

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



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FACING THE FUTURE WITH HOPE

2020 is the year healthcare providers in hospitals became heroes, fighting an unimaginable crisis, in the eyes of the world. They have worked endless hours, offered compassionate care through masked faces, kept families and communities connected virtually, self-quarantined to keep their own families safe, and struggled against their own fears, anxiety, and personal challenges as they sacrificed for others to revive hope.

This COVID-19 Special Edition of the Nursing & Health Sciences Research Journal highlights innovative work of courageous health care providers and describes novel initiatives that Baptist Health South Florida (BHSF) has implemented to save lives.

In our letters section, we present a BHSF leader's message of gratitude for nurses' response to the pandemic.

In our COVID-19 Initiatives section, you will read about after-hours palliative care service by the Palliative Care team of physicians and APRNs. We also share initiatives about the use of effective pandemic response strategies facilitated by real-time data at Baptist Hospital of Miami, a convalescent plasma program at Doctors Hospital and Boca Raton Regional Hospital for critically ill patients, and a COVID-19 Urgent Care Power Plan implemented by the antimicrobial stewardship clinical team. Other initiatives include a drive-thru anticoagulation testing process at South Miami Hospital and a relaxation space created inside a busy hospital to support frontline clinicians' well-being at West Kendall Baptist

Hospital. Additionally, you can read a story about a nurse supervisor who used IPADs to connect COVID patients with their families and a reflection on staff challenges, resources, and support available throughout the system.

In the articles section, you can learn about how to improve code response time to save lives and an investigation on the efficacy of EvenFlo for the management of sickle cell disease.

Health care providers throughout the country are not only serving, but also some have lost their lives during a crisis the likes of which we have not seen in 100 years. As we see more of our colleagues around the country and the world raising their voices to increase awareness of their plight, this journal's editors and editorial board are honored to share information about how our health system has taken this pandemic seriously enough to implement initiatives to dramatically change practice, save lives, and inspire hope.

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