

## CONTRIBUTIONS AND CHALLENGES OF THE *STRICTO SENSU* NURSING GRADUATE PROGRAMS

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Nurse formation aimed at education, management, research, and quality extension, as well as management and care practices, is extremely important for health care. The formation for research, which can and should begin from basic education through undergraduate and graduate education, stimulates an intellectual, investigative, reflective, and critical attitude. Furthermore, it enables the acquisition and strengthening of knowledge and the generation of technologies for a safe, evidence-based practice aimed at the well-being of the population.

Therefore, stimulating the formation of research nurses is extremely relevant and, at the undergraduate level, the possibility of participating in projects of scientific and technological initiation, as well as in research groups with master and doctoral students, becomes a motivational element. In this scenario, it is necessary to highlight that the consolidation of graduate studies in Brazil, as well as its articulation with undergraduate studies, was also one of the factors that determined the development of the profession.

In the case of nurses and as professional trajectories related to health care and/or managerial activities, there is an intense effort for quality intellectual production. Thus, one of the challenges is the need for understanding the health care service and importance of this formation in the corporate environment<sup>(1)</sup>.

There are few health care services in Brazil that have allowed such action to take place from the perspective of continuing education during work, at least within the scope of masters and academic doctorate programs. Such a situation does not always occur in the Professional Graduate Program, in which there is usually a strong articulation with work.

Moreover, the current crisis in the scenario of graduate programs<sup>(2)</sup> forces us to rethink their internal organization since there has been a cut in the scholarships to be implemented for master, doctorate, and post-doctorate students; freezing of research productivity grants; scarcity of national notices for scientific

research; lack of resources for the following year, especially concerning Universal notices, among other measures that hinder the progress of quality Graduate programs. We understand that investing in scientific research is a national investment, and we have successful international examples such as Japan, Singapore, and Finland<sup>(3)</sup>.

The investment in researchers is the possibility of allowing the formation of faculty for Brazilian science and technology, for the well-being of the population. Thus, student scholarships aim for a greater dedication to research projects, which allows graduate students another perspective of maintaining their formation process. Despite this, the cuts make it impossible for students to dedicate themselves exclusively to research work and often hinder their maintenance in the program.

Faced with so many challenges and an uncertain future, we believe in the need to endeavor in our installed structures, which are new challenges: faculty and students articulated with the objectives of the program, interprofessional projects, search for international funding, self-assessment of the program pedagogical projects, search for partnerships and regional, national, and international strengths for funding, whether from public or private institutions<sup>(4)</sup>.

It is undeniable that the advances in Nursing programs have grown based on structure, agreements, and strength to be the foundation for the profession and to support science and technology<sup>(5)</sup>. The commitment to make explicit the social development that we provide has been a unique challenge among the various programs in the country and, above all, we highlight the force of their impacts and effective contributions to society.

Scientific production is highlighted both in Latin America and in the global scenario. There are still many challenges to face, perhaps the establishment of collaborative networks, consolidated in the region of the Americas, as well as the search for international resources.

On the other hand, this movement for the formation of nurse researchers is essential to give transparency and return to society, to the research conducted and its applicability, to recognize and value the role of the University in the formation and transformation of an ethical, critical, reflective, and creative society towards the problems to be faced.

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