



Nai-Ying Ko

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Nai-Ying Ko, RN, PhD is currently a professor of Department of Nursing in National Cheng Kung University and the Associate Director of Nursing Department in National Cheng Kung University Hospital. Her clinical research specializations include health behavior and health disparities with special emphasis on vulnerable populations affected by HIV/AIDS. She serves on the editorial boards of many journals and as author, or coauthor, of more than 150 scientific publications, including several textbooks.

Dr. Ko is the pioneer who initiated the HIV counseling and testing programs in Taiwan and create the models of HIV case management in HIV designated hospitals. Those programs and models later became National policy in HIV care in Taiwan. Dr. Ko serves as one of the key advisors to the Ministry of Health and Welfare, Taiwan Center of Disease Control. and Ministry of Education on HIV/AIDS issues. Dr. Ko has delivered major lectures to health professional in HIV care in China, Kenya, Myanmar and is the recipient of numerous awards. Dr. Ko is truly an example of a nurse educator, researcher, and HIV activist, passionate about caring and advocating for patients with HIV and their families affected by the disease.

HIV prevention: gender perspective

The success of antiretroviral therapies in suppressing HIV's viral load and prolonging patient lives has made HIV a treatable chronic disease. When women face social and cultural inequality they inevitably bear increased HIV infection risks. Given the same follow-up treatments, research shows no significant differences between men and women in terms of either clinical, immunological or virological parameters at baseline or mortality after one year of antiretroviral therapy. Also, advances in assisted reproductive technologies now makes having HIV-free children possible for HIV couples. Gender equality and human right are essential to effective HIV prevention. Nurses must take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in HIV prevention, treatment and care programs in order to ensure equal gender access to critical healthcare services.