

EDITORIAL

The rapid growth of scientific and technological knowledge witnessed since the 18th Century, and especially in this century, has generated great changes for Nursing, care, and health care in society. Technology and science have become developed to a level that affects each facet of our sensibilities and experience. Even with this rapid growth of science and technology, innumerable challenges confront us, particularly those associated with prejudices which have adapted quickly to changes in the social arena, abuses against people, the new division of classes, and poverty, for society as a whole has always been fascinated with technological advance.

Technology relates itself with the arts of care with specific implementations in the different contexts of the practice and with knowledge and/or a group's activity. However, technology is more than the sum of things and/or objects which we utilize in health care. It represents characteristics which include the development of abilities, knowledge, and incorporation of social arrangements and values.¹ Thus, as in society in general, the nurses and remaining health care professionals understand that technology is welcome and offer incentive to its development. However, its beliefs towards the efficiency of technology have not yet been interpreted as much in what refers to the context of health care and nursing practice, as much as in the development of a historical conscience of the influence of technology, as well as even in the comprehension of the meaning of the emergence of technology.

Aware of this scenario, the Post-Graduate Program at the Federal University of Santa Catarina, Brazil has dynamically and permanently sought specific disciplines and discussions through research and scientific and technological production among partners and research groups to support technological conscience in the sense that it is configured in process development, analysis of results, and concrete social contributions.

Understanding the influence and the meaning of technology has an extraordinary importance, especially as it influences Nursing and health care and teaching, as well as it has implications in order to interpret history, the contemporary practice and future of health, for it also orients a political agenda and new roles and responsibilities.² In this manner, technology needs to be understood as a dependant of its context, in that objects have become technological, components of technology, not only by virtue of how they are defined and classified, but also by virtue of how they are used. In other words, what is their function of use, what is their influence upon our actions, conceptions, and social contexts.²⁻³

In our understanding, however, reaching this sensibility, comprehending, developing, and making use of technology in this perspective demands behaviors and attitudes, or an "art of the care practice", which makes it more and more possible for us to find a straighter approximation to the necessities of the person receiving care. This approximation is shown to the degree that the nurse develops and incorporates the art of care as a human aesthetic expression, which is manifested in a climate of comfort, empathy, perceptions, mutual confidence, sensibility, senses, intuition, and expressions with the finality of establishing a commitment with health care and the person's security.⁴⁻⁵

As such, permanently seeking the convergence between technology and art seems to be a path towards improving the quality and security of nursing care. In this logic, if technology and art influence nursing practice as much from the perspective of what we

do, how much and how we understand each other as professionals, it is understood to be opportune as well to reflect upon the enormous advance of Nursing Information Technology. It is known that information is the key to effective and integrated decision-making for quality Nursing practice. Much of what health care professionals do involves information, from the advance of care necessities, the development of care plans, the communication of patient information among the health care team, to the managerial budget, resources, and team competency analyses. In other words, health care professionals work in an information-intense environment.

The growing use of the internet indubitably has brought possibilities for improvement in health care. However, one still perceives the lack of knowledge among professionals towards using this technology, the lack of access to information, and the lack of knowledge concerning where to obtain it, which compromises the potential of the information technology in improving the health care system and as a consequence, care for people. However, information technology in health care must be understood as a potential vehicle which permits the integration of information to the art of the care practice in nursing in a result-oriented, visible, rapid, efficient, dynamic environment permanently geared to people's needs.⁴⁻⁵

It is yet possible to reflect upon the innumerable possibilities in improving nursing care practice based on information technology, such as: interactivity among groups, individuals, and society and the strengthening of human relationships which permit in real time the rescue of experiences, feelings, and achievements, in specific and/or general groups; Telepresence as another possibility for professional intervention; the early and punctual detection of events and/or damages which may compromise the person's security; continuous monitoring of the quality of care practice not only under the perspective of control, but as the result of intervention and the capacity for change, improvement, and advance.

As such, the articles which comprise the pages of this edition of the *Texto & Contexto Nursing* relate the different faces of the applications, reflections, and experiences of technologies and the art of nursing.

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