



The Future of Nursing: Promoting Change and Advancement in Health Care

A Report on the Nursing Observership Program for Somdech Phra Pinklao Hospital, Naval Medical Department, Royal Thai Navy.

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As the landscapes of health care are constantly changing, leaders in the nursing practice have a passion, vision and drive to exceed quality care and nurture innovation. It is crucial nurses stay on top of the latest health practices, delivery systems, regulations and administrative procedures. With research indicating that higher levels of nursing education lead to better patient outcomes, it is no longer a luxury to improve on current knowledge and practices — it is a necessity.

OBJECTIVE

To further enhance the level of knowledge within the Royal Thai Navy Nurses by offering a one-month nursing observer-ship program that was scheduled from September 22, 2014 to October 17, 2014. The objective contains the following four components:

- 1) To create integrated strategies to develop experience and train in nursing care
- 2) To maximize the management skills and quality assurance in nursing
- 3) To grow adept at implementing innovative nursing practices and procedures to improve efficiency
- 4) To develop, implement and evaluate the interdisciplinary intervention for their respective community health care



The following two recipients who were selected to partake in the one-month nursing observer-ship program are Lt.Cdr. Sunanta Kaewkum WRTN and Lt.Cdr. Siriwipa Leksuwat WRTN.

Date	Lt. Cdr. Sunanta	Lt. Cdr. Siriwipa
September 22-24, 2014	Neuro-Science ICU	Emergency Room Department
September 29-October 1, 2014	Trauma ICU	Trauma-Resuscitation Unit Care
October 6-8, 2014	Post-Anesthesia Trauma Unit	Trauma-Resuscitation Unit Care
October 12-14, 2014	Trauma-Resuscitation Unit Care	Trauma-Resuscitation Unit Care

Why did we decide to volunteer to help the nurses from The Naval Medical Department, Royal Thai Navy for the Observer-ship Program at Jackson Memorial Hospital/University of Miami Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine in Miami, Florida?

A career in nursing fulfills our sense of purpose that originates from our desire to do good things. After gaining years of experience in the nursing field, our goals have ultimately changed. Now, we have an even stronger desire to do something else in order to help others. When we help those around us, we not only make a difference in the lives we touch, but also, what we practice is a direct reflection of our steadfast beliefs.

Throughout the years, it's been an eye-opening experience – and an important step in our careers – when we realized that even the smallest things we do can have a significant and lasting impact on others. Helping others is like helping ourselves. It gives us a sense of pride knowing we have made a difference, regardless if it's big or small. It also gives us a sense of fulfillment and purpose — the key factors to why we started our journey in this profession.

Our goal for this nursing observer-ship program was to make the observers gain self-confidence, self-esteem, knowledge and life satisfaction that will last long after they leave Jackson Memorial Hospital/University of Miami Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine.

Given that the goals were met, they would feel proud of themselves after helping someone, and then that someone will also feel good and have the desire to help someone else, and so on. The end result is a win-win situation, producing a chain reaction that started with just one person.

We are committed to our volunteer work, as it illustrates our core interests, values and overall characters. Despite the outcome of our good deeds, whether the results are good or not as good as we expected, we are still content, because we have our confidence, self-respect and desire to continually do good.

The purpose of life is not being happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to make a difference. We are givers not for a reward but for love, and if we have love, we have everything.

EVALUATION

The following three components were successfully achieved in the one-month nursing Observer-ship program:

- 1) Gained one or more specific ideas that can be implemented in their area of medical practice
- 2) Learned a new practical and innovative approach to their practice
- 3) Provided valuable information on the difference aspects of an educational event, which is useful in planning, improvement and accountability

We would like to express a heartfelt thank you to The Naval Medical Department, who provided the financial contributions to this project. We extend our deepest gratitude for your generosity and endless support, which has played a key role in the success of the observers and the profound accomplishments of this organization that we hold to such high regards.

