

CONFERENCE REPORT: THE FORUM FOR PROFESSIONAL NURSE LEADERS (FPNL) – 20-YEAR LEGACY: LEADING NURSING INTO THE FUTURE: NURSING 2016 CONFERENCE

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The Forum for Professional Nurse Leaders (FPNL) hosted the Nursing 2016 Conference from the 25–27 May 2016 at the Hilton Hotel, Sandton, Gauteng, South Africa. The conference was dedicated to nurse leaders in the industry ready to lead a 360° change in the nursing profession. The main objective of the conference was to foster the spirit of cooperation among professionals through networking and sharing of information, best practices, capacity building, and integrating nursing practice and education. The programme director was Dr Elizabeth Mokoka (Programme Manager, FUNDISA). She started the conference by thanking all conference sponsors, which were classified according to platinum, golden, silver and bronze partners. She further reminded conference delegates that nurses are backbones and heartbeats of healthcare services in South Africa and the whole world.

The conference was attended by members of FPNL, nursing students, staff and management of different healthcare facilities, academics from different institutions of higher learning, representatives from the Forum of University Nursing Deans in South Africa (FUNDISA), Nursing Education Association (NEA), and the South African Nursing Council (SANC). The conference featured a wide range of expert speakers in best practices, capacity building, and integrating nursing practice and education, including Prof Hester Klopper (CEO: FUNDISA), Dr Brian Joffe (CEO: Bidvest Group), Dr Sharon Vasuthevan (Acting chairperson of SANC), Mrs Toy Vermaak (Manager Netcare Education Faculty of Nursing and Ancillary Healthcare),

Dr Elizabeth Mokoka (Programme Manager: FUNDISA) and Dr Nelouise Geyer (CEO, NEA).

Some of the topics addressed at the conference include 'Quality in Nursing and Healthcare', 'Technology in Nursing', 'Nursing Leadership in Global Context', 'International Nurse Recruitment', 'Caring Philosophy for South Africa', 'New Nursing Education Programmes', 'CPD in Practice' and 'The Role of Nursing in Antimicrobial Stewardship'. The authors, who were attending the FPNL conference for the first time, were exposed to knowledge, skills, attitude and challenges facing the professional nurse leaders. The authors also managed to network and share information with other delegates, particularly regarding best practices, capacity building, and integrating nursing practice and education.

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