

Greetings

Sachie Shindou (Preisident of the International Society of Caring and Peace)

The International Society of Caring & Peace was established on January 31, 2016 with Dr. Jean Watson as the honorary chairperson and aimed to contribute to development in care-related practice, research, and education. So far, we have held one academic conference and three academic seminars. Now, the first issue of web-based academic journal has become available for viewing for members only.

It is concerning that in recent years, there have been situations where providing care at medical and nursing workplaces seems to be jeopardized. A rapidly aging society has resulted in changes being made in healthcare policies; as a result, changes such as specialization of hospitals, more efficient hospital management, and promotion of home health care have been advanced. These changes have shortened the duration of hospital stay, increased the occupancy rate of beds, and increased the workload of medical staff such as nurses, which have led to addressing concerns in scarce care. For example, some nurses bring a computer to the bedside and input patient data without facing or touching the patients, and some nurses give a complete bed bath with only a few paper towels. We are concerned that these nurses' behaviors disregard the important aspects of the care process that Dr. Watson has identified: "treating the individual as a person," "concern and empathy," "personalized characteristics of nurses," "communication process," and "extra effort."

In 2017, the Japanese Association of Nursing Programs in University announced core competencies for bachelor programs and achievement goals at graduation (proposal). In the proposal, practical competencies related to basics of human care are recognized as important core competencies. Dr. Watson describes human care as follows. "The human care process between a nurse and another individual is a special, delicate gift to be cherished. The human caring moments and connections provide a coming together and establishment of contact between persons." Nursing students acquire practical competencies for human care through basic education. However, after graduation, while working in a busy, harsh clinical environment, some nurses become unable to perform human care, which "provides a coming together and establishment of contact between persons." This implicates that there are issues in nursing management.

On the other hand, it is encouraging to know that there are groups of people who are implementing and studying human care to counteract the lack of care at clinical sites, such as "comfortable" care (Mr. Hideshi Nawa's group) and TE-ARTE (Ms. Midori Kawashima's group), which is hand-touching care to enhance natural healing powers.

Our organization plans to implement activities that help nurses contribute to fulfilling their social roles by performing human care without being affected by clinical changes in healthcare and welfare brought about by policy changes.