

# Symposium

## Establishing and Maintaining International Research Collaboration: Processes, Outcomes, and Exemplars

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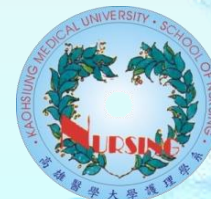
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# Greetings from Indiana University School of Nursing



**Indianapolis  
Indiana, USA**



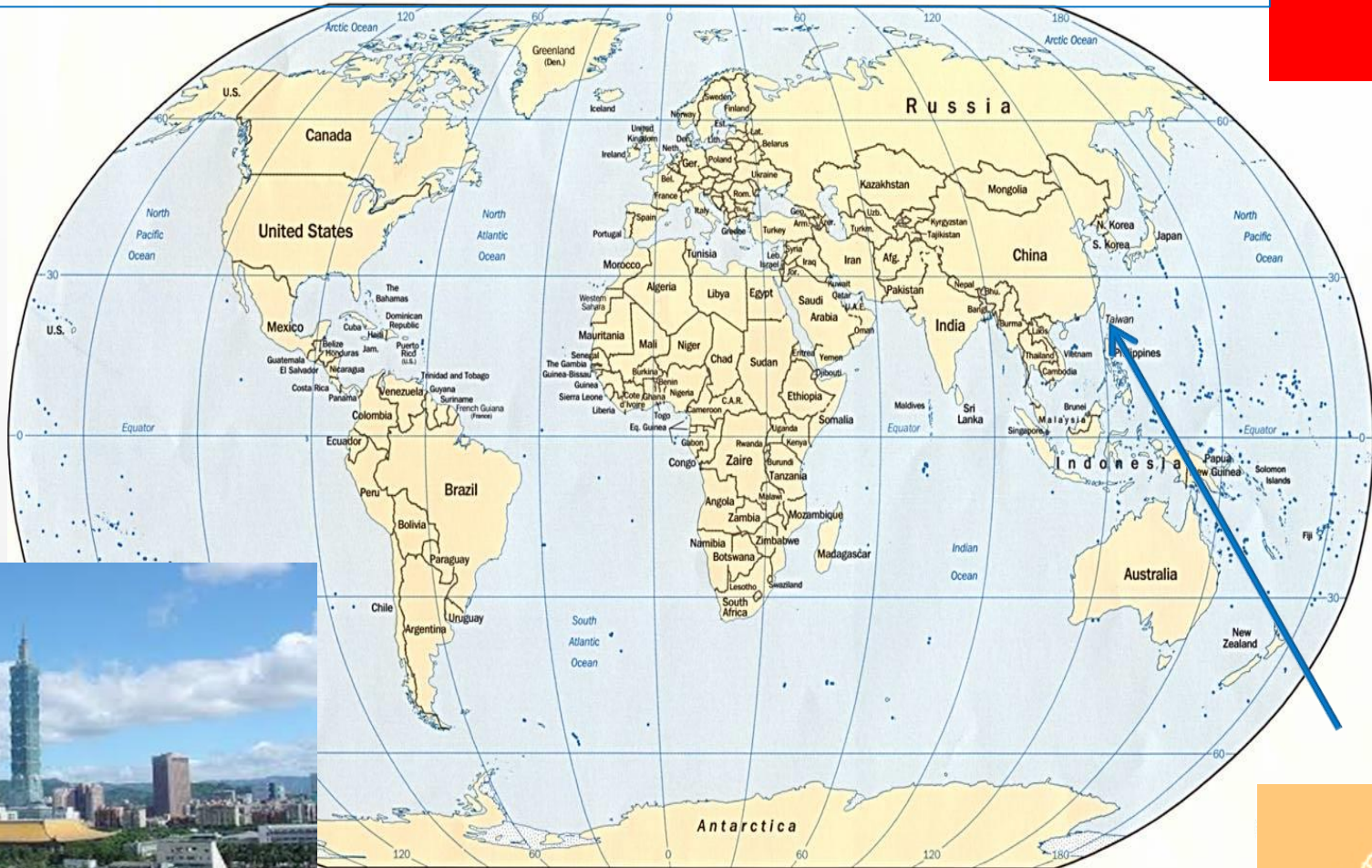
24 July, 2014



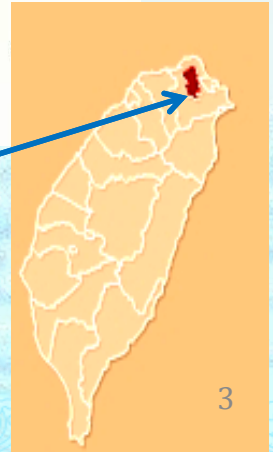
Haase, Chen, Wu 6.24.2014



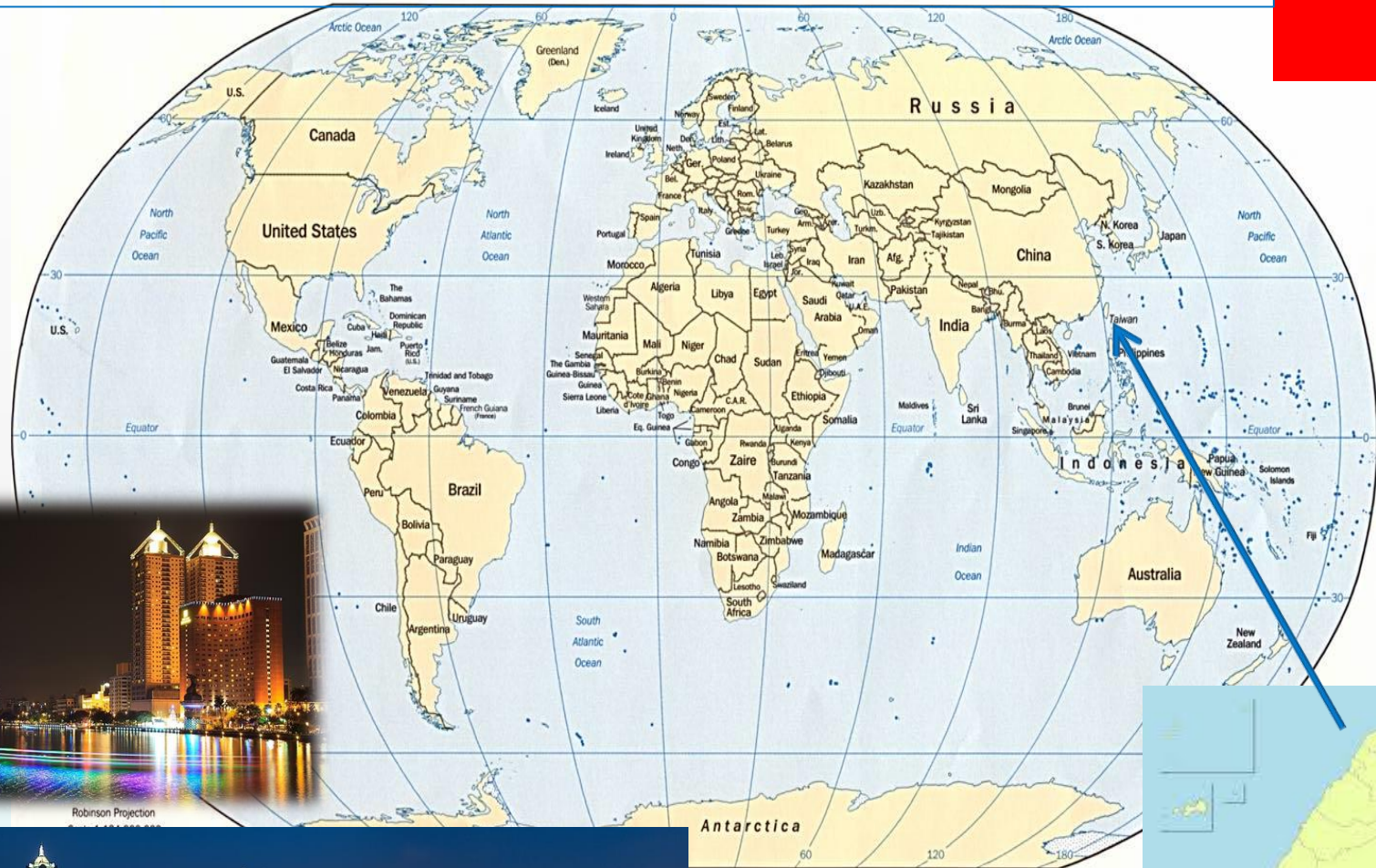
# Greetings from National Defense Medical Center School of Nursing



**Taipei  
Taiwan**



# Greetings from Kaohsiung Medical University School of Nursing



Robinson Projection



高雄 Kaohsiung, Taiwan © AnnWei.pixnet.net

**Kaohsiung  
Taiwan**



Wu 6.24.2014

# Acknowledgements of Support

- ◆ School of Nursing, National Taiwan University, Taiwan
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- ◆ School of Nursing, Kaohsiung Medical University, Kaohsiung, Taiwan
- ◆ School of Nursing, Indiana University, Indianapolis, IN, USA
- ◆ National Science Council, Taiwan
- ◆ Veterans General Hospital, Taipei, Taiwan
- ◆ Kaohsiung Medical University Hospital, Taiwan

# Symposium

## Background and Purpose

- ◆ Importance of international research collaboration
- ◆ Few descriptions of effective partnership development
- ◆ Nurses eager to engage in international research collaborations
- ◆ Collaborations often difficult to establish and sustain.
- ◆ **PURPOSE: Describe one example of establishing and maintaining international collaboration**

# Symposium Overview

## ◆ Three Papers

1. Experiences, Benefits, and Challenges of Initiating and Maintaining International Research Collaborations
2. Cross-Cultural Comparison of the Haase Resilience in Illness Scale: Psychometric Properties Testing
3. Experience of Taiwanese Mothers of Children Completing Cancer Treatments

# Symposium Paper

## Experiences, Benefits, and Challenges of Initiating and Maintaining International Research Collaborations

- ❖ **Joan E. Haase, PhD, RN, FAAN**

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- ◆ Our international research collaboration focused on:
  - ◆ Psychosocial/behavioral research for children with cancer and their families
- ◆ Initiated through study-abroad; maintained from a distance over 8 years
  - ◆ Challenges
  - ◆ Strategies to overcome challenges
  - ◆ Collaboration benefits derived

# Methods Used to Develop this Presentation

- ◆ Collaborative approach
- ◆ Thoughtful verbal and written reflections on experiences
- ◆ Multiple Skype-facilitated discussions
- ◆ Consensus understanding of our shared experience

# At the beginning

- ◆ In Taiwan, a semester-long study abroad program is required of PhD nursing students.
- ◆ Before and after perspectives of international study
  - ◆ increase knowledge of advanced pediatric cancer care to enhance clinical practice,
  - ◆ connect with others who work on the same clinical issues,
  - ◆ expand knowledge of research methods, especially qualitative methods.

# Preparation for Study- abroad

1. Have some courses completed
2. Assure adequate funding
3. Identify a mentor and program
4. Set tentative study-abroad goals
5. Complete pilot work
6. Arrange family care

# On arrival

- ▶ Settle in and adjust to life in different culture/  
country
- ▶ Overcome language barriers
- ▶ Establish supportive relationships
- ▶ Finalize goals
  - ▶ Gain skills in research methods
  - ▶ Develop dissertation proposal
  - ▶ Identify additional clinical and research experiences
  - ▶ Write a manuscript

# Mentee Perspective of Challenges

- ◆ Leaving family, including small children for 6 months.
- ◆ Arranging for childcare while gone
- ◆ Feeling homesick—missing family
- ◆ Language challenges
- ◆ Worrying about whether what one says is appropriate in the culture, especially in class
- ◆ Setting up living arrangements-having basic household equipment.
- ◆ Uncertainty with everything seeming to be so different
- ◆ Worry about healthcare availability

# Mentor Perspective of Role Responsibilities

- ◆ Sensitivity to adjustment needs and learning styles
- ◆ Become acquainted with the pilot projects
- ◆ Establish collaborative, rather than hierarchical, communication
- ◆ Identify goals-directed courses and other experiences
- ◆ Maintain communication with primary advisor in Taiwan
- ◆ Facilitate connections with other students and faculty

# Mentee Perspective of Benefits:

- ◆ Completing pilot data collection prior to coming
  - ◆ used to build program of research
  - ◆ for cross-cultural learning
  - ◆ for comparison of Haase Resilience in Illness Model across cultures
- ◆ Learning through coursework
  - ◆ Affirmation of what already knew
  - ◆ Instrument development
    - ◆ applied to resilience instrument evaluation in Taiwan
  - ◆ Systematic approach to the coursework
  - ◆ Teaching and mentoring skills
  - ◆ Conducting qualitative—phenomenology– data management/analysis, dissemination
- ◆ Completing dissertation proposal—ready to implement on return to Taiwan
- ◆ Interaction with multiple disciplines



# Mentee Perspective of Benefits:

- ◆ Making lasting friendships
  - ◆ Close colleagues with similar interests in pediatric oncology;
  - ◆ Valuing learning from each other
  - ◆ Gaining shared understanding of cultural differences in US and Taiwan care
- ◆ Getting to know each other's families.
- ◆ Able to keep in touch daily with family via Skype and letter/cards

# Mentor Perspectives of Benefits

- ◆ Opportunity to enrich all students at School of Nursing, especially PhD students
- ◆ Lasting friendships
- ◆ Celebration of Chinese New Year!

# Learning activities and outcomes

- ◆ Coursework
  - ◆ R603, Foundations of Research – 3 credit hours
  - ◆ R601, Instrumentation– 3 credit hours
  - ◆ Independent Study with mentor – 1 credit hour
- ◆ Complete dissertation proposal
- ◆ Attend campus-side seminars/meetings
- ◆ Involvement in ongoing grant activities/meetings

# Outcomes

- ◆ Dissertation completed in a timely manner.
- ◆ Manuscripts.  
Wu, L. M. Chin, C. C., Haase, J. E., & Chen C. H. (2009). Coping experiences of adolescents with cancer: A qualitative study. *Journal of Advanced Nursing*, 65(11), 2358-2366. (SCI)
- ◆ Chen, C. M., Chen, Y. C., & Haase, J. E. (2008). Games of lives in surviving childhood brain tumors. *Western Journal of Nursing Research*, 30(4), 435-457. (SCI)

# Fostering continuing collaboration

- ◆ Ongoing meetings to work on projects
  - ◆ Skype for the on-line meeting
  - ◆ Adobe Connect to view documents
- ◆ Plans to attend and present at the same international conferences
  - ◆ Face-to-face time for collaboration
- ◆ Invitations to Taiwan
  - ◆ Teaching and workshops
- ◆ Recent development of formal agreements for collaboration between schools

# Results:

- ◆ We experienced challenges (e.g. obtaining funding support and time commitments), developed strategies to overcome them (e.g. establishing mutually beneficial goals, writing grants, establishing formal university partnerships) and derived many benefits (e.g., productive, culturally sensitive research programs addressing important questions, lasting friendships, travel enrichment). Products of our work include grants for mixed method studies, publications and presentations.

# Conclusions:

- ◆ By understanding potential challenges and strategies, researchers who want to have international collaboration can anticipate and plan appropriately to make connections, conduct research that will can be universally applied and reap personal and professional benefits.
- ◆ Exemplars of collaboration can serve as one model.