News on nursing in the media
Are nurses getting the respects they need to save lives?
August 25, 2020

Headlines

1. NINR will finally have a nurse as director starting in fall 2020!
2. Netflix’s *Ratched* origin series to premiere in September 2020
3. Nurse explains to *Baltimore Sun* that holistic Covid care is not novel to nurses
4. *Tonic* on the effects of chronic understaffing
5. Vox on nursing as the empathy-oriented job of the future
6. Sign our petition for more PPE!
7. Tune in to our online speaking engagements coming up! You can also book an online engagement now!

Help us bring nursing respect!
News Summaries

Paging Dr. Zenk

NINR will finally have a nurse as director starting in fall 2020!

In July 2020 the National Institutes of Health announced that Shannon Zenk, RN, PhD, would assume the role of director of the National Institute of Nursing Research in fall 2020. Since August 2019, NINR has been without a nurse director, with that role being filled on an interim basis by a dentist and then a biologist. Last year the Truth, joined by many nurses, urged NIH to appoint a nurse as interim director. In any case, we congratulate Dr. Zenk on her appointment.

She's here

Netflix’s Ratched origin series to premiere in September 2020

Creator Ryan Murphy describes the new show, about the iconic battle-axe nurse from One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest, as “an imagining of how this monster was created.” We have long feared the series will reinforce the harmful stereotyping of the original, which linked female nursing authority with malevolence. Will Ratched give viewers a sense that nurses are anything more than disturbed clinical abusers?

“Looking for empathy in medicine? Start with nurses”

Nurse explains to Baltimore Sun that...
Nurse explains to Baltimore Sun that holistic Covid care is not novel to nurses

After a June 2020 piece in the Baltimore Sun marvels at medical students providing holistic care to Covid patients, a local nurse explains that this extraordinary care innovation has actually been at the core of nursing practice forever.

Working nurses to death

Tonic on the effects of chronic understaffing

Jason Silverstein posted a strong report in late 2017 showing that the widespread understaffing of U.S. nurses costs lives and burns out nurses. Commendably, the piece relied solely on nursing scholars and nursing research to make its points. It might have also explained how nurses save lives and addressed potential solutions to the problem.

The Action Figures

Vox on nursing as the empathy-oriented job of the future

An engaging Vox video from late 2017 argues that men should overcome regressive gender notions and enter nursing, which it calls the “robot-proof” “job of the future.” But the video itself reinforces the gendered angel stereotype that nursing is all about “caring and empathy,” ignoring the advanced scientific skills and critical judgments that modern nursing requires.
See Sandy Summers give an online presentation for the University of Sheffield in October 2020!

On October 19, 2020, Truth About Nursing founder and director Sandy Summers will appear online as part of a University of Sheffield program to answer 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 be presenting their findings to a lay panel to initiate public policy changes, with the ultimate goal of strengthening UK nursing care. Please join Sandy online! Stay tuned for details on how to connect.

See Sandy Summers present to Nebraska nurses in November 2020

On November 6, 2020, Truth About Nursing director Sandy Summers will give the keynote address at the Nebraska Action Coalition-Future of Nursing's Fall Leadership / Culture of Health Conference. Originally scheduled to be held at the Holthus Convention Center in York, Nebraska, these events will now be held online.
See Sandy Summers in Florida in August 2021

In August 2021, Truth About Nursing founder and director Sandy Summers will be the keynote speaker at the Florida Nurse Practitioner Network (FNPN) conference in Orlando. The FNPN's theme for this, its 17th conference, will be "2021: The Year NP's Inspire, Innovate & Motivate." If you can, please come see Sandy and be inspired! The conference will be held at the Orlando World Center Marriott.

Sandy Summers speaks at Nigerian conference

On August 8, 2020, Truth About Nursing director Sandy Summers served as a keynote speaker for the online conference “Image of Nursing and the Media: Strategic Leadership Training for Nurse Leaders.” This training, attended by hundreds of nurses across Africa, was sponsored by Nurses On Air, a leading nurse-run digital media hub based in Lagos, Nigeria. Nurses on Air is led by Josiah Jackson-Okesola, who is a member of The Truth About Nursing's advisory panel. Chinelo Ofoma, another Truth About Nursing advisory panel member, also
About Nursing advisory panel member, also spoke at the conference. Josiah and his energetic team are preparing to launch the African Chapter of the Coalition for Better Understanding of Nursing soon. Stay tuned!

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**Nursing events now up in the air?**
The Truth About Nursing's founder and executive director can give an online presentation!

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](#)!

![Sandy Summers](image)

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**Sign all of our petitions. Demand respect for nursing!**

![Image of petitions](image)
Ask U.S. federal officials to get nurses more PPE and Covid-19 tests instead of leaving nurses without proper protection.

Cardi B needs education as to why the naughty nurse damages the nursing profession

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.

Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt: "Thank God for stupid nurses"

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

Inside Amy Schumer used vicious anti-nurse stereotypes

Google

Ascension

Project Nightingale

Don't let this be a search result for "Nightingale. "New Google / Ascension project has already
project has already breached nursing’s data security.

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.

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

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!

Can you please donate $5 or $10 per month to support our work? Thank you!
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
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!

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