

Editorial

Share your story: Your journey and experience with the pandemic matters



Good news to all nurses, especially those who love summer! Spring is in the air; summer is around the corner, and we are looking forward to travel to work and back home during daylight and to enjoy time with family and friends. New life is in the leaves and the flowers of spring and summer; the landscape is changing every day, and it is amazing to experience these changes. Nursing and caring did not change, but the scenery has changed irrevocably. It is nearly two years since the first word of what was going to be a pandemic appeared, and our experiences and feelings are still changing every day. Just as we think we know what to expect, a new variant arrives on the horizon.

COVID-19 is slowly and steadily marching across countries and invades fragile human bodies. COVID-19 has highlighted not only the shortcomings in the health systems and its facilities, but also the shortfall in the numbers of those who have to treat and care for the patients. The plight of a large section of our population not having access to health care, untreated illnesses, limited food supplies and no clean water is brought to us daily through social media or the news. Most of the healthcare practitioners active in clinical practice are involved in the care

of acutely ill patients and now also the COVID-19 vaccination programme, leaving only a few to attend to the care of those in desperate need of care. There are many organisations working day and night in an attempt to save lives and improve the living circumstances of those who suffer the most. The stories being told by the children, the young and the old, are the only way to keep our experiences fresh in our minds. These stories are a way to speak openly about what the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 look like for both those who contracted the virus as well as the healthcare workers with the knowledge and experience of treating those with the virus. Share with others the way you have coped during this time. Through these shared stories, communities and populations are bound together, and we realise that we are not alone in the fight against this and other infections and illnesses.

Fighting a pandemic is not a one-person show; it takes a team effort, partnership, and collaboration with all the team members and stakeholders in the hospitals and our communities. The nurses have risen to the challenge and we all realise that without the nurses, their expertise and their dedication, a hospital is only lifeless equipment.

Live in the moment, celebrate and enjoy life, feel the sunshine and the rain, cherish the moments with your loved ones, and, most of all, be grateful to be part of the nursing profession in our country, on our continent and in the world.

Share your journey, your story and your experience with COVID-19 with us, always remember your story is unique, and it matters.

Annelie Meiring

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