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EDITORIAL

Margarida Goes^{1,2}, Ana João^{1,2}.

¹Nursing Department, University of Évora;

²Comprehensive Health Research Centre (CHRC).

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Nursing is a profession of great importance and responsibility in healthcare, with professionals dedicated to caring for people in different contexts. However, nursing practice should always be based on scientific evidence in order to ensure the effectiveness and safety of the care provided.

Thus, it is essential that nursing students have the opportunity to conduct scientific research during their academic training. Nursing research is an activity that allows students to improve their theoretical and practical knowledge, develop critical analysis and data interpretation skills, and contribute to the production of new knowledge and evidence-based practices.

Conducting nursing research can also have a positive impact on the quality of care. By conducting research, it is possible to identify better nursing practices, evaluate the effectiveness of different interventions and procedures, and develop more effective prevention and health promotion strategies.

Furthermore, nursing research can play a fundamental role in the formation of nurses who are leaders and innovators. By conducting research during their academic training, students can develop competencies in leadership, teamwork, and project management, skills that will be fundamental for their professional performance in different healthcare settings.

Finally, nursing research can also contribute to the development of the profession as a whole, strengthening its position as an autonomous and recognized area of knowledge and practice. The production of new knowledge in nursing, can contribute to the improvement of the population's health and to the valorization and recognition of nursing as an essential profession in the area of health.

It is for these reasons that a collection of articles written by third-year students of the Bachelor's Degree in Nursing of the Nursing School of São João de Deus – University of Évora was prepared as a result of the course unit Fundamentals of Nursing Research. This collection is, therefore, an important means for sharing scientific knowledge, since it provides the students with the opportunity to demonstrate their skills in critical analysis and data interpretation, as well as their ability to produce new knowledge and evidence-based practices. It also allows for the strengthening of the research culture in nursing, encouraging other students and professionals to engage in scientific research activities.

Authors

Margarida Goes

<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6017-6874>

Ana João

<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8600-6790>

Corresponding Author/AutorCorrespondente:

Margarida Goes – Departamento de Enfermagem,
Universidade de Évora, Évora, Portugal.
mgoes@uevora.pt

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