

# **SIGMA THETA TAU INTERNATIONAL GLOBAL ADVISORY PANEL ON THE FUTURE OF NURSING(GAPFON)**

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# BACKGROUND

In March 2014, the Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI) convened the Global Advisory Panel on the Future of Nursing (GAPFON). Comprised of a group of international nurse leaders, GAPFON was convened to establish a global voice and vision for the future of nursing that will advance global health. Members were chosen primarily for their expertise as individual nurse leaders and professionals, not as representatives of organizations (although it was recognized that some wear two hats: individual expert nurse leaders and with positional power as leaders in their respective organizations).

The Panel Chair is Dr Martha Hill PhD RN Dean Emerita and Professor of Nursing, Medicine and Public Health at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, USA

# 1. WHAT PROMPTED THE CREATION OF THE NEW PANEL?

- Nurses play a key role in addressing global health.
- No other organizations or groups are focusing on the future of nursing worldwide within the context of vision and voice for global health. Therefore, STTI took the lead to convene GAPFON.
- Nurses need to be “at the table” where policy decisions involving global health are made.
- The nursing profession needs to create a “new narrative” to move the profession’s voice, agenda and global health.

## 2. WHY IS IT NECESSARY FOR THE PROFESSION TO HAVE A UNIFIED VOICE IN GLOBAL HEALTH?

Nurses' have a positive direct impact on world health. Nurses are the health professionals that “bring it all together” for the patient or population: providing acute care, education, and everything else not done by physicians or other specialty providers. In a growing number of communities worldwide, and especially in rural communities, nurses may be the only available health care providers.

### 3. UNDER STTI'S LEADERSHIP, HOW WILL GAPFON PROCEED?

- GAPFON is beginning a two-year formation phase, during which time participating individuals will schedule and conduct meetings, coordinate logistics, and disseminate information. Following this approximate two-year period, it is expected that GAPFON will become a self-sustaining representative group.
- GAPFON will convene a series of regional meetings that will include nurse leaders from key stakeholder groups, including representatives from multiple sectors around the globe, to obtain knowledge and social, economic, cultural and political insight related to issues determined at the inaugural meeting. The GAPFON regional meetings are currently being discussed and will occur in 2015-2016.

## 4. WHAT WERE THE HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FIRST MEETING IN MARCH?

- Key issues identified that need to be addressed include the need for reform, advocacy, and innovations in leadership, policy, practice, education, and work environments. These issues will be explored in more depth during the global regional meetings.
- Task forces will work on the following:
- What definition of Global Health will be adopted by the group?
- Current state of leadership development programs offered and gaps.
- The “New Narrative” for the nursing profession.

# GLOBAL NETWORK OF WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION COLLABORATING CENTRES FOR NURSING AND MIDWIFERY(GNWHOCCNM)

- \* UTS/WHO CC (Established May, 2008-SPCNMOA, HRH, Midwifery, Maternal and Child Health, Preparedness for natural disasters)
- \* Secretary-General for GNWHOCCNM from August 2014 to August 2018  
John Daly UTS WHO CC Head
- \* WHO Regions AFRO, AMRO,EMRO,EURO, SEARO, WPRO
- \* Currently 43 WHO CC's for Nursing and Midwifery located around the globe

- \* Major challenges: HRH, NCDs, Universal health coverage
- \* Facilitate implementation of the WHO Action Plan for Nursing and Midwifery

For more information see:

<http://www.uts.edu.au/about/faculty-health>

[www.uts.edu.au/research-and-teaching/our-research/who-collaborating-centre](http://www.uts.edu.au/research-and-teaching/our-research/who-collaborating-centre)