News on nursing in the media

Are nurses getting the respect they need to save lives?

December 31, 2021

Headlines

1. New MSNBC op-ed by Truth leader argues that nurses need assistants
2. As Jane the Virgin ends, Xo finds her way—to nursing school!
3. Washington Post highlights a nurse’s diagnosis of her mother’s mysterious disease
4. Generous donor will match first $5,000 of donations before midnight!
5. Join the effort to bring nurses more respect!
6. Book an online or in-person engagement now!

Please help us bring nurses respect with a $5/month donation!

News Summaries
Nurses' public image undermines their claims for clinical support

New MSNBC op-ed by Truth leader argues that nurses need assistant

December 10, 2021 - Today the MSNBC site posted an op-ed by Truth About Nursing director Sandy Summers explaining that nurses need more staff support to provide care to patients in the Covid era. The piece argues that this lack of support is due in large part to social and media stereotypes that cast nurses themselves as assistants—as if clerical work is a good use of their time and skills.

Jane the…Daughter of a Nurse

As Jane the Virgin ends, Xo finds her way— to nursing school!

On the final season of The CW's popular telenovela Jane the Virgin, the main character's mother Xiomara (Xo) finally decided on a career path that held promise: nursing. In general, the plotline tracing Xo's decision-making and nursing school application process told viewers that nursing is a challenging science profession.

Nursing mysteries

Washington Post highlights a nurse’s diagnosis of her mother’s mysterious disease

A 2019 “Medical Mysteries” column tells how a new pediatric nurse discovered the rare disease that had been causing her mother pain for years after seeing a lecture that referred to the condition in passing. The piece shows the nurse to be an educated, alert, and persistent patient advocate.
Matching donor

Support our efforts and your donation will be matched 2:1 before midnight

We can improve public understanding of nursing and build more respect for the profession! When we educate people about the value of nursing, it affects their thinking and their actions. Decision-makers who value nursing allot more funding for nursing research, education and practice. That includes better staffing and other support for nurses at the bedside. This doesn't just improve nurses’ lives, it allows us to save more patients from demise as well.

Your donations make the difference between our organization thriving or not. We can only do this work because of you. Funding from members allows us to launch advocacy campaigns, send news alerts, maintain our online presence, get basic office equipment, monitor the global media, and comply with government regulations. All that costs many thousands of dollars each year. So we celebrate every donation that comes in!

Please donate today and support our efforts to transform how the world sees nursing. We don't ask for money like this very often, so please help us now and get your donation matched 2:1--every dollar you donate leads to $2 more from our donor.

We need you, and nursing needs you.

Thank you!
The Truth About Nursing's founder and executive director gives keynotes!

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. (She's vaccinated.) Click here to see details and book her today!

Sign all of our petitions. Demand respect for nursing!

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

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

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

Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt: "Thank God for stupid nurses"

Inside Amy Schumer used vicious anti-nurse stereotypes.

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

Don't let this be a search result for "Nightingale."
We can turn $5/month into a more empowered nursing profession. Join us?

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...
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...

Presentations

How can nurses become fierce advocates?

Sandy Summers delivered an empowering message to new graduates in a 2019 speech at Widener University’s Nightingale ceremony.

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...

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

See the speech!

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!
Sign up for free news alerts here to stay current on news of nursing in the media!

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

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