News on nursing in the media

Are nurses getting the respect they need to save lives?

February 6, 2020

Headlines

1. The Oscar-nominated *Knives Out* features a strong, skilled nurse character

2. Do nurses need university educations?

3. Q: “Shouldn’t doctors control hospital care?”

4. Sign all our petitions: *Grey’s Anatomy*, *Google/Ascension/Project Nightingale*, *NIH/NINR*, *Cardi B*, *The Good Doctor*, *Ratched*, *Amy Schumer*, *Family Feud*

Support our efforts to transform nursing's image

News Summaries

Knife nurse
The 2019 mystery film *Knives Out* features a strong, skilled nurse character

Rian Johnson’s comic “whodunit” makes a splash with Daniel Craig’s hard-to-resist private detective character Benoit Blanc. But a key element is Ana de Almas’s young nurse Marta Cabrera, who displays a range of critical skills in a movie that exposes socio-economic disparities amid all the twists and turns.

**Do nurses need university educations?**

Columnist for *The Week* is sure they do not

Matthew Walther’s February 2019 opinion piece argues lightheartedly that despite the malign claims of the “educational-industrial complex,” nurses do not actually need university degrees. After all, like cutting hair, it’s not a matter of “life or death.” Except it is—research shows that nurses save lives, and more educated nurses save more lives, not least by using their science educations to prevent deadly errors.

Glad you asked!

Recipient of a **Worst Effort to Explain Why Nurses Don't Need College Educations 2010-2019 Award**
Q: “Shouldn’t doctors control hospital care?”
A: Absolutely not!

Sandeep Jauhar’s October 2017 *New York Times* op-ed bemoans the decline in physician control of hospital care, arguing that business types have taken over, to the detriment of our health. He’s half right: health professionals should call the shots. But nurses are autonomous professionals who must, at a minimum, control their own care. And nurses are often a better choice for overall leadership, because hospitals exist mainly to provide skilled nursing.

**Speaking engagements**

See Sandy Summers in the UK in May 2020!

On May 12, 2020, Truth About Nursing founder and director Sandy Summers will appear at the University of Sheffield to address the question, "What are the best ways of informing and engaging the public about nursing"? This is part of a consensus development project of the Strategic Research Alliance, a joint effort of the University of Sheffield and The Royal College of Nursing, which aims to address the five most important questions facing nursing in the UK. Nurses will present their findings to a lay panel to initiate public policy changes, with the ultimate goal of strengthening UK nursing care. Please join Sandy there!
Planning a nurses week event? Book the Truth About Nursing’s founder and executive director today!

Let Sandy Summers, RN, MSN, MPH, empower your nurses and help them fully embrace their autonomy!

Patients deserve better protection. Let Sandy help your nurses and students fully embrace their autonomy to strengthen nursing care, reduce errors and improve care! Sandy speaks widely to a variety of international nursing groups. Click here to see details and book her today!

Sign all of our petitions. Demand respect for nursing!

After 348 tries, Grey’s

Project Nightingale
After 348 tries, *Grey's Anatomy* portrayed a nurse doing the nursing work of educating a patient. Encourage *Grey’s* to continue and bring on more nurse characters to do the nursing instead of the surgeons who almost always do it.

Don't let this be a search result for "Nightingale."

*Project Nightingale* project has already breached nursing’s data security.

The US government has already breached nursing's data security.

*Inside Amy Schumer* used vicious anti-nurse stereotypes.

*Family Feud* uses naughty nurses and battleaxes as a mainstay of its "jokes".

*The Good Doctor* strongly reinforces the stereotype that nurses are low-skilled physician lackeys who are barely involved in hospital care.

Netflix and Ryan Murphy plan two-season TV origin story for Nurse Ratched, one of the most damaging anti-nurse stereotypes in history, releasing this fall.

We can turn $5/month into a more empowered nursing profession. Join us?
How can nurses become fierce advocates?

Sandy Summers delivered an empowering message to new graduates at graduation speech at Widener University's Nightingale ceremony last week.

In a short, compelling address, Sandy Summers welcomes new graduates to the field of nursing and inspires them to become fierce patient advocates—to put patients' interests first. Sandy explains her holistic vision of nursing advocacy and shares strategies to help nurses find their voices. She highlights areas in need of our advocacy and offers perspectives on how to overcome the resistance we meet when we challenge the world to do better. Nursing advocacy saves lives, and our patients need us to do it. So please join Sandy and let's get started!
Planning your curriculum?

We have ideas

Many nursing professors rely on the extensive and varied materials on the Truth's website to help their students engage with critical issues nurses will face in the future, from their public image to key aspects of nursing education, practice, and advocacy. Since 2001, we have explored and analyzed how the global media and society in general has seen the nursing profession. Join your colleagues and use this material to help plan your curriculum! Please consider some of these ideas...

See our curriculum ideas...

Books

Imagine a world where nurses were fully empowered to protect patients

Get an author-signed copy of Saving Lives for you or a friend

Saving Lives is the transformative book acclaimed by nurses, nursing leaders, scholars, and the media. It can help your friends, colleagues, and students be the strong nurses our profession needs to protect patients from errors, injuries, and disease. See praise for Saving Lives: Why the Media's Portrayal of Nursing Puts Us All at Risk by leaders in nursing and the media as well as the awards it has
earned, including three Book of the Year awards from the American Journal of Nursing and an award from Sigma Theta Tau, the International Honor Society of Nursing. The updated second edition from Oxford University Press is now available! All donations and royalties go directly to support The Truth About Nursing, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Thank you for your support!

Think about the future

New international text Nurses and Nursing leads off with chapter by Truth leaders

The exciting new textbook Nurses and Nursing: The Person and the Profession includes a chapter on nursing's image by Truth leaders Sandy Summers and Harry Jacobs Summers. Edited by Padraig O Luanaigh, RN, EdD, the thought-provoking new textbook from Routledge "draws on international contributors with a range of backgrounds to explore, engage with and challenge readers in understanding the many aspects and elements that inform and influence contemporary nursing practice." Our chapter is "Nursing's public image: Toward a professional future." We thank Dr. Luanaigh for the opportunity to be a part of this important new project. Please consider this book for your classes in professionalism, nursing and society, and nursing leadership. Click here to request a free copy for review now! See more about the book here...

Learn more about "Nurses and Nursing"...
Change the world with us!

Your support is what makes it possible for us to improve public understanding of nursing -- one media image at a time. Please make a generous donation today. Thank you!

Join the effort to bring nurses more respect!

Join our action teams for:

- Nurses and students
- Professors and researchers
- Members of the media
- Many more!

Thank you for supporting the Truth About Nursing's work!

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