

**FOLLOW THE LEADER:**  
**MARTHA E. ROGERS' THOUGHTS OF OPTIMISM**

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# SOCIETY OF ROGERIAN SCHOLARS 2025 CONFERENCE: “INSPIRING OPTIMISM IN TIMES OF TURBULENCE: A ROGERIAN NURSING SCIENCE PERSPECTIVE”



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- We live today in a global environment that challenges our efforts to remain optimistic. Historical patterns of activities pertaining to health, education, and welfare are being questioned.

The purpose of our presentation is to address these challenges by use of hermeneutic interpretation of Martha Rogers' 1966, 1970, and 1992 publications to expose examples of her consistently enthusiastic optimism.

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Optimism can be defined as:

“[T]he quality of being full of hope and emphasizing the good parts of a situation, or a belief that something good will happen”  
(Dictionary.cambridge.org, n.d.)

The next several slides have no voice over; instead, conference participants read the content of each slide silently.



For students of nursing the future is a rich repository of far-flung opportunities-around the planet and toward the further reaches of man's (sic) exploration of new worlds and new ideas (Rogers, 1966).

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The goals of achieving human health and welfare have taken on undreamed-of dimensions as man's (sic) earth-bound past merges with his space-directed future (Rogers, 1970, p. vii).

The birth of modern nursing was revolutionary (Rogers, 1970, p. x).





Nursing's concern for human beings is greater today than it has ever been because knowledge brings with it increased capacity for meaningful service (Rogers, 1970, p. xi).

Tomorrow's nurses will be as different from today's as today's are from those of ages past (Rogers, 1970, p. xii).





Nursing's age-old commitment to human health and welfare has taken on new dimensions (Rogers, 1970, p. 34).

The constant interchange of matter and energy between man and environment is at the basis of man's [sic] becoming (Rogers, 1970, p. 54).

The life process is a becoming (Rogers, 1970, p. 55).





The patterning of life is evolutionary in nature (Rogers, 1970, p. 64).

Abstraction and imagery, language and thought, sensation and emotion are fundamental attributes of man's [sic] humanness (Rogers 1970, p. 67).





The creativity of life is a continually evolving phenomenon (Rogers, 1970, p. 72).

For those in nursing who join in exploring the unknown there awaits the joy of discovery (Rogers, 1970, p. 82).



Nursing's science is an emergent—a new product (Rogers, 1970, p. 83 ).

Out of the conceptual system, theories emerge directed toward achieving further understanding of the real world (Rogers, 1970, p. 84).

New methodologies must be derived to supplement, enhance, and transcend traditional approaches to the search for understanding (Rogers, 1970, p. 87).





Man (sic) is no longer bound to planet earth  
(Rogers, 1970, p. 129).

A perception of man's planet-bound past must  
give way to a realization of his space-directed  
future (Rogers, 1970, p. 132).





A humane and optimistic view of life's potentials grows as a new reality appears (Rogers, 1970, p. 132).

The purpose of nursing is to promote human betterment wherever people are, on planet earth or in outer space. The future ...demands new visions, flexibility, curiosity, courage, risk taking, compassion, and above all an excellent sense of humor (Rogers, 1970, p. 132).



Knowledgeable nursing services have a socially significant contribution to make to man's (sic) future, whatever that future may hold (Rogers, 1970, p. 135).

New horizons call. Nursing has moved into a new era of fulfilling human needs. (Rogers, 1970, p. 139)





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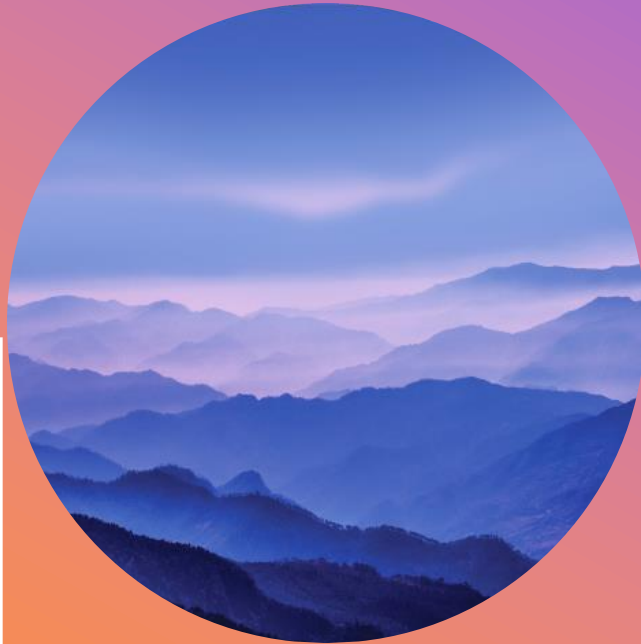
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Humankind is on the threshold of a new cosmology transcending an earth bound past (Rogers 1992, p. 27).

The science of unitary human beings encompasses this human advent into outer space (Rogers, 1992, p. 27)

Since science is open ended and change is continuous, new knowledge brings new insights. Thus, the development of a science of unitary human beings is a never -ending process (Rogers, 1992, p. 28).

Human beings are on the threshold of a fantastic and unimagined future. In light of this, the potential for human service is greater than it has ever been before (Rogers, 1992, p. 34).



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The science of unitary human beings portends a new world in space, the next frontier (Rogers, 1992, p. 34).

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Our findings revealed that Optimism was in Martha E. Rogers being.

In conclusion, Rogers's thoughts about optimism are summarized in this quote:

The search for understanding of man (sic) and his world has barely begun (Rogers, 1970, p. 120)



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# THANK YOU



We welcome

- your questions
- and comments
- and any other examples of Rogers' optimism

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