Editorial Abstract

Innovate to Educate: Shaping the Future of Healthcare Education Through Innovation, Inclusion and Impact

This special issue brings together abstracts from the *Innovate to Educate* conference which took place on the 4th and 5th of June 2026, a collaborative forum dedicated to advancing nursing, midwifery and allied health professional education. At a time when healthcare systems continue to face unprecedented challenges, the conference provided an important opportunity for educators, clinicians, researchers, students, policymakers and practice partners to share innovative approaches that are transforming learning, teaching and clinical practice.

The contributions featured within this issue reflect the breadth and creativity of contemporary healthcare education. They showcase a diverse range of initiatives designed to enhance learner engagement, strengthen clinical competence, promote inclusivity, and support workforce development. Emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, simulation, immersive learning environments, digital assessment methods and gamification feature prominently, illustrating how educational innovation can be harnessed to prepare future professionals for increasingly complex healthcare environments.

Beyond technological advancement, many contributors highlight the importance of creating educational cultures that prioritise equity, wellbeing, resilience and belonging. These themes resonate strongly across the abstracts and reinforce the sector's commitment to supporting both learners and educators in an evolving higher education and healthcare landscape.

A defining strength of the conference was its emphasis on collaboration. The presentations demonstrate the value of partnerships between universities, healthcare organisations, professional bodies, service users and practice-based educators in developing sustainable educational solutions. Collectively, these contributions illustrate how interdisciplinary and cross-sector working can enhance educational quality while ultimately improving patient care and health outcomes.

The conference programme featured keynote presentations, workshops, oral papers and poster presentations that stimulated discussion, challenged assumptions and encouraged critical reflection on the future of healthcare education. The richness of the submissions reflects a community that is committed not only to responding to current challenges but also to shaping the future of the professions through evidence-informed innovation.

As editors, we are delighted to present this collection of abstracts which captures the enthusiasm, scholarship and creativity of colleagues across the sector. We hope readers find inspiration in the ideas presented and are encouraged to continue developing educational practices that foster innovation, inclusion and meaningful impact. Together, these contributions demonstrate that excellence in healthcare

education is achieved through collaboration, curiosity and a shared commitment to preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

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