

## May 2019

Every year, we recognize National Nurses Week beginning on May 6<sup>th</sup> and ending on Florence Nightingale's birthday, May 12<sup>th</sup>. It is a time to recognize nurses and their special contributions to promoting health and preventing illness as well as caring for individuals experiencing illness, disabilities and changes in their health status. Florence Nightingale is credited with professionalizing nursing. She changed the face of nursing during and following the Crimean War when she formalized nursing education and introduced what are currently considered to be public health concepts, recognition of the impact of social determinants of health and health literacy into the practice of nursing, forming the foundation for modern nursing practice. As health care continues to transition out of hospitals and into communities, there is once again an increased focus on the importance of these aspects of nursing practice. It is a time for nurses to take pride in their profession and reflect on their own contributions to the health and welfare of individuals for whom they provide care and assistance. Health care is currently undergoing significant changes -- it is an exciting time to be a nurse. As the National Academy of Medicine committee on the Future of Nursing 2020-2030 begins its' efforts to leverage available resources and engage nurses in mobilizing the profession to best address current health care needs, nurses may visit the following website to learn about opportunities to participate in the process: <https://nam.edu/publications/the-future-of-nursing-2020-2030/>