

**AN (AUTO)-BIOGRAPHICAL ACCOUNT OF NURSING  
TRANSFORMATION: 1970-2018**

**INAUGURAL LECTURE**

**Delivered at the Nelson Mandela University on the  
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## **SUMMARY OF LECTURE**

This lecture provides a description of how nursing education and practice, research and technology has transformed over the past 48 years. The information provided in this lecture is based on personal experience and own research, and research of various other authors. The first part of the lecture provides an overview of the era in which I trained and is used as a benchmark to compare current day practices.

The changes in nursing education and practice with regard to the Nursing Act and regulations over the past 48 years are highlighted, depicting the number of times that the different nursing acts and regulations were amended with regard to all basic nursing qualification programmes. This lecture also includes a brief discussion of the new nursing education programme that will be implemented soon, as well as its opportunities and challenges.

A detailed description is provided with regard to how nursing research has evolved over the past 48 years because of the dedication and vision that nurse leaders have for the profession. A national nursing strategy has been developed to enhance collaborative, rigorous scientific enquiry that builds a significant body of knowledge in order to improve the health of the people of South Africa. It is envisaged that the research strategy will contribute significantly to directing future nursing research development in South Africa.

It is evident in this lecture that the use of technology in nursing has truly evolved and can be seen as a major driver of changes in the nursing profession. There are huge shifts in how patient records are maintained, how medications are tracked and ordered, how care is passed from one provider to another, how blood and X-ray results are retrieved and how information is being accessed at the point of care in nursing. In today's healthcare system technology is the foundation of the future. Today's nurses must not only know how to care for patients, but how to use technology safely and appropriately in their day-to-day work.

It is evident that nursing has transformed in many ways since 1970 and that nurses have always been the drivers of nursing transformation.