

EDITORIAL

Qualified nurses for 21st century

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Dear readers,

Both in our professional and private lives we are facing our third extraordinary year. Following on from the period in which the world has been dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, we are now also affected by the war in Ukraine. Every such crisis is a tough test for people, relationships, and systems.

In my opinion it is also a test for those employed in support functions. The Nursing profession and employees working in the healthcare sector have stood firm during these hardships. As a result, society has been able to recognize the importance of healthcare professionals, and once again it has been apparent how crucial the role of nurses is in the healthcare system. Only time will tell if this level of recognition will persist in the long term. The COVID-19 pandemic also served to highlight the shortage of nurses, and, subsequently, we have seen increased interest among students in entering the nursing profession.

When we stop to think for a moment, we can appreciate how science, technological development, and innovation in the healthcare professions have resulted in a range of new procedures, new equipment, and new sophisticated personal protective equipment (PPE) for healthcare workers. New technologies such as, e.g., telemedicine have become commonplace. Hospitals are now putting greater emphasis on paperless operations.

Nurses are at the forefront of these changes in 21st century. For nurses this should be a highly-motivating factor. Nursing has never involved only one role. Nowadays, as in the past, nurses must take on multiple roles, influenced by current changes in society, changes in healthcare systems, and other innovations.

We should never forget that we must endeavor to perform adequately in spite of all circumstances, even in times of crisis. Let us use the experience from the period of crisis for our future development. If we fail to do so, and forget the lessons learnt, it will ultimately be a kind of defeat and we nurses do not like to lose. Overcoming a crisis brings new experiences that shape new perspectives and transform our beliefs, which can be utilized in the future. We should embrace this opportunity to view the nursing profession in a new way and to reflect on the application of new technologies in the profession. In order to achieve this, there is a need for a sufficient number of educated nurses that are highly devoted to the profession. These days a nurse needs to be technically skilled, educated, and highly resilient. We wish the Czech healthcare system to have an abundance of such nurses in the future.

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