

【研修報告】

## Report on the 29<sup>th</sup> Conference of the International Association for Human Caring

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### International Association for Human Caring

In 1978, the National Caring Research Conference was conceived and initiated by Dr. Madeleine Leininger. The annual conference was designed to gather scholars together to share ideas, research, and theories of care and caring. The core philosophy of the association is based on the belief that caring is the essence of nursing and caring is the unique and unifying focus of the profession. The national organization began in 1987 through the generosity of 42 charter members. In 1989, with the encouragement of nurses from around the world, the conference association was changed to the International Association for Human Caring (IAHC) Inc. The central purpose of the IAHC, Inc. is to serve as an international, scholarly forum for all nurses interested in the advancement of the knowledge of human care and caring within the discipline of nursing. In 1993, Drs. Leininger, Delores Gaut, and Malcom Mac Donald produced a video outlining the history and growth of the Association. In 1994, Dr. Leininger established the Leininger Research Scholarship Fund to assist in the financial support of nurse researchers studying the phenomenon of human care and caring. (<http://www.humancaring.org/aboutus/index.htm>)

### 2007 Conference of the International Association for Human Caring

The 29th Conference of the International Association for Human Caring, *The Power of Caring: Gateway to Healing*, was held in St. Louis, Missouri, U.S.A., May 16 - 19, 2007. This annual event provides a venue for individuals focused on caring science to come together to share scholarship related to caring

in nursing theory, research, and practice. More than 200 international participants attended the three-day conference, representing countries such as Japan, Thailand, China, Australia, New Zealand, Kenya, Uganda, Europe, United Kingdom, Canada, and the United States. Highlighting this year's program were many internationally recognized speakers and presenters, which included:

- Dr. Nomafrench Mbombo, Associate Professor, University of the Western Cape, Cape Town, South Africa, who presented the opening keynote speech, *Africanizing the Human Rights Approach to Health: The Art of Caring*.
- Dr. Joyce Mushaben, Professor of Comparative Politics and Gender Studies, University of Missouri, who presented the second-day keynote speech, *Gender Mainstreaming: Looking for Peace in New Places through a European Lens*.
- Dr. Jean Watson, Dr. Richard Cowling, Dr. Margaret Newman, and Dr. Marlaine Smith who presented a stimulating symposium entitled, *The Power of Wholeness, Consciousness, and Caring: A Dialogue on Nursing Science, Art, and Healing*.

### Symposium Presentation

Three faculty from the Japanese Red Cross Hiroshima College of Nursing (JRCHCN), President Fumiaki Inaoka, Professor Sharon Ann Cumbie, and Associate Professor Michiko Tomura, presented together in a plenary symposium session entitled, *Human Caring Theory: Applications to Education, Research, and Practice*. The purpose was to present three perspectives that describe specific components

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of applications of *Human Caring Theory* to education, research, and practice.

The symposium began with a presentation by Dr. Inaoka, in which he described teaching methods of a human caring theory class and subsequent clinical practicum experience. Dr. Inaoka used student narratives to illustrate the lived experiences of caring for first year students in the B.S.N. Program. Next, Ms. Tomura described a process of developing global faculty collaboration to enhance human caring theory-based nursing education, research, and practice at the JRCHCN. Finally, Dr. Cumbie described transformation of a person-centered model of care toward a caring-centered perspective and presented current efforts toward the development of the *Model for Caring-centered Practice*. This symposium offered diverse perspectives that explored transcultural applications of *Human Caring Theory* to nursing. The three presentations were followed with a question and answer session between the presenters and the conference audience.

### **Overview: Model for Caring-centered Practice**

The development of an approach for advanced practice nursing care of individuals with chronic illness resulted in development of a person-centered model of care, which was the direct result of the synthesis of a number of different but related theoretical models and perspectives developed in previous work by a collaborating group of researchers (Cumbie, et al., 2004, p. 77). In a subsequent study, nurses were asked to apply principles of person-centered care, which provided the foundation for this current theory development work.

During secondary analysis of the study, identification of ambiguity related to the concept of “person-centered” stimulated a process of concept definition and refinement. Person-centered, often referred to as a philosophy, is actually better viewed as an approach to practice and a component of grander theory. It became evident that the overarching philosophy of *Human Caring Theory* (Watson, 1988) was more appropriate foundation to ground the person-centered approach.

The person-centered care model was subsequently revised to create the Model for Caring-

centered Practice. From this perspective, caring knowledge and reflective practice are foundational to obtaining competencies necessary to implement and sustain caring-centered practice. Key to the process, practitioners must develop the capacity to derive meaning from giving and receiving caring. Kindness, compassion, respect, and understanding are essential attitudes for engaging in caring-centered practice. The person-centered transpersonal relationship is subsequently supported through acquisition of advanced communication and therapeutic relationship knowledge and skills.

The Model for Caring-centered Practice is founded within an integrative perspective of *Human Caring Theory* and person-centered care. It has the potential to enhance implementation of *Human Caring Theory* into practice by establishing clear operational definition of knowledge, values and strategic actions. The next phase involves the development of an approach for practitioner preparation and the evaluation of clinical application. This systematic approach to theory development will facilitate ongoing refinement of the model.

### **References**

- Cumbie, S. A., Conley, V., & Burman, M. E. (2004). Advanced practice nursing model of comprehensive care with chronic illness. *Advances in Nursing Science*, 27(1), 70-80.
- Watson, J. (1988). *Nursing: Human Science and Human Care, a Theory of Nursing*. New York, NY: National League for Nursing Publication

### **Appreciation**

I appreciate the support received from the Japanese Red Cross Hiroshima College of Nursing to attend this international conference in the U.S.A. It provided a unique opportunity to engage in dialogue with an international group of nurses who are focusing their scholarship work within the perspective of caring theory. Conference attendees demonstrated a strong interest in the activities of the JRCHCN, especially related to our efforts to expand opportunities to develop and nurture international relationships.