

Reflections on the basis for the expansion of nursing partnerships between Brazil–Canada

Reflexões sobre as bases para a expansão das parcerias de enfermagem entre Brasil–Canadá

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ABSTRACT

Building a more eloquent profile for partners of scientific Brazil–Canada cooperation among nursing researchers is necessary to increase the number of scientific publications and amplify the scientific-political voice in political and administrative decisions. Therefore, we used a critical reflection method during the period from May to December 2018 to review the possibility of partnerships. We believe that financing, sharing, and producing are the new levels of priority strategies. Accordingly, we are invited to glimpse how we can evolve together and how this evolution can be better reflected in joint publications for those that touch on different approaches to the student/community in theoretical/practical activities, in the academic space, or in extracurricular activities, in that they develop new tools for this science. The boldness of globalizing research and in the expansion of productivity is expected to represent the political force through multicenter international research, attracting partnerships and attention from international nursing organizations.

Descriptors: Nursing Research; Technical Cooperation; Scientific Communication and Diffusion.

RESUMO

A construção de perfil mais eloquente para parcerias de cooperação científica Brasil–Canadá entre enfermeiros pesquisadores é requerida para incremento do número de publicações científicas e ampliação da voz científica-política na arena de tomada de decisões políticas e administrativas. Assim, utilizamos o método reflexão crítica no período de maio–dezembro/2018 para rever possibilidade de parcerias. Acreditamos que financiar, compartilhar e produzir são os novos patamares como estratégias prioritárias. Desse modo, somos convidados a vislumbrar o quanto podemos evoluir juntos e o quanto tal evolução poderia ser melhor refletida nas publicações conjuntas por aqueles que lidam com diferentes abordagens ao discente/comunidade em atividades teóricas/práticas, no espaço acadêmico ou em ações extramuros, em que se desenvolvem novas ferramentas para tal ciência. Espera-se que a ousadia na internacionalização da pesquisa e na expansão da produtividade possa representar a força política por meio da pesquisa internacional multicêntrica, atraindo parcerias e atenção de organizações internacionais de Enfermagem.

Descritores: Pesquisa em Enfermagem; Cooperação Técnica; Comunicação e Divulgação Científica.

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How to cite this article: Zanchetta MS, Santos WS, Felipe ICV, Correia DMS. Reflections on the basis for the expansion of nursing partnerships between Brazil–Canada. *Eletr. Enferm.* [Internet]. 2019 [cited on: _____];21:57000. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.5216/ree.v21.57000>.

Received on: 02/01/2019. Accepted on: 01/10/2019. Available on: 12/31/2019.

INTRODUCTION

Knowledge-building requires innovation in the methods of boosting nursing science. This way of acting strengthens the social actors involved, and it is stressed in Brazilian government documents about the importance of *modus operandi* for the economy, rent, employment, and, therefore, for the country. It arrives from the capabilities of research and innovation, and it also points out the differences between Brazil and more developed countries in terms of scientific production and technology⁽¹⁾. To become a part of the international nursing community, we must still learn to confront the process of globalization in partnerships, without illusions but with awareness of challenges.

For this reflective text about the relevant and challenging themes of international scientific cooperation for nursing, we were inspired by two main concepts:

1. Culture of science in nursing: Nursing care and technology go hand-in-hand because it is during the process of caring, which combines scientific knowledge with technical and observational abilities, that paradigms shift. What ceases to be from a simple change in perspective, typically altered from subjectivity and compassion. (Dr. Maria Aparecida de Luca Nascimento, personal communication, July 18 2018).
2. Nursing is a practical science: The science of nursing built by intuition and through methods of qualitative and quantitative research generates, respectively, categories, classes, and objective data that are supported by qualitative findings. Innovation is caused by the continuous search for effectiveness that combines efficiency with efficacy onto a phenomenon that was built from a scientific basis. Facts, data, and findings, when correlated, generate indicators that transform into information; when socialized and disseminated, knowledge is produced. (Dr. Antônio Marinho, personal communication, July 15 2018).

Reflecting about the scientific Brazil–Canada relationship among nursing researchers requires building a profile that is more appropriate for a partnership that produces knowledge, increasing the number of rigorous scientific publications, and, additionally, amplifying the scientific-political voice in the sector of political and administrative decision-making. With growing demands of globalizing research and of political action of global nursing, we ponder the strategies for the career of the researcher, including the awareness of participating in the process regarding the undeniable role of scientific publications that influence decisions in all spheres of public administration. Subsequently, we additionally reflect about the capacity of these researchers to understand the detrimental effects of their invisibility in the context of scientific publications. Once reinforcing political

invisibility of the profession in the game of influencing power among various professions still limits their participation in international nursing teams. Finally, we consider what can become the mutual inspiration for new methods of collaborating for these intellectual partnerships.

Therefore, Brazilian nursing finds itself facing the opportunity to participate in scientific cooperation to access other aspects of international research. What conditions present themselves for this situation? How can Brazilian nursing faculty researchers be presented as research partners?

METHOD

This article used the critical reflection research method⁽²⁾, which guides the investigation of cyclical reflection processes wherein professionals' critique tacit understandings of repetitive experiences, generating new knowledge and behaviours. These reflections were shared among teachers with experiential knowledge about nursing research practice in Brazil and in Canada to explore the basis for establishing dialogue and in international relations between nursing researchers in addition to the reality and profile of Canadian and Brazilian partners. During a period from May to December in 2018, the authors traded ideas in a lively manner, consulted with peers, and reviewed publications, documents, and Internet pages to substantiate their reflections. These reflections were structured in four distinct aspects that are presented below.

REFLECTIONS

Basis for establishing the dialogue and international cooperation

The Brazil–Canada Science, Technology, and Innovation Cooperation Agreement is a framework for Canadians and Brazilians to be able to collaborate and work together in areas of research and development⁽³⁾. This collaboration can serve of a catalyst for forming innovation in areas of common interest⁽⁴⁾. As members of the Pan-American Health Organization, the Canadian government highlights that the partnerships and involvement with Brazil is built upon a key action, since both share a strong academic and cultural connection that they continue to strengthen⁽⁴⁾. Certainly, nursing has the rights to be encompassed by actions of research globalization related to global migratory movements of populations from a necessary study of global phenomena of life, health, and death in diverse social spaces, politics, and geographies. The gathering of national organizations (Brazilian Association of Nursing and Federal

Council of Nursing) and international organizations (International Council of Nurses) constitute a change for the political perspective of research, with increased visibility for the lived phenomena experienced by nurses and clients.

For Canadian Dr. Judith Shamian, the former president of International Council of Nurses, the idea of global health means the achievement of universal healthcare for all without compromising their financial situation⁽⁵⁾. According to the United Nation's proposal of 17 objectives for sustainable development⁽⁶⁾, nursing has a moral and social obligation to participate in the global health agenda due to having the largest group of professionals in the world. Dr. Shamian⁽⁵⁾ emphasized that one of the mechanisms to do so is to increase the dialogue among nurses from all countries to outline a global nursing agenda. Knowing about the role of nursing professionals on a global scale is of great importance, as it can allow for the empowerment of nurses themselves and for the empowerment of populations. To unlock the political and social potential of these professionals, there is a need for political commitment and for effective collaboration among the various countries of the world.

The reality and profile of the Canadian partner

Considering the relevant differences, the Brazil–Canada dialogue in the nursing research field should align with the actual and current challenges, possibilities, and difficulties in both contexts. Research is increasingly discussed in Canadian society as political decisions at the national and provincial level to nursing practice rely heavily on it, in accordance with health priorities. The social contribution of Canadian nursing research has become multidimensional due to various factors⁽⁷⁾:

- Informing health professionals about patient/client experiences within the healthcare system, as well as their preferences in terms of treatment, information, and culturally-sensitive approaches.
- Illuminating the administrative aspects of the healthcare system to optimize them in terms of human resources and global management.
- Augmenting understandings of maximum achievement of effectiveness and maximize client care outcomes.
- The growing participation of nursing researchers in multidisciplinary research teams, thereby expanding the theoretical, conceptual, and empirical basis of nursing.

Despite the undeniable recognition of its contribution, Canadian nursing still faces restrictions in terms of accessing research financing by funding agencies since research priorities identified by nurses are not always aligned with those defined by such agencies. Additionally, undergraduate and post-graduate nursing programs, regardless of their research levels, face the dilemma of how to offer, specifically

to undergraduate students, the incentive necessary for their students to consider research as part of their career plans. Even with the growing motivation of these students to become research assistants, the finances available for reimbursement are not a significant portion of nursing program budgets. In terms of post-graduates, research scholarship access is also not a resource for many. The challenges of teaching research in a classroom contribute to the need to provide actual research experiences, which is a task that requires teachers to have academic innovation due to the large number of students in a classroom.

But why is Canadian nursing so preoccupied with matters of research? A possible shortage of nursing researchers in the next 10 or 15 years is based on the current older ages of researchers that are intellectually productive to improve the quality of professional practice in teaching, management, research, activism, and political action. The global context of gathering scientific evidence for professional practice in health services is a political challenge: “Who decides what topics are valuable to research and research funding, and what knowledge is valued as scientific evidence from the perspective of evidence-based practice?⁽⁷⁾”.

We must translate empirical results into simple actions to increase the quality of multidimensional practice. To do this, it is necessary to have a common understanding between nursing professionals about the relevance of research as an instrument in practice that should be treated as much in formative university years, service education, and continuing education. As such, the democratization of knowing in terms of how to read, understand, and critique research has become a new priority area for action for managers, clinic nurse specialists, and nursing educators to help professionals appreciate the value of research and find creative ways of incorporating research in their practice.

How does Canada provide an example of a way to make research politically and socially intertwined in spite of funding restrictions? An example is the awareness that publications are vital, resulting in attention to all opportunities to transform content from practice, the classroom, research, reading, and reflection into material for publication while attending to the demand of having publications to build the profile of a researcher and expert in a given knowledge area.

It is worthwhile to clarify that the process of producing drafts involves a series of strategies to ensure conceptual, methodological, and semantic quality as well as theoretical coherence and possible contributions to practice. As such, nurses participate in writing groups or clubs, discuss the structure and development of ideas with English editors for textual and grammatical quality concerns, and request critical readings and commentary by specialists of the field (in general, an expert in the theory used, the methodology

applies, or even an expert of the practice that represents the possible users of the knowledge produced by the research).

The sum of these critiques, comments, and suggestions offered by the expert readers serve as reference for the enhancement of the drafts before their submission to scientific journals. This practice ensures that the research complies with multiple relevant quality items within the draft, especially ethical aspects of the research towards individuals and methodological rigor. In the perspective of various editors, these are interconnected factors; rigorous ethical aspects correspond with rigorous application of the chosen scientific methods.

This movement is guided by an understanding of how managers and policy makers use research to justify their decisions. Additionally, research publications containing recommendations for teaching, research, practice, and policy development should, therefore, take advantage of this context to create concrete and timely influences in response to challenges that are imposed by the complexity of healthcare decisions. Another type of attitude nods to the necessity of exploring all forms of research funding in addition to government agencies. Consequently, nursing researchers submit their projects to multiple private research foundations, professional, community, and political organizations, among others. Increasingly, the identification of these sources is a key element to counteract the effects of constant cuts in federal research financing. In addition, social recognition by peers, or the researchers of other disciplines, has become an undeniable necessity for the delimitations of political space of the nursing researcher. Professional dialogue established by undergraduates and new graduate students in placements, their preceptors, and the teachers offering indirect academic support for them is also relevant. This dialogue creates a bridge of reality between academia and service on a base of innovative practice, teaching, and research.

The reality and profile of the Brazilian partner

Changes in the paradigm of nursing research and in research methodologies in the last 10 years, even those still very distant from impacting healthcare politics, has become relevant for the science of nursing. Without a doubt, the biggest repercussion of research is presented in the context of practice and, probably, at the moment, research advances towards having social influence. It is worth mentioning the history of related effects to nursing science in Brazil in the years 1970s to 1990s (coinciding with the North American

movement) with the incorporation of nursing theories, the development of care standards, the systemization of nursing care, and more⁽⁸⁾.

In this exercise, with practice precursors based on evidence, the first clinical research studies arose with great demonstrations of creativity by nurses in specialized and highly complex services that, by inventing new work tools without awareness of their rights to scientific patent registrations, provided examples of how theoretical scientific thought was sustained by challenges to practice. Many other research studies created by nurses or in partnership with other researchers, which resulted in changes to healthcare protocols, fostered private research incentives, stimulated discussions of health policies, and improved techniques and technologies in nursing care. It is worth emphasizing that these impacts on practice are not available, compiled, or even disclosed publicly.

A detail of the actual context of research is owed to overcoming observational methods for a wider use of the interventional method. In addition, the formation of groups and clusters of intra-professional research assembled a majority of researchers and undergraduate and graduate nursing students, which is a trend that has gradually changed into the multidisciplinary profile. Therefore, there has been a noted increase in professional researcher visibility; they identify, in their curriculum vitae Lattes¹, the research groups they belong to, which leads to new invites for others to act as evaluators and experts in research, new partnerships, and an increase in scientific productivity. It is necessary to comment on how these experiences can serve as an example for the familiar Canadian partner, generally with research teams that are composed to create scientific research studies. Meanwhile, only researchers with research programs that have been well-funded and well-established for years work in research groups. The central point of a possible transfer of know-how lies precisely in the participation of individuals involved in research, despite various different levels of academic backgrounds.

Another form of political articulation are partnerships that have been established for decades within post-graduate and graduate nursing programs with health organizations to bring nurses in service closer to obtaining their masters and doctorate degrees. As such, there have been countless attempts of international collaboration with Lusophone and Hispanic countries and, in lesser proportion, Anglophone and Francophone countries.

1 Curriculum vitae (CV) Lattes is a curriculum model that should be done directly on the Lattes platform. The system is managed by the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq). CNPq created the Lattes platform (<http://lattes.cnpq.br/>) to integrate a database of CVs from research groups and organizations/institutions into the same system. The goal is to facilitate interaction between these groups.

In respect to publications in scientific periodicals in other languages, there is a need for special attention to be paid to careful selection of translators that meet certain criteria in not only literal translations of words, but also those with proven knowledge of technical vernacular nursing terms in various languages. Without a sufficient understanding of foreign languages to judge the technical quality of translations, nursing authors run the risk of being faced with immediate refusal of their articles without even a preliminary screening by foreign periodicals.

Despite these growing opportunities to associate with research peers, not including the concept of research as a part of a strategic career plan post-doctorate means that few have and express a consolidated researcher profile. A current criteria and consensus point is related to the fact that a doctorate degrees can be obtained for a greater qualification to teach without a clear motivation to lead a career in research.

Contributions

In discussing that new basics can be achieved using priority strategies, we believe that financing, sharing, and producing are the new levels to which we propose some priority strategies. To “financing”, the collective priority strategy requires mobilization in the search for alternative sources of financing projects and research grants. Strategically, the partnership of universities with private companies, industries of production of goods/artifacts, or service providers would allow a response to mutual interests of applied teaching in research and in the resolution of practical concerns. “Sharing” means the democratization of knowledge in research methods and scientific writing among researchers with proven experience and novices, as well as students. By aligning with students to innovate their learning through production of drafts written by them, the students will also increase their productivity. Creating scientific draft writing groups that involve students in various levels of programs would awaken and mobilize the potential of a new nursing generation with a broader view of science by, in, and for nursing.

The “producing” involves, in itself, an avant-garde vision for scientific production in curious and daring gazes, captured as material worthy of publication and daily practices in school, in service, in public actions, and more⁽⁹⁾. International research and publication trends are autonomous behaviours of health identified in analyses of documents, opinions, behaviours, and discussions in public domains on the Internet. The visibility that results from these innovative publications would bring a major understanding of the global movement of translating knowledge for evidence-based practice, introducing the notion of scientifically-generated knowledge within the reach of the many.

CONCLUSION

It is necessary to create a vision of how much we can evolve together, and how much evolution can be better reflected in publication collaborations by those with different approaches to students/communities in theoretical and practical activities, in academic spaces and in extracurricular actions, equally, in which new tools for such a science are developed. We hope that the boldness of research globalization and the expansion of productivity despite time and Brazilian political-geographical space can represent a political force using diverse international research, which attracts partnerships and attention from international nursing organizations to influence political-legal Brazilian spheres in the future. Therefore, being more daring and determined will reinvent the education and profile consolidation of the Brazilian nursing researcher.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The authors thank Ines Gomes, who kindly revised the English version of the manuscript.

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