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ELSI: The roots of nursing as viewed through a complex synergistic system lens

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Abstract

As the largest sector of the health professions in the United States with three million registered nurses, the world needs to hear our voices in forging a new vision in nursing education and practice. Nursing theory and practice is constantly evolving and Nursing 2013 is at the cutting edge of nursing. The purpose of this paper is to discuss ELSI: The Roots of Nursing. ELSI stands for Ethics, Legal, and Socio-cultural Issues, which are the roots of nursing and nursing's obligation to society and the world. The purpose of this paper is to integrate ethics, legal and socio-cultural issues as nursing's obligation to society and toward understanding nursing as a complex synergistic system. The theories that relates to ELSI are the complexity theory, synergy theory, and systems theory. Integrating these theories to form the Complex Synergistic System (CSS) remind all nurses the multifaceted nature of nursing (complexity theory), its collaborative relationship with various disciplines (synergy theory), and the permeability of nursing's boundaries (systems theory). ELSI as nursing's obligation to society and CSS as a theoretical framework grounds nursing education, practice, leadership, and Nursing 2013 to withstand and transform challenges into opportunities for growth and positive outcome. A theoretical framework such as CSS in ELSI is a powerful tool that shapes, engages, and guides thinking, feeling and behaving in nursing education, practice, and leadership. The use of evidence-based literature and practice is used as background and foreground of this 30-40 minute PowerPoint and audio-visually assisted presentation.

Biography

Rose E. Constantino, PhD, JD, RN, FAAN, FACFE, is Associate Professor at the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing, Department of Health and Community Systems. She teaches Forensic Nursing. She is the senior editor of Forensic Nursing: Evidence-based Principles and Practice published by F. A. Davis in 2013. Her pro bono family law practice is founded on her research on the consequences of Intimate Partner Violence on the health, safety and well-being of women, men and children worldwide. Her current research is in comparing the effectiveness of Online and Face-to-Face intervention in women and children in intimate partner violence. She is mentoring students in developing the HELPP Zone app as a training tool for bystanders worldwide in recognizing, responding and preventing relationship violence including domestic and sexual violence.

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