
Symposium 6.1: The role of researchers in global health and social care for older people

Thursday, 12th September - 11:00

Overview

The panel will consist of three linked presentations. They will be made by nurse researchers based in leading university nursing departments in Thailand, Brazil and sub-Saharan Africa. Peter Lloyd-Sherlock (Department of Nursing, Midwifery and Health, Northumbria University) will introduce and chair the panel.

Nurse researchers must be permitted to play a key role in health research, but do not always receive appropriate opportunities or recognition, especially in low and middle-income countries. The papers will review the current status of nurse-led research with particular reference to community-based health and care for older people in their respective countries. Each of these countries is seeing accelerated population ageing, creating new challenges for health systems at all levels.

Each paper will identify key areas of contribution, actual and potential, and key effects that facilitate or hinder their full participation. Together, the panel will seek to identify key strategies to strengthen future opportunities.

Paper 1: Advancing Nurse-Led Research in Cabo Verde: Opportunities and Challenges

Abstract ID 530

Authors

Dr. Deisa Semedo (University of Cape Verde)

Abstract

As the first nurse from Cabo Verde to obtain a PhD, I will draw on both my personal experiences and wider knowledge to review the status of nurse-led research in Cabo Verde. I will also draw on experiences of other countries with whom I have close connections, in different parts of Lusophone and western Africa.

At the moment, Cabo Verde does not have a university department dedicated to nurse research. The main concentration of expertise is located in the University of Cabo Verde's Faculty of Science and Technology. This includes expertise in a range of topics, including primary health care, gender and older people, and falls prevention. The faculty is planning to establish my country's first PhD programme for nurses later this year.

In Cabo Verde, the number of people aged 65 or over will more than treble by 2050. This will create huge challenges for the country's limited health care infrastructure. Cabo Verde has been included in a World Health Organization initiative to support home based care for older people. Participation has included multi-disciplinary with some nurse researchers. However, this is a mainly exceptional story. More generally, opportunities for nurse research in Cabo Verde are very limited.

Like the other speakers in this panel, I will draw on different forms of data to assess key opportunities and barriers for future nurse-led research in my country.

References

SEMEDO, D. S. R. C. ; PELZER, M. T. ; PORTELLA, M. R. ; LANGE, C. ; GOMES, G. C. . Domains That Influence the Quality of Life of the Elderly in the Cabo Verdean/African Context. *Medical - Clinical Research & Reviews* , v. 2, p. 1, 2018.

SEMEDO, DEISA SALYSE DOS REIS ; PELZER, MARLENE TEDA ; VENTURA, JEFERSON ; PAULA, SAUL FERRAZ DE ; MONIZ, ANA SUZETE BAESSA ; SEMEDO, JOSÉ ANTÓNIO CABRAL . Profile of nurses from Cape Verde/Africa: the influencing factors of life quality / Perfil dos enfermeiros de Cabo Verde-África: fatores que influenciam a qualidade de vida. *Revista de Pesquisa: Cuidado é Fundamental (Online)* , v. 10, p. 945, 2018.

Paper 2: The Development and Research Activities on Older People's Health of Chulalongkorn University's Faculty of Nursing, Thailand

Abstract ID 529

Authors

Dr. Siriphan Sasat (Faculty of Nursing, Chulalongkorn University)

Abstract

I will discuss the development and research activities of Chulalongkorn University's Faculty of Nursing. We established a PhD programme in 2002, and have awarded doctorates to over 90 nurses, including researchers from Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia, Vietnam, Indonesia, China, Pakistan, Jordan, and Ghana. The faculty has a strong focus on research relating to older people, including care practice and health behaviour related to chronic illness. In 2024 it established a national research centre on frail care nursing, and it has major funded research collaborations with partners in USA and several Asian countries.

In Thailand there is a rapid increase in the number of older people, especially those at the oldest ages. In 2020, Thailand contained 5.8 million people aged 70 or more, and this is projected to reach 10 million by 2050. During the past decade, Thailand has developed new community-based programmes for the health and social care of older people, and nurses play a major role in these activities. Consequently, there is a critical need for nurse participation in related research.

Despite the growing profile of Chulalongkorn's Faculty of Nursing, nurse-led research on older people's health in Thailand remains limited, compared to the role of medical doctors or other academic disciplines. I will review the strengths and limitations of nurse-led research on older people in Thailand, drawing on information collected through my networks (immediate past vice President of the Thai Society of Gerontology and Geriatric Medicine, and Chair of the Thailand Long-term Care Nurses Association). This will consider key obstacles to nurse research and possible solutions.

References

Lloyd-Sherlock, P., Margriet Pot, A., Sasat, S., Morales-Martinez, M. (2017). Volunteer provision of long-term care for older person in Thailand and Costa Rica: Lessons from the field. *Bulletin of the World Health Organization* 95(11): 774–778.

Lloyd-Sherlock, P., Sasat, S., Sanee, A., Miyoshi, Y., and Lee, S. (2021). The rapid expansion of residential long-term care services in Bangkok: A challenge for regulation. *Journal of Public Health and Development* 19(2): 89-101.

Thiamwong L. (2022). Future nursing research of older adults: Preserving independence and reducing health disparities. *Pac Rim Int J Nurs Res Thail* 26(1):1-5.

Paper 3: The role of nurse researchers in global health and care for older people

Abstract ID 531

Authors

Dr. Larissa Pedreira (School of Nursing, Federal University of Bahia), Dr. Tânia Maris Oliva Menezes (School of Nursing, Federal University of Bahia), Dr. Juliana Bezerra do Amaral (School of Nursing, Federal University of Bahia), Dr. Adriana Valéria Freitas (School of Nursing, Federal University of Bahia), Dr. Roberta Pereira Góes (School of Nursing, Federal University of Bahia), Mrs. Lélia Sobrinho (School of Nursing, Federal University of Bahia), Dr. Valdenir Almeida da Silva (School of Nursing, Federal University of Bahia), Mr. Jeferson Moreira dos Santos (School of Nursing, Federal University of Bahia), Dr. Peter Lloyd-Sherlock (United Kingdom)

Abstract

I will discuss the development and research activities of the Centre for Research on Older People (NESPI), which is based in the School of Nursing at the Federal University of Bahia, Brazil. NESPI was established in 1973 and is the oldest research centre specialising in the health of older people in Brazil.

The need for good nurse-led research about older people is very urgent. Between 2015 and 2050, the share of the Brazilian population aged 70 or over will approximately triple, from 5.1 to 16.4 percent. Older people in Brazil typically have higher levels of health and care needs compared to people of similar ages in rich countries. This represents a major challenge for our healthcare systems and nurses are key figures in responding.

NESPI's doctoral programme began in 2006, and it has trained more than 130 doctoral nurses. Key areas of research include transitional and home care interventions, nursing homes and end-of-life care for older people.

NESPI is an exceptional example in Brazil, where there are few postgraduate courses for nurses, in all areas, including elderly health. Furthermore, there are numerous social barriers to nurses' participation in research in Brazil, including gender effects. I will analyse these barriers, and identify the main paths to follow, based on the experiences of NESPI, as well as insights from Brazil's National Association of Gerontological Nursing.

References

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