Title:
SPECIAL SESSION: Sigma Theta Tau International Global Initiatives: A Year of Advances

Keywords:
Global Expansion, Global Initiatives and United Nations

Summary:
The Global Initiatives department focuses on five key strategies: Global Expansion; the Global Advisory Panel on the Future of Nursing and Midwifery; Relationship Building; Member Engagement and Member Growth. This session will include discussion on Sigma’s global initiatives, and invite dialogue on efforts to enhance member growth and engagement.

Abstract Text:
The history of Sigma Theta Tau International (Sigma) is varied and rich. It includes a deliberate decision to become international, including global expansion, which was formalized at the 1985 Biennial Convention in Indianapolis, when the House of Delegates voted to add “International” to Sigma Theta Tau’s name. The international work of STTI undertaken since that time has led to the current Global Initiatives department.

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Since Sigma hosted the 2017 International Nursing Research Congress in Ireland:
Sigma is proud to announce the creation and establishment of Global Regional Councils. Sigma staff were charged with providing options for expanding our regional presence. After much research, and considering recommendations from global association and legal experts, we developed the Global Regional Council model for consideration by the Board of Directors. After review and discussion, the Sigma Board of Directors approved the creation of Global Regional Councils as the vehicle through which the organization will establish a global regional presence.

Sigma also officially released its 2014-2017 summary report on the Global Advisory Panel on the Future of Nursing & Midwifery (GAPFON®). Representing the culmination of three years of Sigma-led efforts, the report synthesizes data on global healthcare challenges and priority professional issues gathered at high-level meetings in each of seven global regions. Sigma views the world’s 19.3 million nurses and midwives as uniquely positioned to spearhead collaboration among health professionals from every discipline, and launched GAPFON to give nurses and midwives a unified voice and vision for the future to advance global health, while simultaneously strengthening professional roles.

For the fourth year in a row, Sigma presented a program, “Women as Subjects, Consumers, and Thought Leaders of Media,” parallel to the 62nd session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. Presenters covered access to media and the responsibilities incumbent upon media consumers to help prevent belief in and proliferation of incorrect information. By demonstrating Sigma’s social media thought leadership, attendees were encouraged to participate in and help shape the perception of women in social media. The Woodhull Study on Nursing and the Media, commissioned by Sigma, published in 1998, and currently in revision, was also reviewed.

References:
Sigma Theta Tau International

Content Outline:
The Global Initiatives department focuses on five key strategies: Global Expansion; the Global Advisory Panel on the Future of Nursing; Relationship Building; Member Engagement and Member Growth. This session will include discussion on Sigma’s global initiatives, and invite dialogue on efforts to enhance member growth and engagement.
Moderator
Patrick A. Palmieri, DHSc, EdS, PGDip(Oxon), MBA, MSN, RN, CPHQ, CPHRM, FACHE, FAAN
Universidad Norbert Wiener
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Dean and Margaret Jean Watson Distinguished Professor
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Professional Experience: Dr. Palmieri is a leading health system expert and nurse scholar in South America. He is the Dean and Margaret Jean Watson Distinguished Professor of Nursing, Universidad Norbert Wiener; Research professor, Universidad María Auxiliadora; and Adjunct professor at A. T. Still University and Texas Woman's University. Dr. Palmieri completed postdoctoral training in Human Caring Science (Watson Caring Science Institute) and Evidence-based Health Care (Univ. of Oxford) and postgraduate programs in Patient Safety, Information Technology, and Teaching. Dr. Palmieri implemented a national quality improvement project that resulted in the first international accreditation in Peruvian history. Furthermore, he developed funded fellowships to train nurses in clinical specialties. Currently, he conducts research and mentors nurses in Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, and Peru. He is the President of the Asociación Peruana de Enfermería (Peruvian Nurses Association), and the founder of the EnfAmericas Research Center at the Institute for Global Nursing.

Author Summary: Dr. Palmieri, a recognized health care expert, health services researcher, and nurse leader in South America, is a Virginia Henderson Fellow and the Chairman of the Board of the Sigma Foundation for Nursing. Notably, he achieved the first health care facility accreditation in Peruvian history with a nursing-led project. Also, Dr. Palmieri directed the first fully funded nurse fellowship programs in South America. He lives in Bolivia and Peru with his wife and daughter.

Organizer
Cynthia Vlasich, MBA, BSN, RN
Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing (Sigma)
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Professional Experience: Based on a variety of positions with Gannett Healthcare Group and the American Red Cross, as well as CE presentations/speaking engagements, areas of expertise would include: leadership, strategic management, communications, motivational support, conflict resolution, organizational structure/design, marketing and external relationships, disaster nursing/bioterrorism, career counseling, staff retention.

Author Summary: Cynthia Vlasich is the Director of Global Initiatives at the Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International and has served as an international nurse leader in a variety of roles throughout her nursing career. Such roles include serving both as Vice President of Professional Services and Advertising at Gannett Healthcare Group and as Chief Nurse and division director at the American Red Cross.

Organizer
Adrians Cleveland, BA
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**Professional Experience:** 2012-2014 Administrative Coordinator, Sigma Theta Tau International 2014-2016 Awards and Foundation Coordinator, Sigma Theta Tau International November 2016-present Global Initiatives Advisor, Sigma Theta Tau International

**Author Summary:** Adrians S. Cleveland is currently the Global Initiatives Advisor at Sigma Theta Tau International. She manages the program details for the Institute for Global Healthcare Leadership.

Organizer
Rebecca Schafer, BS
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**Professional Experience:** Ms. Schafer’s professional career started in the hospitality industry which eventually segued into fund raising. Through her experiences at various public, private and non-profit organizations, she refined her relationship building skills and now applies that knowledge to global development. Her main responsibility at STTI revolves around the tasks associated with establishing and strengthening relationships with key government, healthcare and education leaders in STTI’s global regions to support the mission of the organization. STTI was granted Economic and Social Council Special consultative status by the United Nations and Ms. Schafer oversees that relationship along with other stakeholders.

**Author Summary:** Ms. Schafer is the Global Initiatives Advisor for the Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International, Incorporated (STTI). Her main responsibility at STTI revolves around the tasks associated with establishing and strengthening relationships with key government, healthcare and education leaders in STTI’s global regions to support the mission of the organization.

Organizer
Amy Gardner-Young, BS
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**Professional Experience:** 2017 - Present, Global Database Researcher, Sigma Theta Tau International - Global Initiatives Department 2017 - Present, Global Database Researcher, Sigma Theta Tau International - Global Initiatives Department a

**Author Summary:** Amy Gardner-Young is a graduate of Indiana University and works in the Global Initiatives Department. As the global database researcher, she examines nursing and midwifery education and regulations around the world.