

Hope

by Rosanne Raso



Getting through 2020 challenged hopefulness over and over; despite that, we witnessed brilliant nurse leadership and extraordinary nursing again and again. Toughness and passion prevailed. We can still approach each day with possibility, strength, compassion, and exquisite leadership. As we close the books on 2020, I remain full of hope for all of us as we gingerly step into 2021 and beyond.



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*The following is an excerpt from Rosanne Raso's editorial
"Zooming in on 2021" in Nursing Management, January 2021*

Seven years ago I wrote my first editorial entitled "Pushing the Envelope" for the January 2014 issue. Maybe you remember it. It seems like a lifetime ago. The focus was on how inspiration, motivation, vigor, and strength kept us and our teams fueled to strive, and push, for continuous growth and momentum. The thrill of that energy made me reflect on how different we start this year. We must combat weariness to prevent dire consequences in our profession, which includes nurses leaving their jobs to find other "easier" opportunities, as well as potential detriments to our ability to provide patient care.

How to do that? Besides the obvious of addressing our mental health and well-being, having purpose comes to mind quickly, and that could be different for all of us. I may find purpose in mentoring others, whereas you may find it in fighting for the staffing budget, others may stay driven by keeping nursing-sensitive quality indicators at zero, and someone else may find joy in leading community health initiatives. It's all good! When you're feeling weary, find something that you still love doing and enjoy being mindful of the happiness and meaning it brings you...

We need nurse leadership more than ever from the actual bedside to the now virtual boardroom. Zooming in on 2021, we have a lot of work to do this year. Our local work environments are disrupted and need us. Looking at the bigger picture, we know nursing will be addressing policy issues on health inequities, public health, scope of practice, wellness, workforce, and more. Nursing and nurse leaders are the backbone of healthcare in 2021 and beyond.