Dorrie Fontaine, RN, PhD, FAAN

Dean of the School of Nursing, University of Virginia

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Keynote Address: September 2015

Title: “Compassionate Care through the Centuries: Highlights in Nursing History”

Abstract:

Using a variety of secondary sources as well as primary source materials from the Eleanor Crowder Bjoring Center for Nursing Historical Inquiry, Dr. Fontaine’s keynote address will trace the theme of compassionate care in nursing. Beginning with examples from the work of the Lutheran deaconesses in Kaiserswerth, Germany in the mid-19th century and highlighting Nightingale’s work in the Crimea, the presentation will trace significant 20th century historical events in which nurses gave compassionate care. These will include examples from: the home front during the 1918 influenza epidemic, the work of nurses in Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941; the activities of the Mississippi public health nurses (Benoist collection, Bjoring Center), nursing care in the leper colonies (Rita Chow collection, Bjoring Center) and others. The presentation will close with highlights of compassionate nursing care in which nurses at the University of Virginia have been involved in the 21st century, including stories from their participation in the response to the earthquake in Haiti, the Regional Area Medical (RAM) clinic in southwest Virginia, and the Limpopo project in South Africa. It will end with an account of the introduction of “The Pause” used at the University of Virginia Medical Center Emergency Department in 2012.