

## Concluding Remarks

It is a great honor and pleasure to offer the concluding remarks for this issue of the Rwanda Journal of Medicine and Health Sciences. The inaugural *Global Innovations in Nursing and Midwifery Education, Research, and Practice* conference held in Kigali earlier this year, and the resulting journal issue dedicated to nursing and midwifery, are the first steps towards reaching the goal of the School of Nursing and Midwifery, University of Rwanda, of accomplishing international recognition and achieving the highest of nursing educational standards. The School of Nursing and Midwifery aims to be a leader in clinical care, research, and education.

Healthcare and educational leaders in Rwanda have high goals and expectations for healthcare. The University of Rwanda is moving forward rapidly and incorporating new ideas from around the world into their nursing and midwifery curriculum to provide quality education. The promotion of advancement and quality exhibited by each article and abstract in this journal exemplifies the ideals of Rwandan leaders and their successful collaborative efforts. This issue promotes leadership, delivery of high quality healthcare, the use of evidence to guide practice, and highlights the importance of measuring outcomes to improve future practice. The conference and this journal are a part of a comprehensive approach towards building a strong and valuable healthcare system through education and collaboration with global nurses and midwives.

The gathering at the conference of scholars, clinicians, healthcare administrators, educators, and students, provided an opportunity to share knowledge about past, present, and future practices in nursing. The evidence based presentations improved our understanding of best practices which translates into competent and compassionate patient care. The conference exemplified the spirit of cooperation and understanding and highlighted the important role of nursing and midwifery in the Rwandan Health Care System.

A common theme referenced by many attendees at the conference was excitement that Rwanda's nurses and midwives were so capable of presenting themselves and their work in this highest forum of academic and practice excellence. The conference was an enormous success as exemplified by comments from conference attendees: "This was a good start for Rwanda to become evidence-based professionals; Great opportunity to meet colleagues and high profile faculty and practitioners and learn from them; There are many things to be proud of as organizers of a first global conference; Participation was high, showing commitment; Speakers were very informative and of interest to a broad audience, both clinical and academic; Very challenging and inspirational, comprehensive content and very useful; The preparation and organization of this conference was amazing and succeeded in building one team; We are very excited to hold this conference in our country; It has been a privilege to attend the first conference; This global nursing conference is the horizon for the better future of nursing and midwifery in Rwanda."

The conference and this publication are emblematic of the multiple facets of nursing and midwifery. The excellent authors of the articles and poster abstracts are role models for future nurses and midwives. The topics remind us that nursing education plays a significant role in patient care. Learning evidence-based practices, built on credible research, guides nurses and midwives towards high quality healthcare delivery. Outcome measures can change clinical procedures for a baby and her mother. Understanding the role of communication can determine staff adherence to policies and procedures. Learning to be a valued teacher can influence a nurse in training to be a future educator.

All nurses and midwives should be proud and share in congratulating the work of our nursing and midwifery professionals and academics in Rwanda. Together with their international colleagues they planned and organized the first international conference within their disciplines, inviting keynote speakers from internationally acclaimed universities and institutions. They took time from their existing research, teaching, and clinical work to prepare papers, abstracts, and posters about the important work they do in Rwanda's health system. And, they brought a very large number of Rwandan nursing and midwifery practitioners and students to the conference to share the learning and wisdom of their collective experiences in nursing and midwifery.

Thank you to all who contributed to make the conference a great success and an enormous achievement for the School of Nursing and Midwifery; and to the writers, presenters and editors who have made this edition available to all health professionals to enjoy and share. We sincerely hope that you have enjoyed and learned from the works presented in this issue. The future for nursing and midwifery in Rwanda looks bright.

**Helen Ewing, on behalf of nursing and midwifery in Rwanda**