

constructs of care

Building Children's Nursing for Africa Conference

16-18 April 2019
The River Club, Observatory, Cape Town

Building Children's Nursing for Africa conference 2019: 'Constructs of Care'

A participative conference for nurses who work with children, newborns to adolescents, and their families, to consider and celebrate their contribution to excellence in care

An interview with Winnie Wanjiru Leah Njuguru, who attended the recent Building Children's Nursing for Africa Conference (BCN) 2019, written by Akua Boateng (2nd year MNCN student)

Winnie Wanjiru Leah Njuguru, a national of Kenya, started her nursing career as a registered general nurse in 2009. This was when she joined the Gertrude's Children's Hospital in Nairobi, Kenya, and fell in love with paediatrics. She was amazed at how other children's nurses connected with children and cared for them with knowledge and skill. That motivated her, in 2011, to enroll at the same hospital, for the PostGrad Diploma in Child Nursing.

She later discovered her passion in emergency care and enrolled in various short courses. In this she excelled and was subsequently nominated to be trained as an instructor for emergency

courses. She further broadened her knowledge in Children's Nursing by pursuing an online international Paediatric Nurse Certificate with the University of Sydney, Australia in 2016.

In 2018, she enrolled at the University of Cape Town (UCT) to do the Master of Nursing in Child Nursing (MNCN) programme. A programme that prepares Advanced Practice Nurses, a relatively new and exciting field of practice for nursing in Kenya.

Winnie came to the conference as an invited MNCN student and also to present her recent work, titled: 'The experience of producing a YouTube video: an innovative assessment'. This was her first opportunity to present at a conference.

The theme Constructs of Care for this year's conference was an interesting one for her. It was very refreshing to her to see children's nurses very passionate about the work they do in nursing, teaching and learning. According to Winnie, attending the conference was an amazing learning and growth (in career and profession) opportunity for her, and the climax of it all being awarded "Best Trendsetting Presentation". She was deeply humbled and honoured to receive that award.

