated as the “Year of the Nurse and Midwife” by the World Health Organization.¹ This campaign is working in collaboration with the International Council of Nurses and also coincides with the Nursing Now! Campaign, which will complete its efforts in 2020.² Reports on the state of nursing will be published this year to raise the profile and status of nursing worldwide. They will be essential to informing policy on education, legislation, and workforce development to support nurses continuing to meet the health care challenges and needs around the world.

Developing nursing and advanced practice nurses, such as midwives and nurse practitioners (NPs) around the world, inclusive of developed countries, has a triple impact: improves gender equity, strengthens economies, and improves the health of the population as a whole.³ NPs are not explicitly mentioned as a focus of this report or as a separate nursing role. Still, I hope that the need for NPs will become evident and that the reports generated from these endeavors can be used to support continued and new development of the NP role worldwide.

Considering the advanced nursing role that nurse-midwives perform and their integral presence in many countries, they set an example that can lead the way for the development of the NP role. Although we are still a young profession as NPs, we are not as nurses, and we have the evidence to support the effectiveness of care provided by NPs that can be used to strengthen the development of this advanced practice role in other countries. JNP would like to support the dissemination of information about exemplar efforts nurses and NPs are making to bring our role to other countries.

These organizations’ efforts intentionally coincide with the 200th anniversary year of Florence Nightingale’s birth. Nightingale has been one of my heroes since I learned about her in my first semester of nursing school. I admit an obsession with this visionary woman, who was so ahead of her time. I have read her work and biographies about her life. As a nurse who advanced nursing practice, she led the way for future nurses to do the same, including nurse-midwives and NPs. All advanced practice nurses owe her a debt of gratitude.

In this “Year of the Nurse,” I hope we can all remember that we are nurses first and foremost. Our origin as nurses is what makes us part of an amazing global group of individuals. A group that provides over 50% of the health workforce in many countries and are a significant part of achieving universal health coverage. I encourage you to read these reports when they are released and use them to advance policies that support all nurses, which, in the end, helps us all.

References

1. World Health Organization. Executive Board designates 2020 as the "Year of the Nurse and Midwife." 2019. <https://www.who.int/hrh/news/2019/2020year-of-nurses/en>.
2. World Health Organization. Nursing Now Campaign. 2019. https://www.who.int/hrh/news/2018/nursing_now_campaign/en/.
3. All-Party Parliamentary Group on Global Health. Triple Impact – how developing nursing will improve health, promote gender equality and support economic growth: London, 17 October 2016. <http://www.appg.globalhealth.org.uk/>.

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Erratum

The credentials for the author of "Physical Activity and Exercise Adherence in People With Hematologic Malignancies" were incorrect in the September 2019 issue. The online version has been corrected to Eileen Danaher Hacker PhD, RN, AOCN, FAAN.

