

Forensic Nursing - Excellence



Rita Silva

Beverly Hills, California

Work Setting: Hospital/University. Retired professor of Nursing from Pontifical Catholic University of Parana (Brazil) Currently she is a member of the board of Helping Hand at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center (West Hollywood, California), an organization that supports research on women's health. She also continues to mentor students in Brazil regarding their papers and dissertations involving forensic nursing.

In 2005, Rita de Cassia opened the university doors for FN in Brazil, thus becoming the pioneer in the process of bringing this specialty to Brazil. As the graduate school coordinator at Pontifical University of Parana (south of Beazil) Rita was able to foresee the need for this specialty in the country. She implemented a 30 hour forensic nursing module in the graduate nursing school for emergency nurses specialists. She involved her students in researching the role nurses could play in preventing violence, caring and healing victims and perpetrators. Multiple papers were generated at that time and quickly the nursing society acknowledged the existence of FN and invited her to talk about it in multiple interviews that were published and spreaded throughout Brazil. in 2009 Rita co-authored the first article in Portuguese language that introduced forensic nursing in Brazil (published in 2009) "enfermagem forense: Uma especialidade a conhecer" The article was used by nurse leaders as a reference to petition this specialty to be recognized by the federal council of nursing (which took place in 2011) She is a mentor for many undergrad and grad nursing students who chose forensic nursing as their theme for school papers or researches. She is a writer and an editor/ reviewer for many chapters of the first book in forensic nursing that is about to be published in Brazil.