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*Up to 2006, the GEHCES used to be called Study Group on the History of Nursing Knowledge (*Grupo de Estudos de História do Conhecimento da Enfermagem*, GEHCE); however, since 2007, as changes occurred in the PPGEN/UFSC with its opening to other health professionals, the Group incorporated the term health, thus being called Study Group on the History of Nursing and Health Knowledge (*Grupo de Estudos da História do Conhecimento em Enfermagem e Saúde*, GEHCES). In 2016, as the meaning and the research group activities broadened, we changed the name to Laboratory of Research in History of Nursing and Health Knowledge.

Laboratory of Research Studies in History of Nursing and Health Knowledge - GEHCES - 25 years building stories

**Maria Itayra Padilha^I, Miriam Susskind Borenstein^{II},
Maria Lígia dos Reis Bellaguarda^{III}**

^I Professora titular aposentada da UFSC. Professora visitante da EPE/UNIFESP. Vice-líder do GEHCES.

^{II} Professora aposentada associada do Departamento de Enfermagem e do PPGEN/UFSC. Membro fundadora do GEHCES.

^{III} Professora adjunta do Departamento e do PPGEN/UFSC. Líder do GEHCES.

The history of Nursing as a knowledge and investigation area recognized by its peers and other areas has been consolidating in Brazil over the past 30 years, especially because of two important questions. The first, in our evaluation, is due to the gradual broadening of the post-graduate Nursing courses, influencing the production of PhD and Master's theses under the historiographical perspective^{1,2}. The second, as a consequence of the first, is due to the creation of research groups aimed at the history of Nursing.

The GEHCES was formalized as a group in 1995, after approval of a research project related to the Brazilian Nursing Congresses, coordinated by the Professor Dr. Lygia Paim. At the time, visiting professor of the Post-Graduate Nursing Program of the Federal University of Santa Catarina (*Programa de Pós-Graduação em Enfermagem da Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina*, PPGEN/UFSC). It is characterized by being a Lab linked to the research line of "Education, Health, and Nursing History" in the PPGEN/UFSC³. Its mission is to restore the Brazilian Nursing Historicity, articulating nurses, health and education professionals and professionals from related areas, historians, professors, students from the graduate, post-graduate, and post-doctorate courses linked to the UFSC, as well as other Brazilian and foreign universities and health systems in general. The general objective is to develop studies dealing with the retrospective and perspective aspects of Nursing in the political, cultural, educational, and social scenarios, national and international settings.

After twenty-five years (1995-2020) of undisrupted historical studies, the GEHCES has exponentially advanced, producing abundant historical, scientific, philosophical, cultural, and socially important and relevant material. The studies deal with the present history, not only having articulated the historicity of institutions and characters, but also the history of the health and nursing specialties; the history of nursing practice teachings in Brazil; the professional's identity in health and nursing, and studies on the history of health and nursing in the care of vulnerable populations.

The GEHCES follows the important mission of Groups/Laboratories/Research Centers, which is to serve as a propulsion spring and knowledge production store in all areas. The visibility of the

knowledge produced in the programs and in the research groups becomes evident from the publication of the results of the studies of participating researchers, teachers, and students³.

Celebrating 25 years of the GEHCES is to exalt with joy the cooperation to the enhancement of historical research, especially, of the nursing and health professions, highlighting their existence among the oldest groups in this research area. It contributes to the training of Brazilian and foreign scientific initiation students, masters, PhDs, and post-PhDs. It is a great honor and a great reason to feel proud, for us, participating members of this laboratory.

During this period, the GEHCES produced 41 master's degree dissertations, 24 doctoral theses, and five post-PhDs. In 2020, the group has three master's theses and three doctoral theses in progress, in addition to a wide scientific production of reference books for the History of Nursing. Among these, we can cite three which are especially significant: The 1st, called "The Hospitals in Greater Florianópolis: Collective Memory Fragments (1940-1960)"⁴, published in 2004. And in 2011, the publication of "Nursing in Santa Catarina: Clippings of a story (1900-2011)"⁵, organized by Drs. Miriam Süsskind Borenstein and Maria Itayra Padilha, which allowed for the broadening of the history of some hospitals in Greater Florianópolis, under the social-historical basis of the image, documentary, and oral universe, which enables the reader to follow the evolution of the institutions. The 3rd and, maybe, the most audacious produced by the GEHCES and collaborators, is called "Nursing – The History of a Profession", is in its third edition in 2020, organized by Drs. Maria Itayra Padilha, Miriam Süsskind Borenstein, Iraci dos Santos, and Maria Lígia dos Reis Bellaguarda. It has been widely used by the undergraduate and graduate Nursing courses, and by other professions' courses in the health area in the entire country. This work presents a historiographical picture of the health and nursing history in the course of time, since the ancient age up to the present moment, enabling readers of the most different areas to follow-up and comprehend history.

The GEHCES has been playing a very important political role in the scientific community of the history of Brazilian and international Nursing, broadening spaces and opening new fronts of insertion for the history of Nursing. Among the initiatives, we highlight the important participation of the GEHCES in the creation of the Scientific Department of Nursing History (*Departamento de História Da Enfermagem*, DHE), linked to the Center of Nursing Studies and Research from the Brazilian Nursing Association (*Centro de Estudos e Pesquisas em Enfermagem da Associação Brasileira de Enfermagem*, CEPEN-ABEn), founded in 2009, under the administration of Dr. Ivone Evangelista Cabral and, linked to it in the same year, the first and unique Nursing History Journal, *HERE: História da Enfermagem - Revista Eletrônica* (History of Nursing – Electronic Journal), was created, which has as its mission to "promote the dissemination of the knowledge related to the History of Nursing, Education, and Health, through the arbitrated publication of articles which contribute to historical knowledge. And also, the expansion of theoretical and methodological references, sources of historical research studies and promoting a link between researchers and those interested in the history of health and of nursing." Since the beginning, the GEHCES has assumed the editorial leadership of HERE, having as its first editor Dr. Maria Itayra Padilha, and currently, Dr. Ana Rosete Camargo Maia, who has been leading HERE, with attention and competence.

Another important participation of the GEHCES, articulated to other research groups in the country, is leadership in projects linked to the Virtual Health Library, Nursing area, which was created in 2005, by the initiative of the Federal University of Minas Gerais, headed by Professor Dr. Francesco Lana, and brought together several Brazilian universities into its constitution. In 2017, the GEHCES headed the implementation of the History of Nursing Thematic Area, with the objective of broadening the search strategies for scientific production on the history of Nursing, launched in 2018 during the 5th Latin American Conference on the History of Nursing (*Colóquio Latino Americano de História da Enfermagem*, CLAHEN), organized by the DHE, and which occurred along with the activities of the 70th Brazilian Nursing Congress, in Curitiba/Paraná, 2018. Concomitantly to that, in 2019, the Showcase of the History of Nursing was created, also linked to the Nursing VHL and coordinated by Dr. Maria Angélica de Almeida Peres, whose objective is to disclose, socialize, and broaden the History of Brazilian and Latin American Nursing, in addition to reporting the evolution of the Nursing profession in the world.

In February 2020, the Nursing VHL began to create the Showcase of Nursing Knowledge, with the main objective of systematizing the scientific production about the nursing work in Latin America

and the Caribbean, with emphasis on infometry, technology and inventions, education, and global health, student leadership and the confrontation of COVID-19 in the international year of Nursing and Obstetrics professionals. Once again the GEHCES took the lead, coordinating the history of Nursing area with the following theme: Inventions/Innovations/Technologies created by Nurses over time. The scope of the Nursing history content has as its general objective to create a space of visibility for the historical technical-scientific literature about the inventions of Nurses in Latin America and the Caribbean, North America, and Europe, with a focus on inventions/innovations/technologies that contributed to the care in nursing and health in the course of time.

The GEHCES records in its history the active participation in national and international events related to the history of Nursing, disclosing the studies developed in the GEHCES, in organizing commissions of events, and in meetings of researchers specialized in the History of Nursing, whether national or international^{6,7}.

Over its twenty-five years of existence, the GEHCES has celebrated the success in the construction of the knowledge of the history of Brazilian Nursing, in the analysis and preservation of memory, in the articulation with other history research groups and researchers in the national and international scene. As well as in broadening the visibility, and granting the Nursing profession authority and strengthening professional autonomy. May all the productive and innovative potential of the GEHCES in the History of Nursing and Health continue and be recreated in time, in history. GEHCES, Laboratory of Research Studies on the History of Nursing and Health Knowledge, consolidated and legitimized by the national and international scientific community.

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