

Examining the Advanced Practice Nursing Role in Canada

It is with appreciation that I offer congratulations to our guest editors, Ruth Martin-Misener and Denise Bryant-Lukosius, for bringing this latest issue to life. They have ably assembled a terrific compilation of papers addressing advanced practice nursing (APN) role innovations, the evaluation of APN practice outcomes and opportunities for future optimization of APN roles. It is clear that the elements of bold leadership, advocacy and evidence have made a difference over the course of time to influence more effective utilization of APNs throughout Canada's healthcare system. However, it is also apparent that much work still needs to be done to advance optimal and expanded use of these practitioners. As co-directors of the Canadian Centre for Advanced Practice Nursing Research, I applaud Martin-Misener and Bryant-Lukosius for their leadership in this area, nationally and internationally.

I would also like to echo their sentiments in commending the Canadian Nurses Association for their response to a call for action to elevate and illuminate the role of APNs. The efforts of the the Canadian Council of Registered Nurse Regulators (CCRNRR) and the Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing (CASN) are also effectively advancing the optimization of the APN roles across Canada. Clearly, each of our professional organizations has a role to play in this regard; we have the evidence and we have compelling stories to substantiate the redirection of funding and protection of APN roles. Hence, collectively, we need to raise the profile of our APNs, continue to gather the evidence and put it in front of those who make the decisions about health human resource allocation and funding. Continuing to shine a spotlight on the evidence and opportunities for the system to utilize APNs is not only a worthy but necessary pursuit in the interest of all Canadians. A sincere thank you to our guest editors and all contributors for your efforts to do so.

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