

Research Wisdom

FACULTY OF NURSING, CHIANG MAI UNIVERSITY

**CURRENT
RESEARCH**

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REVIEWING EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE
ON THE NURSE PRACTITIONER
WORKFORCE IN THAILAND

AI-ASSISTED ANSWER
ASSESSMENT (4A) FOR
COGNITIVE ASSESSMENTS

RISING TOGETHER: HOW GLOBAL
PARTNERSHIPS ELEVATE
NURSING RESEARCH

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MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

We are rapidly reaching the midway point in the calendar year, and time always seems to move quickly at NurseCMU. Welcome to our Quarter 2 issue of Volume 12 of our Research Wisdom newsletter. As I browse the content for this latest issue, I am certain that there is something for all of our readership, whether you are part of our NurseCMU family, a Thai nursing professional, or one of our growing network of international friends and partners.

June is a busy month at the faculty, with international visits, student exchanges, short courses, and the start of the academic year all vying for space on the calendar. As usual, there seems to be no break for our researchers, as we present this current quarterly report on what is going on at Chiang Mai University.

Considering that the theme of this issue is international collaboration, our two featured publications, as well as several others from our publication list, demonstrated multi-talented research teams with nurses of different levels and backgrounds working together to find solutions, proving that cooperating and soliciting the assistance of others strengthens the publishability of our work.

Associate Professor Dr. Apiradee Nantsupawat presents us with a much-needed review of the literature on the nursing practitioner workforce in Thailand, with important insights for academics and policymakers to build on the success of nurse practitioners' increasingly important work across the country. Moreover, as NurseCMU always strives to be at the forefront of practical and relevant technological innovations in nursing, Associate Professor Dr. Piyanut Xuto and her team highlight the feasibility and effectiveness of their AI-powered cognitive skills assessment tool with their contribution to this edition.

Finally, in the spirit of our issue theme of international collaboration, take a moment to reach out to your colleagues beyond borders, and plant your own seeds for a future project with your global partners.

Warm regards,



Suparat Wangsrikhun, PhD, RN

Dean and Assistant Professor
Faculty of Nursing, Chiang Mai University

Together We Rise

Building on Our Pride,
Shaping Our Future



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The nurse practitioner (NP) is a vital part of many healthcare workforces in countries around the world and Thailand is no exception, where particularly in rural areas, nurse practitioners provide crucial aspects of primary care to underserved populations.

Associate Professor Dr. Apiradee Nantsupawat identified that many basic issues related to the NP workforce in Thailand had been studied, but that a comprehensive evaluation of this research did not yet exist. She set to recruiting an expert team including experienced researchers from both Columbia University and Chiang Mai University, including Assoc. Prof. Dr. Noppamas Sripetchwandee, to manage the work-intensive process of a scoping review, which included the reading, screening, and deciding on studies for inclusion.

A scoping review of empirical evidence on the nurse practitioner workforce in Thailand

Interestingly, the team found that most of the studies cleared for inclusion were Thai-language papers, highlighting both the rich sources of knowledge being explored locally, as well as the need for more English-language research to be done in order to share these findings with the wider nursing community.

Five main themes related to NPs arose from the sample of 42 articles, which included the following: education, patient outcomes related to NP care, performance, competency, and wellbeing. Findings demonstrate the existence of a competent, innovative NP workforce whose primary care provision results in positive patient outcomes, agreeing with existing research findings in international contexts.



published in International
Nursing Review



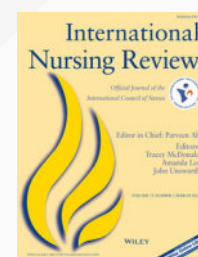
Although Thai NPs report high to moderate levels of job satisfaction, quality of work life was shown to be moderate, suggesting that more research into NP well-being is necessary. Surprisingly, only two studies focused on NP wellbeing, although Dr. Apiradee suggested that this finding may reflect the core values of nursing practice, which emphasizes caring for others' well-being as a primary concern before one's own.

A major recommendation of the authors includes setting a master's degree qualification as a minimum requirement for NPs in Thailand. While this would bring Thai nursing education in line with global healthcare standards, it is also reflective of the advanced level of competency required of NPs and the work that it takes to get them there.

Moreover, policymakers are urged to consider the elevation of the NP role in primary care, and support for elaborating on their roles including management of patients with chronic conditions and development of services in line with current innovations.

This area of research also provides fertile ground for graduate students and novice researchers. Dr. Apiradee was quick to suggest some interesting directions for research on NPs, including addressing the gap demonstrated by the relative lack of studies on NP wellbeing. Furthermore, critical research questions persist concerning the effectiveness of NP practice in achieving key healthcare outcomes, such as reducing healthcare system costs, increasing equitable healthcare access for underserved populations in remote areas, and improving overall patient quality of life.

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Development and evaluation of an AI-assisted answer assessment (4A) for cognitive assessments in nursing education

published in *Nursing Reports*

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is the buzzword in multiple domains at present, and of course, the nursing field is no exception. NurseCMU researchers are no strangers to AI research and application. In light of the time constraints inherent in nursing education, from both the teaching and learning perspectives, AI integration promises new ways to support nursing educators.

Associate Professor Dr. Piyanut Xuto, from the Obstetrics and Gynecology Nursing Department, is an early adopter, focusing on how AI-powered programs can provide consistent assessment for students, correlating with human expert evaluation while also addressing the limitations inherent in traditional assessment practices.

One of her most recent innovations has been the 4A program, the aim of which is to assess nursing students in terms of cognitive skills. Until recently, standard AI-powered grading tools have been most commonly used to complete structured assessments, but this is not enough in many nursing contexts where critical thinking, clinical reasoning, and decision-making are crucial parts of the practitioner's skillset.

The 4A program addressed this gap by integrating tools such as speech-to-text and natural language processing. These allow the tool to look at a wider range of student responses, namely processes of verbal reasoning, which align more directly with what a human nurse educator may produce. As a result, the goals of this study were to determine whether the 4A program agreed with human assessors, to ensure 4A's accuracy and precision in assessment, and to validate the tool externally, proving its usability for real-world settings.





nursing reports

Traditionally, students will need to learn about practice situations in which, for example, a mother is not producing enough milk for a baby, or the baby's is not sucking appropriately. The process of assessment can be time-intensive for both students and educators.

Therefore, in this intervention, the 4A program plays the role of the mother. Additionally, students can use it as a self-study tool, allowing for continuous assessment and feedback, until they can hone their own practice to be in line with accepted nursing standards.

Results presented a feasible and effective assessment measure, which proved itself very similar to human assessors, and capable of human-like levels of accuracy and precision. Importantly, scores on the 4A test were positively correlated with scores on national nursing exams showing its clear value as an educational tool with real-world application and benefit.

Dr. Piyanut is confident that programs similar to the 4A can be developed for other types of assessment in nursing. The current 4A program operated in five languages, and she stressed that students from different cultural backgrounds can also use this tool effectively due to the universal nature of the clinical situations being assessed. While the 4A program can assist nursing educators and alleviate time constraints, while providing an accurate feedback and assessment, it is important to note that nurses are still required at all steps of the implementation, so replacement of humans is not a worry.



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RIISING TOGETHER: HOW GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS ELEVATE NURSING RESEARCH



NurseCMU is committed to enhancing our research profile to maintain our growing reputation, nationally, regionally, and globally. One way we do this is through international collaborations. In this issue, we recap some recent examples to underline their importance.



Would it interest you to know what dementia rates in Japan can be markedly higher than here in Thailand—even five to six times more prevalent compared with Chiang Mai province?

Well, that statistic certainly sparked the interest of Takako Yamada and several colleagues from Japan, motivating them to initiate a study to better understand this phenomenon.

Although the COVID-19 pandemic delayed some of the steps in the research process, the final paper, *entitled Important Life Activities of Older Adults in The Chiang Mai Community: A Text Mining Analysis Using KH Coder*, was recently published along with NurseCMU faculty members Dr. Hunsu Sethabouppha and Asst. Prof. Dr. Chalinee Suvanayos from the Psychiatric Nursing Department, who contributed their local expertise to this research.

This study of Chiang Mai's elderly - conducted by an international team - revealed culturally specific protective factors against dementia, such as grandparent caregiving and temple-based social networks, that were uniquely illuminated through the partnership between Japanese researchers and Thai nursing experts. The Thai team's dual role as both healthcare providers for the participants and cultural interpreters for the study was instrumental in framing these findings, with their 'local wisdom' proving fundamental to both access and analysis.

Yet another aspect of this study that checks our boxes for the benefits of international collaboration is the use of the Canadian Occupational Performance Measure (COPM). Validated for use with a population in an Asian context, this demonstrates how cooperation in research is about tools and frameworks, as much as people, highlighting the universal nature of patient-centered care.

Another recent NurseCMU publication by our Associate Dean for research, Dr. Phanida Juntasopeepun, appeared in *Nursing & Health Sciences*. This study's context was in Thailand. Dr. Phanida initiated this study, a secondary data analysis utilizing the dataset from a broader survey of older Thai persons from several years ago.

The inclusion of a U.S.-based researcher, Dr. Donna Bliss, a colleague of Dr. Phanida's, strengthened the ecological model's application by integrating cross-cultural methodological rigor. Dr. Bliss's contributions to conceptualization and data analysis helped contextualize Thailand's unique community health worker system (VHVs) within global caregiver support frameworks, revealing how local policies can mitigate burden despite cultural norms of filial piety.

Finally, it likely goes without saying that the COVID-19 pandemic by itself reminded the wider healthcare community of the necessity of keeping up to date and in communication with our colleagues and other experts worldwide. Associate Professor Dr. Apiradee Nantsupawat was one of many authors in another recent study, led by one of her international collaborators, Professor Allison Squires of New York University.

The study—spanning 35 countries and 9,387 nurses—identified significant gaps in mental health support for nurses, globally. Without this kind of multinational collaboration, these kinds of disparities in the data (e.g., high- vs. low-income countries) remain invisible, undermining the ability of healthcare leaders and policymakers to facilitate responses. Yet nurturing international networks results in greater access to settings, expertise, and perspectives, which in turn, helps to answer research questions more comprehensively and effectively.

These collaborations demonstrate several truths about working outside of one's comfort zone. Local research questions can gain depth and relevance through international partnerships. Moreover, diverse perspectives in nursing research lead to stronger, more effective outcomes, as well as professional benefits from all involved.

The papers mentioned here provide just a small cross-section of the multi-national partnerships which are currently ongoing between NurseCMU researchers and their colleagues across the globe. For early-career researchers, these collaborations offer academic growth and a chance to shape the research of the future, while for more experienced scholars, their expertise and access to local settings can be invaluable to colleagues abroad.



RESEARCH SNAPSHOTS

Quality of life of people with schizophrenia: A discussion paper

In this wide-ranging discussion paper, Professor Dr. Patraporn Bhatarasakoon elaborates on the extremely complex issue of quality of life (QoL) for individuals suffering from schizophrenia, focusing on several aspects including, measurement of QoL in this group, the factors which influence their QoL, and interventions which can enhance it. Gaps in the knowledge base in this area, as well as the potential for future research, were also addressed. People with schizophrenia experience significantly lower QoL, due to different clinical, social, and cultural factors, which requires tailored, multifaceted nursing interventions—such as psychoeducation, CBT, and community-based support—to address their complex needs. Standardized schizophrenia-specific QoL assessments should guide care, while integrated pharmacological and psychosocial approaches, alongside stakeholder collaboration, are critical for sustainable improvement. Policymakers and healthcare systems must give priority to comprehensive, culturally sensitive strategies for enhancing long-term outcomes for this population. *Pacific Rim International Journal of Nursing Research*

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Relationship between quality of life and occupational health literacy among informal wood furniture workers in Thailand

Quality of life (QoL) is considered an important construct in healthcare while health literacy can also become a valuable tool leading to positive health outcomes. Asst. Prof. Dr. Patcharin Chaisurin sought to explore the relationship between the two in a population which can tend to be neglected: non-formal woodworkers. From a population of 320 workers, random sampling was used to select 175 of them for the study and data collection came from these workers' responses to a set of questionnaires. Findings showed that respondents had high overall health literacy. Moreover, QoL which has multiple dimensions, was positively correlated with workers' health literacy across most of these dimensions. QoL appeared to decrease relative to factors such as insufficient income, debt, and underlying diseases, whereas no significant relationship was observed regarding these factors and health literacy. *Safety and Health at Work*

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RESEARCH SNAPSHOTS

Policy initiatives and effectiveness: Maldivian nurses' career advancement and remuneration

Policy serves as a key mechanism for the widespread implementation of strategies aimed at developing the nursing workforce, and its study in diverse settings offers important contributions to nursing's body of literature. This study, led by NurseCMU PhD candidate Asiya Ibrahim, aimed to analyze how individuals who implemented policy, made decisions, or were stakeholders viewed its effectiveness. The qualitative approach utilized semi-structured interviews, relying on thematic analysis to process the data, which resulted in two underlying themes: perceptions of the positive effects as well as the negative outcomes of implementation. While participants observed gains in recognition of nursing as a profession, professional development, and compensation grades, there was also a view that the policy was unfinished or incomplete in some areas prompting the researcher to highlight the need to strengthen the areas where positive gains have been made such as career mobility and pay improvement. *Nursing & Health Sciences*

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Exploring family caregiver burden using the ecological model: Insights from Thailand's older population

Family caregiving is common, but with it can come caregiver burden. Some studies have examined the factors related to this burden in Thai caregivers of older adults; however, they have generally been limited in scope and sample size. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Phanida Juntasopheepun worked with her colleagues, both local (NurseCMU) and international (University of Minnesota), to complete this study aiming to measure caregiver burden in this group and to identify the factors which could predict this burden. Conducting a secondary data analysis of the data provided by a 2021 national survey of over 3000 older person/caregiver pairs, it could be seen that primary family caregivers experienced burden at relatively low levels. However, increased levels of caregiver burden resulted from multiple other factors including having to quit work and family size, in addition to patient factors such as poor health, ADL dependency, age, and hearing ability. Recommendations included addressing these findings via nurse practices, health policy, and support provision for caregiving families for improved outcomes both in the patients and the caregivers. *Nursing & Health Sciences*

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RESEARCH SNAPSHOTS

Potential of agricultural waste fibers for dialdehyde carboxymethyl cellulose production

As most people in Northern Thailand are aware, air pollution, in particular PM 2.5, poses a yearly health risk during the regional burning season. NurseCMU researcher Dr. Patompong Khaw-on contributed to this important research, collaborating with his colleagues from the Faculty of Agro-Industry and the Lanna Rice Research Center at Chiang Mai University. The study explores how agricultural waste in Thailand—such as rice straw, corn husk, hemp shives, and durian rinds—can be repurposed to reduce air pollution from burning. Focusing on their cellulose content, the researchers converted these wastes into a modified cellulose product through controlled chemical reactions. The resulting material showed high reactivity, with hemp shives yielding the most promising results. Advanced analytical techniques confirmed its suitability for use as a crosslinking agent, which could enhance biodegradable films in future applications. By transforming low-value agricultural residues into functional materials, this approach not only mitigates environmental harm but also adds economic value to waste. *Polysaccharides*

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Effectiveness of midwife/nurse-led non-invasive uterine massage in preventing postpartum haemorrhage: A quantitative systematic review protocol

The need often arises in multiple areas of nursing to review the efficacy of interventions in order to strengthen the evidence base for furthering nursing practice via updated guidelines and recommendations. As the JBI methodology for conducting systematic reviews is well-known and effective, this framework was employed to construct this protocol which involves searching multiple databases for English and Thai language studies on the effectiveness of non-invasive uterine massage for prevention of postpartum haemorrhage (PPH), a serious condition which can have negative effects on the health of postpartum women. Professor Dr. Patraporn Bhatarasakoon worked with a team of nursing researchers from institutions across the country. No formal ethical approval is required due to the anonymous nature of the data analysis. The results will provide an overarching survey of the evidence related to non-invasive uterine massage interventions led by nurses and midwives to prevent postpartum haemorrhage. *BMJ Open*

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RESEARCH SNAPSHOTS

A descriptive analysis of nurses' self-reported mental health symptoms during the COVID-19 pandemic: An international study

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Apiradee Nantsupawat joined a large international authorship team which aimed to explain nurses' mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic. Participants from 35 countries provided data for this descriptive analysis. Nearly 10,000 participants completed an opt-in survey over a one-year period, from 2022 to 2023. Descriptive statistics supported analysis of data related to self-report of mental health symptoms, burnout, personal loss, access to mental health services, and self-care coping practices during the pandemic with the study report following STROBE guidelines. Anxiety/depression (23–61%) and burnout (18%) could be seen while most employers, according to nurses, did not offer mental health support. Most nurses reported an increase in engagement with self-care. Public aggression was experienced by nearly half of all respondents due to their being nurses. The results of this study provide healthcare organizations and governments with the data required to initiate targeted support programs for nurses focusing on mental health. *International Nursing Review*

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Effectiveness of using an online instructional video for preventing infections among Thai patients with cancer: A quasi-experimental study

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nongkran Viseskul led this quasi-experimental study which involved determining the effectiveness of online instructional media aiming to reduce and/or prevent infections in patients with cancer in northeast Thailand. While the control group of patients showed no significant development in infection prevention knowledge or practice at the end of the intervention period, the patients who underwent the four-week online training did improve significantly. These results add to a growing body of evidence on the usefulness of online video to enhance knowledge and practices in patients with demonstrable results. *Belitung Nursing Journal*

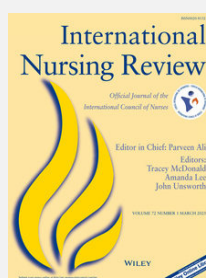
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RESEARCH SNAPSHOTS

Important life activities of older adults in the Chiang Mai community: A text mining analysis using KH coder

This study explores the daily lives of older adults in Chiang Mai, Thailand, using text mining to analyze interviews framed by the Canadian Occupational Performance Measure (COPM). Key themes included social connections ("friends"), family caregiving ("grandchildren"), and community activities ("temple visits"). Participants emphasized "being of service to others" as central to their purpose, linking it to dementia prevention in a region with lower dementia rates (2.4%) than Japan (16%). Frequent activities like cooking, exercise, and social media (SNS) highlighted active, intergenerational lifestyles. Cultural nuances, such as Buddhist practices and grandparent-led childcare, emerged as unique protective factors. Although this cross-sectional data was drawn from a non-representative sample, findings suggest social engagement and cultural practices may underpin cognitive resilience in aging Thai populations. *Journal of Comprehensive Nursing Research and Care*

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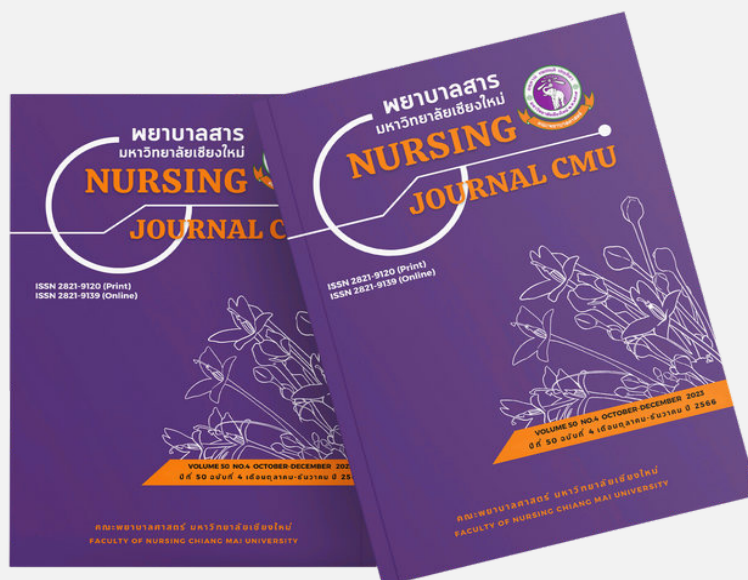
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