**A Professional Journey from Ward Nurse to Diabetes Resource Nurse to Diabetes Educator**

**Background & Aim**

To describe a professional journey from ward nurse to Diabetes Educator, highlighting the impact of a nurse-led initiative—the Diabetes Resource Nurse (DRN) Program—on both patient outcomes and professional development.

**Methods**

In 2019, a hospital review identified significant clinical inertia in diabetes management, with 40% of inpatients with HbA1c >8% receiving no therapeutic interventions. In response, a six-week DRN education program was developed and piloted in the inpatient Rehabilitation Unit. Ward nurses were selected to participate and were supported by a Credentialed Diabetes Educator. The program focused on enhancing nurses' capacity to support diabetes self-management and care planning.

**Results**

The DRN role contributed to improved inpatient diabetes management by reducing hospital length of stay, minimizing readmissions, and enhancing patient engagement. Professionally, participation in the DRN program led to a transformative career shift—from ward nurse to a permanent role within the Diabetes Education department. Postgraduate studies in Diabetes Education and Management were undertaken, and credentialing as a Diabetes Educator is in its final stages.

**Discussion/Conclusion**

This journey demonstrates the dual value of the DRN program: improved clinical outcomes and professional empowerment. The opportunity to facilitate the upcoming DRN cohort signifies a full-circle moment and supports the sustainability of a patient-centred care model that empowers both healthcare professionals and the individuals they support.