**Title:** Picture It! New York, 1903! The Origins of Nurse Practice Acts in the United States

**Purpose:** The purpose of this presentation is to share information about the origins of state nurse practice acts and the impact of these laws on the development of professional nursing practice. The key to defining nursing practice in every state is the Nurse Practice Act. Each state has the power to govern the practice of nursing within that state’s borders. Current legislative issues in many states revolve around nurse practice. Nurses must be ever-vigilant regarding potential changes to the nurse practice act by persons (i.e., legislators) who are not nurses.

**Objective 1:** explain the regulation of nursing practice.

**Objective 2:** define the three phases in the development of nurse practice acts.

**Objective 3:** identify the role of the DNP-prepared nurse in transforming nursing practice.

**Abstract:**

The history of nurse practice acts is grouped usually in three phases: (a) the origin of basic registration laws (1900-1938); (b) the expectation of mandatory licensure for all those who nurses for hire (1938-1971); and (c) modifications in NPAs to include role expansion for registered nurses (1971-current). For this presentation, I will focus on first era “1900-1938” during which time basic registration laws for nurses originated.