An International Collaboration to Establish a PhD Program in Nursing

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Purpose: There is a severe ongoing worldwide nursing faculty shortage (Nardi & Gyurko, 2013). Nurse educators with advanced preparation are needed to train the nurses anticipated to meet the health care demand globally. A major university in the Middle East with a graduate nursing program recently identified a need in its country to establish a nursing PhD program to educate nurses at the doctoral level.

Methods: The National League for Nursing (NLN, 2013) and the American Association of Colleges in Nursing (AACN, 2018) recommend developing consortia between academic institutions to support the preparation of future nurse educators. The university in the Middle East formed a partnership with a university in the United States to share faculty, library, and online resources in the formation of the PhD program. Graduate nursing faculty at both schools collaborated to design a curriculum for a three-year PhD in nursing degree. All course learning outcomes are aligned with AACN standards (AACN, 2010). Faculty members from both universities will teach courses and chair dissertations. All courses will be available at the Middle East campus to students enrolled in this institution.

Results: Curriculum was approved by both schools in 2019. Electives allow for students to develop further specialization in nursing education, research, and health informatics (Booth, Emerson, Hackney, & Souter, 2016). The new PhD nursing program will begin Fall 2020 with a cohort of 12 students.

Conclusions: This innovative international collaboration establishes a mechanism to increase the number of PhD nurse scientists in the Middle East. The new PhDs will receive a rigorous education that meets U.S. academic standards of doctoral education and is applicable to local cultural context. As faculty, they will be ready to train new nurses and address the education-practice gap (Benner, Sutphen, Leonard, & Day, 2009). These PhD prepared nurses will be equipped to serve as nursing faculty, conduct research, and advance nursing science globally.

Title:
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Keywords:
Middle East, Nursing Education and Nursing Faculty
Abstract Summary:
An innovative international collaboration between a university in the Middle East and one in the U.S. has established a PhD in nursing program to educate doctoral level nurse scientists to reduce faculty shortages and serve as global health care leaders.

References:

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