

Vision of hope: a nursing perspective on global health for populations with complex life circumstances

Visão de esperança: uma perspectiva de enfermagem sobre a saúde global para populações com circunstâncias de vida complexas

Visión de esperanza: una perspectiva de enfermería sobre la salud global para poblaciones en circunstancias de vida complejas

EDITORIAL

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Motivation to use the concept of complex life circumstances in nursing research

Complex life circumstances refer to social determinants of health that contribute to inequities among underserved populations, increasing their susceptibility to poor health outcomes. These circumstances include homelessness, substance use, being HIV positive or at risk, violence, trauma, and low socioeconomic status, among other indicators.^(1,2) Populations living in such circumstances are more susceptible to harmful experiences associated with health, social, and climate disadvantages.⁽¹⁾

We describe our international Brazil-Canada nursing academic-knowledge exchange collaboration aimed at generating nursing care solutions for people living with complex life circumstances. This collaboration creates a Community of Practice that facilitates multidirectional mentoring, team flourishing, and co-empowerment.

Globally, Communities of Practice yield favorable research and academic outcomes.⁽²⁻⁴⁾ Silverstein et al. utilized a global health practice to maximize the competencies of healthcare professionals working with vulnerable populations.⁽³⁾ These practices decreased professional isolation, improved peer collaboration, and advanced clinical knowledge and best practices through strong partnerships.⁽³⁾ Fruchtman et al. described the creation of a digital community of practice as a strategy to decolonize global health partnerships, fostering multidirectional peer-to-peer learning and coproduction of knowledge.⁽⁴⁾

Our vision of hope leverages our team's strengths and nursing solutions to improve the health of perinatal women and older adults living in complex life situations in Brazil and Canada.

Approach between countries to disseminate the concept of complex life circumstances in nursing research

While contributing to global health and nursing knowledge, our team recognizes that visibility and collaboration can advance conversations on complex life circumstances among perinatal women and older adults at micro, macro-regional, national, and international levels, beyond scientific publications. We believe it is essential to unite

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academic and community study groups to disseminate innovation transversally. Through our collaborative Brazil-Canada project, we prioritize fostering mutual learning and international dialogues on living with complex life circumstances.

Our project, A Nursing Vision of Hope: Strengthening & Developing A North-South Academic and Research Community of Practice to Support People in Complex Life Situations (*Uma Visão de Esperança em Enfermagem: Fortalecendo e Desenvolvendo uma Comunidade de Prática Acadêmica e de Pesquisa Norte-Sul para Apoiar Pessoas em Situações de Vida Complexas*), is funded by the 2024 University of Saskatchewan (USask) College of Nursing Global Engagement Fund in Canada. This initiative emerged from a collaboration between USask nursing researchers and the Federal University of Piauí (UFPI) Graduate Program in Nursing. In our co-learning environments, we share knowledge on issues impacting people with complex health needs and partner in problem-solving. We employ strength-based nursing, mentorship, respect, and diverse cultural philosophies in health care.

Our project also involves regular team writing sessions, co-presentations, and monthly meetings with project members. In 2026, the Federal University of Piauí in Brazil will host a nursing forum on the intersection of nursing care and research, focusing on people living with complex life circumstances. The Canadian team's participation in this forum will help foster a cross-cultural and international perspective, bringing us closer to Piauí, Brazil's social and health realities.

Additionally, our inter-institutional knowledge exchange includes a technical visit by the Brazilian team to USask to promote academic, cross-cultural, and social immersion, and co-learning. This visit will also provide an opportunity to reveal Canadian complex life circumstances and nursing realities. Papers on lessons learned from the forum and visits will inform future academic and research partnerships.

Conclusão

The Community of Practice knowledge production model described here allows for reaching scenarios and population groups that promote nurse-led interdisciplinary collaborations, aligning with global goals for health, economy, social, and technological sustainability. The Nursing Vision of Hope exemplifies an international collaboration that fosters a fairer, efficient, and resilient healthcare system where the needs of people with complex life circumstances are visible.

We invite the global nursing, health, and social science communities to develop research projects focused on complex life circumstances, particularly for those in critical need, including older adults, perinatal individuals, Indigenous peoples, and other minority groups. By working together, we can develop evidence-based solutions to combat health and social disparities from a global health perspective.



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