

BACCN Conference 2024 Grant Report

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I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity I had to attend conference, with the support of this grant. In terms of my learning and reflections, the keynote speakers shared some incredibly valuable insights.

Professor Aisha Holloway talked about the under representation of the nursing profession, in the context of global health strategy and about being the first nurse representative at the WHO health summit. It reminds me of the quote, if you aren't invited to a seat at the table, bring your own chair! I hadn't realised the Programme she's directing (www.nursingnow.org) is the first time anyone has sought to quantify the number of nurses practicing, on a global scale & this figure is about 22 million. She also talked about the importance of valuing and mentoring nurses earlier on in their career & issued a call to action, where those in more senior positions can find new learning opportunities e.g. bring new staff to shadow in meetings. She made a great case for this kind of mentorship being mutually beneficial.

During the Workforce discussion, Maggie Wilson talked about her experience as a earlier career nurse, being redeployed to another clinical area for a shift. What's remarkable about her response to this stressful event, was her ability to articulate her experience (including a literature review) to those in senior leadership; and her tenacity to make a positive impact on future staff moves. She reminds us, that it one person can make a significant difference, not only in one unit or hospital, but across multiple provider organisations.

Sarah DiGregorio talked about her book 'Taking Care', which was described as a love letter to nurses 'we hold age old expert knowledge on alleviating suffering'. I've since listened to the audiobook & found it a wonderful piece of literature, describing the power, influence and wide-ranging skills of the profession. She talked about the problematic issues around identity & the fact many see it as a white female profession. The trappings of patriarchy envelop nursing for this very reason & can be evident, when people like Professor Holloway talk about no nurses being in the WHO Health Summit, when multiple medics are represented. It's given me a lot of food for thought.

I had the privilege of presenting on day 2, around the work I led on rolling out Digital STEPs within North East and Yorkshire. Those presenting before me were an incredibly hard act to follow, as Pat McCready and Eleonora talked about their train the trainer roll- out of emergency trauma care, during the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. The bravery and determination to provide much needed education, on the front line of conflict was incredibly humbling to listen to.

In summary, I've listened to some incredibly talented and highly motivated nurses talking about their work, and their insights have given me a new sense of pride about being a nurse (just when I needed this the most).

Thanks again for the opportunity.