

RIDING THROUGH RISKS INTO NEW FRONTIERS: THE NURSE, THE NURSED AND NURSING

452nd Inaugural lecture delivered by

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ABSTRACT

The Nurse is a gatekeeper to life and death, an “angel” who opens the eyes of a newborn and gently closes the eyes of a dying man. Understanding who a nurse is not is also vital in the bid to understand who nurses are. Assisting an individual that is sick or well in the performance of those activities contributing to health, its recovery or peaceful death that he would perform unaided if he had the necessary strength, will, or knowledge is my drive into becoming a Nurse.

Thus far, I have been able to contribute my quota in the following areas:

HIV/AIDS- I explored mainly care and support for people living with HIV and AIDS and the accompanying burden, risks, risk perception, service utilization and constraints of caring. I also contributed to the debates on globalization and HIV and AIDS with the focus on the sensitization of Nigerians to its global burden and understanding the implications for socio-economic development in Africa.

WOUND CARE- Although, this is a multidisciplinary clinical challenge, my contributions showed that complete wound assessment and accurate documentation are the two pivots on which effective wound care is based hence, wound care as the traditional role of nurses was expounded as it correctly tends to be perceived as being in Nursing purview focusing on nurses’ competencies in wound prevention and care.

NANDA-I, NIC AND NOC- As one of the two-man committee commissioned by Nursing and Midwifery Council of Nigeria in 2008, a training workshop for Nurses in Southwest Nigeria on Nursing process was conducted and articles published. Thereafter, we encouraged client’s study using the Nursing Process Format among practicing nurses, as well as among undergraduate and graduate students to facilitate its utilization.

GENERAL ONCOLOGY - This group of my research activities focused on cancer prevention and awareness of breast cancer screening, perception of the role of dietary factors in cancer

causation and the relationship between multiple sexual partners and cervical cancer. I also explored the knowledge, Information needs and practice of preventive measures of cervical cancer; Psychosocial support, nursing challenges and collaborative research in Cancer care as part of my contributions to knowledge. This led to my recent challenging of sole curative health care delivery model of cancer and making a case for genetic counselling as a preventive care service. My research has brought into focus the need to incorporate genetic counselling into nursing care of cancer patients and their relatives. It has also translated to the establishment of a Cancer Genetics Programme in the UCH, and other South western Teaching Hospitals.

There are more research discoveries to be done that will reposition Nursing in our great University of Ibadan as the best that we are, the Management and University College Hospital should support; the amalgamation of Schools of Nursing and Nurse Tutors Programme with the Department of Nursing as it is currently advocated by nursing stakeholders, the commencement of ODL in nursing urgently and metamorphosis of the Department into Faculty like Niger Delta University and LAUTECH.