

Celebrating our nursing heroes

2020 – International Year of the Nurse and the Midwife

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has designated 2020 as the “International Year of the Nurse and the Midwife,” in honour of the 200th anniversary of Florence Nightingale’s birth. Florence Nightingale, famously known as the “Lady with the Lamp”, was a nurse and social reformer who was in charge of nursing wounded British and allied soldiers in Turkey during the Crimean War. Given the role that nurses have had to play in fighting the coronavirus, 2020 couldn’t be a more fitting year to commemorate their work.

As the biggest segment of the global health workforce, nurses have not only been providing direct patient care during the COVID-19 pandemic, but have been involved in various other areas such as advising governments, leading research, coordinating public health teams and helping formulate humanitarian responses to COVID-19.

Nurses’ wide-ranging expertise, including infection prevention and control, critical care, palliative care and public health, is essential to the maintenance of national and global health systems and the preservation of lives. As the healthcare professionals that are closest to patients, they are often exposed to danger and moral dilemmas, and we salute them for the critical role they have played and continue to play during the pandemic.

More especially, we wish to pay tribute to our own MUT Clinic headed by Sister Nomusa Mkhwanazi, who took it upon herself to lead a discourse on the coronavirus at MUT, breaking all barriers to ensure that staff and students became aware of COVID-19. The Clinic Team has been at the forefront in training staff and students on COVID-19.



Sister Nomusa Mkhwanazi

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