Nursing a passion for the job

Three students spent an afternoon with nurses and got an in-depth look into the profession.

Lines in 1885. A group of nuns began work at the training school for nurses in Singapore when a special section for the care of nursing in Singapore was established. This date marks the beginning of nursing in Singapore in 1885. It was phased out in Singapore in the 1980s as more male nurses joined the profession.

Nurse clinicians can choose to specialise in specific areas of medicine, such as Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Anaesthetics, and Paediatrics. Although International Nurses Day was celebrated worldwide on May 12, Singapore celebrates Nurses’ Day on August 1 instead. This date marks the beginning of nursing in Singapore when a group of nurses were transferred from the General Hospital at the Sepoy Lines in 1885.

Florence Nightingale is regarded as an icon of nursing, and she laid the foundation stone of professional nursing. Her image graces the cover of Nursing, published in 1860.

Chanel Lam, a senior nurse at Bukit Merah Community Hospital, who is also a lecturer in the Department of Nursing, says nurses play an important role in ensuring the health and well-being of the community. She says they work closely with other healthcare professionals to provide holistic care to patients. She says the role of nurses is crucial in ensuring that patients receive quality care.

Nurses must love what they do, even if they’re doing nothing. Passion is what drives me.

Nursing is not all about “soft” skills or bedside care. You also need to be adequately skilled in technical knowhow so that you can make a difference in patient care. That’s where education comes in.

"A nurse is often described as a life-saver and sometimes a friend. They are on the road to recovery, often giving the best care possible. Whether they are in the operating room, on the ICU, or in a home setting, nurses are there for their patients, providing the care they need to recover. Without nurses, our healthcare system would come to a standstill. Nurses are the backbone of our healthcare system. They are the unsung heroes who make it all possible."

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A number of junior nurses ask me this question, too. I usually tell them that 5 or 10 years later when a patient I know passes away, I will miss the nurses’ training, because that would mean that I am no longer passionate.

As an APN, I’m equipped with the knowledge and confidence to be directly involved in the care of patients. Before I trained as an APN, I followed doctors’ directions. Now, I have the opportunity to make a difference in managing patients. APNs can collaborate with doctors to diagnose certain conditions and recommend treatments.

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