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Innovation in nurse training: The integration of simulation into post-graduate education

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Around the world, nurses innovate to reduce costs in health systems, to improve patient care outcomes and to enhance the quality of patient care. Innovations in nursing have improved fields such as education, research, administration, practice, technology, public health and policies. Simulation is an innovation that has become even more important in recent years thanks to research results with a high evidential value. Simulation is an active learning strategy that provides students an efficient and secure learning environment. The studies in the relevant literature demonstrate that the use of simulation helps students be better prepared for professional life and increases patient security. In our country, a small number of schools have integrated simulation into education in undergraduate level and they have very limited facilities. However, relevant literature on simulation in post-graduate education in nursing is not accessible. Thus an elective course entitled "Simulation Instruction in Child Health Nursing" was opened in Hacettepe University's Faculty of Nursing Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology in Master's and Doctoral programs. The aim of this course is to gain knowledge, skills and analytical abilities for use in the instruction of maternal and child health and the assessment of skills. The practical foundation of this course is the high fidelity simulation laboratory and the hybrid simulation laboratory that were established by an EU project run by the course instructors. The instructors are informed about and experienced with simulation. They also have educational certificates in the subject. It is important that health professionals improve their knowledge and skills in all areas. However, it is a primary issue in our country for students to increase their knowledge and skills in maternal and child health, which are indicators of a nation's development level. Innovation should be accepted to be necessary for the creation of all policies and strategies if any kind of innovation is to be made. Institutions should promote innovative and creative practices, provide appropriate environments and act as role models and leaders.

Biography

Fusun Terzioglu graduated in first place from Hacettepe University in 1989. She won the Ihsan Dogramaci Superior Merit Award and Student Science Incentive Award. She studied about counseling on assisted reproductive techniques at Liverpool Women's Hospital Reproductive Medicine Unit in United Kingdom. In 2007, she worked on a project named "Development of Leadership Skills in Nursing Doctoral Students" at University of Michigan Faculty of Nursing. She worked as a Research Assistant at Hacettepe University School of Nursing in the Maternity and Women's Health Nursing Division from 1990 to 1997. She was promoted to Assistant Professor in 1998, Associate Professor in 2006 and Professor in 2012. She worked as a Co-Head of Nursing Department, Erasmus Department Coordinator, Head of Strategic Planning Group and board member of Hacettepe University Women's Research and Implementation Center (HUWRICH) between 2009 and 2011. Her interest subjects are sexuality and reproductive health and management and leadership. She is member of national and international nurse's organizations such as INDEN and Sigma Theta Tau. She has been working as a Director of Nursing Services at Hacettepe University Hospitals since September 2012 and Founding Dean of Faculty of Nursing between 2012- 2013.

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