

UC San Diego

Spring 2009 - UC San Diego Health Journal of Nursing: Critical Care Nursing: Rapid Response Program, M.E.W.S, SICU/Trauma Unit, Pulmonary Endarterectomy

Title

What I Love About Nursing

Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/7w8838ws>

Journal

UC San Diego Health Journal of Nursing, 2(2)

Author

Garcia, Lilia, BSN, RN

Publication Date

2009-04-01

Peer reviewed

What I Love About Nursing

By Lilia Garcia, RN, BSN, CCRN

I believe that nursing is a job that requires extreme hope. Every time a patient is admitted, the whole unit hopes the patient will get better and be transferred out of the ICU. Each time we hear “code blue,” we respond and rush to the scene, filled with hope that our efforts will result in a revived patient, giving us another chance to do all we can to restore him/her back to health. I love nursing because it gives second chances to nurses and patients.

I’ll never forget the time when my co-worker told me that there was a man waiting to see me by the entrance door. I was a little shocked to hear this, but when I saw him walking towards me, I realized that he was a previous patient of mine. He looked different, clean-shaven and neatly dressed in his own clothes—instead of a hospital gown—with a smile on his face. He explained that he just had to visit after fully recovering to thank me for allowing him to have a second chance at life.

He gave me a dozen pink roses. I was completely touched! In our profession, ultimate satisfaction comes when patients get out of the ICU and then are eventually discharged out of the hospital and back to living their lives. We hardly have any time to want to be thanked, but when it happens, it changes our lives and renews our passion for what we do. Of course, not all patients get better and go home.

Nursing is not always about healing because even my first patient—my father—passed away while I tried to take care of him...but that’s what I love about my job. Nursing allows me to appreciate the value of living and it also guides my mind and helps me handle life’s challenges with understanding, compassion and optimism. Each unfortunate ending opens a new chapter in my life, giving me the chance to learn, accept, and continue to do my best.



Lilia Garcia received her BSN from Phillippines Women’s University in Manila and came to the U.S. as a contract worker in 1980. She began her critical care career in Chicago, but came to San Diego in 1983. She has been working in CCU at UCSD since then. She obtained her CCRN in 1991. Lilia wrote this piece to describe her love of her job and her patients.