

The Power of Nurse-led Research: Amplifying the Voice of Nursing Practice and Perspective



Nurses are uniquely positioned to drive change and improve healthcare outcomes. However, lack of visibility and influence in research settings often limits our impact. The University of the Philippines College of Nursing (UPCN) in celebration of its 75th Founding Anniversary in 2023 compiled its research work in recent years to highlight the importance of nurse-led research and the vital role it plays in shaping nursing practice and sharing nursing perspective on the many issues that confront the current health care landscape.

The papers featured in this special issue of *Acta Medica Philippina* showcase the sphere of influence of nursing research on health systems improvement ranging from a formative evaluation of eHealth to exploring skill-mix on health human resources and driving policy addressing resilience and retention of healthcare workers post-COVID-19 pandemic. The role of UPCN as a World Health Organization Collaborating Center for Leadership in Nursing Development is also manifested in capacity-building programs for nurses in the country and the region with its Global Health Nursing Leadership, advanced public health nursing course (NurseLEAD), and leadership development courses for public health nurses and midwives. As a Commission on Higher Education (CHED) Center of Excellence, it also developed and shared programs on flexible learning, simulation-based education, and interprofessional education, with their outcomes documented through action research. Community extension projects like the Health Promoting Schools in Marikina City and Project “*Lusog-Linang*” in Bamban, Tarlac also indicated potential impact on clients’ lives. These research projects show that nurse-led research is not only about caring at the bedside but also about shaping the future of healthcare through programs that influence nursing education and community extension, as well as policies that affect nursing practice and the health system in general.

Nurses must take an active role in driving innovation and healthcare improvement. We need to recognize the value of nurses’ work by providing adequate resources and infrastructure for nurse researchers, which include funding opportunities, mentorship programs, and institutional support for research initiatives. We need to celebrate the achievements of nurse researchers and amplify their voices through various channels – from peer-reviewed journals like this one to media outlets and community events. Nurse-led research is a necessity for advancing nursing practice and improving healthcare outcomes. By embracing our role as leaders in research initiatives, we can ensure that our profession remains at the forefront of shaping healthcare policy and practice.

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