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Evolution of Nurse Practitioners in the United States and International Scene

The first Nurse Practitioner (NP) program was created in 1965 due to a shortage of medical providers. Today, Nurse Practitioners (NPs) are still the solution to America's primary care crisis. In the last 50 years, the roles and education requirements for NPs have evolved. One thing that has not changed is that Nurse Practitioners have been proven to be cost-effective providers who provide high-quality and compassionate care. In this session, topics to be discussed include: A brief history of Nurse Practitioners and the educational and licensing requirements. What is the difference between Registered Nurse vs a Nurse Practitioner and Nurse Practitioner vs a Physician Assistant? Are Nurse Practitioners junior doctors? What is the scope of practice of Nurse Practitioners? Can Nurse Practitioners open clinics or medical practices? Other than in the United States, what other countries utilize Nurse Practitioners? Finally, what are the future opportunities and outlook for Nurse Practitioners?

Biography

Nothing in life is certain, except taxes, death and change (Franklin, 1789). Dr. Angelina Chau has dealt with all three in her career. Formerly an IRS Revenue Agent and entrepreneur of an accounting practice, after 20 years of being in the business arena, Dr. Chau returned to school and earned her MSN in Family Nurse Practitioner from Samuel Merritt University and Doctor of Nursing Practice from Duke University. She has served as a nurse practitioner in underserved communities, a director of Student Health Center and currently, she is a full time assistant professor. Dr. Chau is a compassionate and culturally sensitive clinician that utilizes evidence-based practice to provide quality healthcare. She is also an innovative educator, motivational leader and a change agent. She believes that it is a privilege to educate and train the future leaders in healthcare.