



Nurses and Physicians, Best Partners

By; Dr. Kao Sheng-Po, Vice Director of Obstetrics and Gynecology Department & Standardized Patient Center Host, Hualien Tzu Chi Hospital

When I was invited to write something about nurses, the first image came to mind was “the best partners”. As a doctor, the most frequent contact people are the nursing staff. Moreover, after years of medical practice and playing different roles, I learned more about my partners – the nursing staff.

More than 20 years ago, doctors and nurses were treated differently in our society. Perhaps because of my personality, I respect all the nursing staff and learned a lot from them. Since then, I have always respected their professionalism and their importance in the medical field.

After I became an attending physician and with increasing clinical caseload, I came to appreciate the importance of our nursing staff in the medical field. Whether they are in the frontline or other specialty fields, their nursing knowledge and analytical ability always provide a source of positive energy. Their tender loving care towards patients is often neglected during medical treatment. Yet it is vital in the care of patients. They may look weak but in reality are firm and strong in the fields of caring for patients.





2017 Hualien Tzu Chi Hospital participated at Burkina Faso’s “Pregnancy and new born infant health care improvement plan” Dr. Kao Sheng-Po and pediatric nursing teacher training session.

Perhaps it is very hard for people to imagine that there are many demands or complaints from patients or their families that the medical teams have to face other than the medical care. The nursing staff has to face these challenges and resolve them. The issues may seem to be trivia or unimportant, but they actually reduce the conflict between patients and medical team and prevent many medical disputes. Of course, other than these issues, their professional training which includes medical knowledge and rigorous nursing care are critical part of patients’ recovery.

Other than the experience in medical practices, through teaching medicine, I have a lot of opportunities to work with the nursing staff. Therefore, I have learned more about their abilities and roles.

More than 10 years ago, after I learned from abroad about “standardized patient (SP)”, I came back to Hualien and establish the SP Center of Hualien Tzu Chi Hospital and started all related matters including faculty training. I held many workshops and training sessions. At the same time, other hospitals also invited me to give speeches and trainings. In two years, I attended about 50 speeches and workshops. I realized this is not a one-person’s task; we need more people to join the team so we can keep up with the volume at the center. I believe if we don’t have a selfish mind, we naturally have blessings from Bodhisattva. In one occasion, Assistant Professor Hsieh Mei-Lin from Tzu Chi University Nursing Department joined our team. Her professionalism had added a powerful reinforcement to our team. After that, we had Head Nurse Chiang Ju-Ping, Nurse Practitioner Tseng Pao-Huei, senior nurses Huang Bo-Jun, and Tao Pei-Yu, joined us and assisted us in many tasks such as teaching and assessments. We saw their rigorous attitude and professionalism in nursing through this process of cooperation. These excellent nursing staff demonstrated their efficiency and effectiveness. Because of their participation and assistance, we were successful in promoting standardizing patient care. Their professionalism as well as their energy was truly eye opening.

In 2017, I participated in the Burina Fasa's conference on "Pregnancy and Infant Care Improvement Plan". I witnessed the involvement of our nursing staff on two different occasions, especially the one planned by Nursing Dept. Supervisor Cheng Ya-Chun and assisted by Chen Chien-Yu in pediatric care and lectures. I was very impressed by their whole hearted devotion on training the staff. Moreover, at the beginning of October, 2017, I and Ya-Chen as well as Chien-Yu visited Burina Fasa, I learned a lot of precious information regarding Burina Fasa's public health system. During the process, I realized doctor's knowledge is still very limited, and was glad that I was accompanied by two experienced nursing staff. Thus I was able to obtain completed information for this visit. Therefore, after returning to Taiwan, I was able to tailor a training program for students and contribute to the International Cooperation Development Foundation by means of written reports.

Whenever I recall these years of practices and teaching experience, I feel the treatments received by our nursing staff as unfair. The profession of nursing is not just superficial tasks like administrating the medicine, I.V. injection or measuring blood pressure, etc. Their professional knowledge and skills are no less than medical doctors. Nurses are definitely doctors forever best partners.



Hualien Tzu Chi Hospital Standardized Patient Center regularly holds workshops, certain nursing professionals are necessary helpers to the center host Dr. Kao Sheng-Po. Photo depicts the 2017 new standardized patient volunteers training camp.