

EDITORIAL

In 1984, Professor Maria Cecilia Puntel de Almeida defended, together with the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (*Fundação Oswaldo Cruz (FIOCRUZ)*) her doctorate thesis, titled "Study on nursing knowledge and its practical dimension". At the time, Brazilian Nursing counted upon a reduced number of physicians and faced the enormous challenge of consolidating its Graduate Programs. In 1991 Dr. Maria Cecília obtained the title of *Livre-docência* from the University of São Paulo - Ribeirão Preto Nursing School, with the study "Nursing work and its articulation in collective health care - basic health care unit of Ribeirão Preto". In the space of time between publishing these two articles, apparently so short, an intense process of debate and research articulated what seemed to be a little but untiring new researchers.

What academia witnessed was the emergence of a field of studies and immediately following, a line of research recognized for its critical potential and commitment to the transformation of nursing work - as a dignifiedly exercised practice and that expresses its quality in health care services. Not only academia was impacted though, for the transformation that was sought was also a benchmark for a nursing engaged in Brazilian sanitary reform struggles, as well as many of its ethical and technical unfoldings.

In 1982, 30 nurses participated in the 2nd National Nursing Research Seminar (SENPE), which brought representatives from five Nursing Graduate Programs in the molds of a meeting which included Dr. Maria Cecília. At the following SENPE (1984), 184 participants were able to hear what a leader can say when she is sure of her role and has an advanced view concerning her profession - that the proposal of a specific body of nursing knowledge has to be aggregated to an alternative policy which considers health care work and its complexity, for "[...] it is in the interior of nursing and health care practice itself that the contradictions are present, that one can glimpse the possibilities [...]"^{1:77}. This was the commitment of her life. How many of us today can look better at our own work, for in some moment, we were also touched by her lucidity and courage. It will always be lacking to speak of the example left by this admirable nurse, professor, and researcher. But in speaking of "Dimensions of work and administration in health care and Nursing", as is the case of this edition of *Texto & Contexto Nursing Journal*, it would be impossible to not offer our homage, our tender admiration, and our recognition.

Professor Maria Cecília, the limited number of studies presented here are examples of what Nursing continues to seek in today's day and age, continually mobilized by your words.

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REFERENCE

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