Sigma’s 29th International Nursing Research Congress

International Collaboration: Creation of a Global Clinical Immersion to Improve Healthcare for at-Risk Communities

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Purpose:

The purpose of this poster is to:

- Present the process for establishing a global partnership and issues in sustainability
- Discuss outcomes of a unique global clinical experience in rural Thailand
- Use of culturally diverse health practices
- International collaboration
- Implications for nursing
- Targeting the needs of vulnerable/resource-poor
- Review strategies for global collaboration and global education

Methods: The opportunity to learn primary health care methods from a diverse area of the world, initiated the development of a global clinical immersion experience between the University of Michigan School of Nursing (UMSN), Ann Arbor, United States and Suranaree University of Technology (SUT) in Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand. The clinical partnership of BSN students from SUT and primary care advanced practice nurse practitioner (APRN) students from UMSN, started in 2013 and has continued for five consecutive years.

There are multiple layers of decisions to be made for this type of collaboration, from basic to complex. Initial discussions between faculty regarding the clinical collaboration, for example, were about type of clinical experience, timing of the experience in the academic schedule in both Thai and US partners, potential communities for the experience, and development of student outcomes. As some baseline ideas were solidified the idea was brought forward to administration, where financial and sustainability issues were discussed and the decision was made to move forward.

Results:

The first year of the immersion, was a pilot group of UMSN students (5 total) and helped answer many logistical questions that helped with sustainability of the program. Currently, interest in the immersion has increased, so that it is a competitive application process for UMSN students to participate. In 2017, there were 20 UMSN students working with four clinical groups from SUT, across three communities in rural Thailand.
**Conclusion:** Across the years, students and faculty have spoken about the similarities and differences in healthcare and nursing’s role in both countries. It has also been noted that despite the cultural differences there is much the same in applying the nursing role in resource limited settings. Thus, the potential impact of a global clinical immersion is multifaceted and offers both faculty and students many positive outcomes.

**Title:**
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**Keywords:**
global clinical immersion, global nursing education and global partnership

**References:**
There are no references for this poster submission

**Abstract Summary:**
This poster will present the process for establishing a global partnership, including sustainability. It will discuss outcomes from a unique global clinical experience in rural Thailand, including, implications for nursing.

**Content Outline:**

- Process for establishing a global partnership
  - logistics
  - financial
  - sustainability
- Outcomes of unique global clinical experience in rural Thailand
  - use of culturally diverse health practices
  - international collaboration
  - implications for nursing
  - targeting the needs of vulnerable/resource-poor
- Strategies for global collaboration and education

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**Primary Presenting Author**
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**Professional Experience:** 2001-present: Clinical faculty of University of Michigan school of Nursing
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**Author Summary:** Dr. Michelle Pardee is a clinical assistant professor at the University of Michigan School of Nursing where she teaches in the graduate nurse practitioner programs. She sees patients in an adolescent health clinic in Detroit, Michigan. She takes students to Thailand on clinical rotation.

Second Secondary Presenting Author
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Professional Experience: 2012-present: assistant professor and coordinator of community health for BSN students at SUT, Thailand 2013-present: co-coordinator for global clinical immersion partnership with University of Michigan School of Nursing

Author Summary: Dr. Singha-Dong is an expert in community health and coordinates the community course and clinical rotation for SUT in Thailand. Her research centers around TB, non-communicable diseases, and health promotion and risk reduction in rural communities.