



**DNP Annual Conference
2011
New Orleans, LA**

**A BRAVE NEW WORLD OF NURSING:
Our profession's current & future role
as Dr. Nurse** Sharon Stanke, DNP, RN

Doctor (Dr.) Nurse

*Should a nurse be called a doctor?
Is a nurse a doctor?*

1. Define the meaning of the title doctor.
2. Articulate the history of the title doctor.
3. Describe the differences and common ground with the AACN and the AMA view point using the title of doctor.
4. Describe how to effectively rebuttal arguments against the use of the title doctor by a doctoral prepared nurse.
5. State the responsibility for the DNP to use the title of doctor.

Dr. Nurse

- **Doctor of Nursing Practice** is generating great discussion on the issue of **titling**.
- The phrase doctor of nursing practice has stimulated debate between the nursing and medical professional setting.
Perception from the
 - Public
 - Medical physicians
 - Multidisciplinary professionals
 - Nurses themselves have stimulated the debate (Zaccagnini, & White, 2011).

Dr. Nurse

2.6 million RNs in the US → 14,300 are Doctorally prepared = 0.0055% (2000)
 <1% of RN were doctoral prepared in 2010 (AACN)

- 153 programs in 37 states
 - State with the most programs > 5 include FL, IL, MN, MS, NY, OH, PA, TX
 - 52 programs are CCNE accredited -69 programs pursuing
- 106 programs in the planning stages (AACN, April 2011)

Dr. Nurse

- Formal approval of the DNP program by the AACN in October of 2004

DNP	2008	2009	2010
Graduates	361	660	1282
Student enrollment	3415	5165	7034

Background and History

The term doctor or “docere” in Latin means to teach (Chism, 2010)

- Merriam-Webster’s online dictionary (2010)
 - A learned or authoritative teacher; a person who has earned one of the **highest** academic degrees conferred by a University.
 - A person skilled in the healing arts, especially one who holds the advanced degree and a license to practice.
 - Refers to a religious teacher, scholar, and father of the Christian church.

Background and History

- Prior to 12th century: doctorate degree was granted to teach
- The second half of the 12th century
 - The doctorate degree was granted without intention to teach
Law Medicine Divinity
- As universities grew, more men received professional doctorates
 - Men prepared in medicine, moved into the community and among the people.
 - It has been speculated that because of this, the general public began to associate doctoral degrees with medicine
- Doctor refers to any person with a doctoral degree in any field, not a specific profession.

Background and History (Zaccagnini & White, 2011)

Generations of nursing doctorate


- 1900 to 1940:
 - EdD offered through colleges of education to prepare nursing faculty
- 1940 to 1960:
 - PhD in basic or social science with no nursing content
- 1960 to 1970:
 - PhD in basic science with a minor in nursing through nurse scientist programs
- In the early days
 - Nurses obtain doctoral preparation by other areas of disciplines.
- PhD allowed nursing faculty to claim a voice in university administration and to effect
 - Policy, budgets, and university priorities

Background and History (Zaccagnini & White, 2011)

Generations of nursing doctorate

- 1970 to present:
 - PhD in nursing or DNS
- 2000 and beyond:
 - DNP
- Some nursing schools wishing to distinguish themselves or facing the resistance of university administration to grant nurses the opportunity to study for a PhD,
 - Offered the doctorate of nursing science (DNS) degree


American Association of Colleges of Nursing
 ADVANCING HIGHER EDUCATION IN NURSING



AACN's role in creating the DNP

- Quality indicators between PhD, DNS, and ND
- Doctorate classification (research or practice focus)
- Title of the degree for **practice**
 - Should only be **one: DNP**
- APN and the advanced practice
 - AACN advocates DNP by **2015**
 - American Association of Nurse Anesthesia (AANA) advocates DNP by **2025**

DNP: History teaches everything including the future
(Brown-Benedict, 2008)



- Nursing is not alone in It's exploration & development of clinical doctorate
- Doctorate of Practice is found in:

<i>Pharmacy</i>	<i>Physical therapy</i>	<i>Audiology</i>
<i>Optometry</i>	<i>Public health</i>	<i>Naturopathy</i>
<i>Nutrition</i>	<i>Osteopathy</i>	<i>Chiropractic</i>
- Nor is nursing unique in encountering resistance.

Significance of DNP Titling



DNP and RN need to educate themselves...

- Regarding the title Doctor
- The meaning of the practice of doctorate degree
- To formulate **proactive, informed, professional responses** when faced with using the title Doctor (Chiam, 2010).

In less than a generation, the majority of healthcare practitioners in allied health and advanced practice nursing will be degreed at the level of clinical doctorate.

Contributing Factors to Ethical Dilemma for DNP

- Factors that contribute to the evolving nature of the ethical debate for DNP's includes:
 - Equality with other disciplines
 - Increased complexity of healthcare systems
 - the IOM's report "To Err Is Human"
 - Robert Woods Johnson Foundation
 - *Describes advanced practice and knowledge is necessary to promote patient safety and minimize errors in a healthcare setting.*

Contributing Factors to Ethical Dilemma for DNP

- Educate others to clarify perceptions
 - Include patients, nurses, and other healthcare professionals
 - Effectively & proactively respond to the dispute of titling
- Nurses carrying the title Doctor within the clinical setting will require:
 - Public awareness and infiltration of DNPs
 - The need to gain widespread understanding and acceptance.

Contributing Factors to Ethical Dilemma for DNP

ACADEMIA has a well-established role of doctoral prepared educators.


CLINICAL SETTING: role confusion between nurse & physician.
(Public: "doctor" = physician)

- to define role **PHYSICIAN**
- as academic achievement **NURSE**

USE TERM "DOCTOR"

Healthy Debate on the Dr. Nurse	
Debate Issue	Rebuttal
<p>Nurses should not be called Doctor because</p> <p>Most NPs have hundreds of hours of clinical training</p> <p>Fellowship-trained surgeons have up to 50,000 hours of clinical training</p>	<p>The physician receive the title of Doctor after medical school not after fellowship/ clinical residency training.</p>

Healthy Debate on the Dr. Nurse	
Debate Issue	Rebuttal
<p>Dr. Nurse</p> <p>Patients won't know if a medical doctor is treating them or not.</p> <p>All physicians are doctors, but not all doctors are physicians.</p>	<p>Every profession has the responsibility to the consumer to identify their role.</p> <p>To require non-MD health professionals to hide their credentials is directly contrary to Healthcare transparency Consumer empowerment</p> <p>The term "doctor" is a TITLE, <u>NOT</u> A ROLE. Not synonymous with any one professional group.</p>



AMA has identified use of the professional title of "Doctor" as a topic for legislative initiative.

Resolution 211, passed by AMA House of Delegates, **accused nurses & other "non-physicians" with doctoral degrees of misleading patients "to believe that they are receiving care from a doctor."**

This resolution has no binding effect on state law, but indicates intent to mount a campaign that challenges the abilities of nurses and other health professionals.

AMA is has legislation to halt the development of DNP programs in several states .

AMA	AACN	Combined Belief
Blocking DNP program approval.	DNP is not preparing nurses to be physician	Action to be taken for mis-representation of role
Blocking titling of Dr. for a nurse.	Doctor is common among disciplines: DNP, DDS, PharmD, PsyD, AudD	Clearly identify clinician's credentials both verbally and on name badge.
	Doctorate is an academic achievement, not a	

Resolutions with Justification
(Zaccagnini & White, 2011, p. 336)

What is in a word?

- A doctorate simply means the person who earned the degree is prepared at the highest level of that profession.
 - MD is prepared at highest level of medical practice.
 - DNP is prepared at highest level of nursing practice.
- Nurses & physicians are licensed independently of each other.
 - **Both MD & DNP earned right to call themselves Doctor.**

Perhaps confusion would be lessened if we identified ourselves as physician, nurse, pharmacist, chiropractor, physical therapist, audiologist - whose title is Doctor.

"In the coming health care crisis, it will take all professionals in the healing arts to work together to provide solutions to the problems we face as a nation in making top-notch care available to all of our people..."

Resolutions with Justification (Zaccagnini & White, 2011)

DNP is a terminal academic achievement
DNP is not a role or position

- You *may* use your academic degree credentials in all settings to indicate educational qualifications.
- Always use your legal title of licensure in the state that you practice.
 - You **can** legally use the title "Doctor" in conjunction with the appropriate licensure title in the majority of states.

Conclusion

- The doctorate of nursing practice titling is an evolving topic and deserves some reading, thought, reflection, and discussion by staff, DNP faculty, and practicing DNP's.
- The topic of titling sparks vigorous, but respectful debate in the nursing community about ethical and legal aspects of the DNP degree and it's expanded nursing roles.

As nursing changes,
let us not cling to the
ways of old,
but rather actively
move toward our
future:



Dr. Nurse

The nurse should confidently use the title Dr. that was so diligently earned.

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