

# Nursing Profession Works Everywhere

**Dr. Rong-Yuan Hsu, Deputy Superintendent, Taipei Tzu Chi Hospital**

If we compare hospital wards to a home metaphorically, then doctors are like fathers and nurses as mothers. Children of a family can comprehend and appreciate the endeavor of a mother more than the father, but in a hospital, patients and their families are more grateful to doctors and more often than not ignore the dedication of nurses.

In a routine medical care, the amount of time a physician can spend with a patient is limited. Once a treatment is established, nurses are the ones who would take shifts around the clock, attending to the daily needs of their patients. When mothers care for their children, they have to pay attention to the subtleties of their children's daily lives. As new nurses face the high-stress tasks, particularly when handling patients with complicated illnesses, they need time to adapt. If everyone has an empathetic mind, it should reduce the severity of current nurse drought.



Nurses would attend to their patients empathetically even when confronted with high risks. I have witnessed a pregnant nurse inadvertently roared and kicked at by a delirious hepatitis patient. How can these nurses manage to treat a variety of patients with empathy If not with compassion of Bodhisattva?

The behaviors of our nursing staffs made an impression on me. For example, I once saw a hospice shared-care nurse massaging a terminal cancer patient with essential oil, a sight that moved me deeply. Although once a head nurse, she served every patient she encountered with utmost humility. Even when confronted with heavy workload at hospice shared-care, her acts of selfless devotion can be seen throughout the hospital.

Furthermore, the nurse team of Ward 12B made me proud. After injured in a car accident, the head nurse, despite her injury, limped around the ward and led the nursing staffs to care for patients. I have attended a hepatic coma patient, which lasted, from his first hospitalization till his death, about 3 years time. Hospitalized for more than 20 times, the patient spent most of his time in 12B, sometimes referred to other wards after sent to ER. However, everyone working at 12B knew of him, revealing the dedicated effort of the nursing staffs. When that patient held his daughter's wedding and house warming party together, I recommended "Jing Si Aphorism" as present, and the patient and his family were pleasantly surprised as our head nurse attended the joyous event with the medical team. Our staffs would take the initiative and handle issues without any reminder, filling in gaps whenever needed, only to bring empathetic care to the patients. A medical team as such is more than reassuring.

Another head nurse, when she was ill, fully comprehended the value of a nurse. As a high school freshman, she was hospitalized due to scoliosis. It was her first time coming in contact with nurses over a long duration, and through which she discovered the crucial importance and solemnness of the profession and became one of them. Due to health issues, she had to take a leave of absence early this year, but during her leave, this head nurse would take her



**The nurses' dedication moved Vice Superintendent Rong-Yuan Hsu, who wishes everyone to treat them with encouragement and respect. The photo shows Vice Supt. Hsu handing meals to the staff members.**

parents to Taipei Tzu Chi Hospital for revisits. Patients who had been under her care would recognize her and greet warmly. She then understood that a routine gesture as a nurse may be immensely appreciated by the patients and their families. Hence, she decided to return to clinical work, lead freshmen to safeguard health.

In the discipline of home care, I have seen a clinical discharge planner who was once a teacher. She enjoys walking into the patient's home and understands their needs, providing immediate and effective assistance and instructions once issues are identified. Whenever her patient's families encounter difficulties, she is always the first come to their minds. After handling various cases, she learnt to be more forbearing and infuse professionalism and compassion into one.

I believe that Master Cheng Yen's "Gratitude, Respect and Love" are powerful words. Nursing staffs and patients should empathize each other with gratitude. Only by showing respect and encouragement to nurses would they retain their posts and save lives.