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Development and Collaborations of a Nursing Workgroup Within a Bilateral Global Medical Consortium

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Background: The nursing workforce comprises the majority of global healthcare workers, particularly in resource-limited regions.¹ Improving nursing care is an important and necessary step toward improving patient outcomes.² The Academic Model Providing Access to Healthcare (AMPATH) is a Consortium between North American universities, the Kenyan Ministry of Health, and Moi University in western Kenya which has been actively involved in improving healthcare outcomes in Kenya since 1989.³ In 2018, the Schools of Nursing at Indiana University, The University of Texas at Austin, and Moi University, along with nursing leaders at Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital (MTRH) through AMPATH, created a Nursing workgroup to share evidence-based practices and promote nursing education and research. The workgroup is involved in two core focus areas of the World Health Organization's NursingNow 2020 campaign:⁴ sharing best nursing practices and conducting research to determine where nurses can have the greatest impact.

Purpose: To describe completed and ongoing collaborative nursing initiatives that promote 1) the use of evidence-based practices and measurement of nurse-sensitive outcomes; 2) educational opportunities; and 3) research capacity building.

Methods: The nursing workgroup meets monthly via video conference to identify and discuss bilateral clinical, teaching, and research goals and build implementation plans. Several bilateral in-country visits between countries have been conducted. The outcomes are the establishment and completion of clinical, teaching, and research projects.

Results: Since 2018, we have initiated 15 clinical, education, and research projects, implemented by a combination of North American and Kenyan nurses.

Clinical:

- Development of multidisciplinary education, implementation, and discharge planning for a mechanical heart valve replacement program.
- Development of high-risk intravenous medication administration protocols for adult patients.
- Ongoing evaluation of training to reduce medication errors.
- A three-year multidisciplinary project to optimize antibiotic stewardship.

Education:

- Bilateral exchange of baccalaureate, master's, and doctoral nursing students, faculty, and clinicians.
- Implementation of a virtual classroom between US and Kenyan nursing students to share cross-cultural learning opportunities on maternal health practices.
- Initiation of an Annual Kenyan Nursing Symposium on nurse-sensitive outcomes.
- Establishment of a clinical simulation center at MTRH.
- Awarded international grant for online educational care modules for nursing staff.

Research:

- An ethnographic study of nurse-provided newborn care recommendations before discharge to inform clinical, administrative, and educational interventions.⁵
- A cross-sectional survey to describe the demographic characteristics and outcomes of adult and pediatric neurology patients seeking care.⁶
- A cross-sectional survey of healthcare professionals providing care for neurology patients.
- A systematic review of interventions to improve maternal health outcomes in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- A qualitative study using PhotoVoice to investigate the impact of art consortiums on health outcomes for women living with HIV.
- A descriptive study to identify the acceptability and feasibility of HPV self-sampling for diagnosis of cervical cancer in rural Kenya.

Conclusion: These clinical, educational, and research activities led by Kenyan and North American nurses represent the feasibility and power of bilateral global nursing collaboration and serves as a foundation to empower nurses, promote population health, and improve patient care outcomes. Globally, nursing practice, education, research, and patient outcomes can be strengthened by similar bilateral nursing workgroups and exchanges.

Title:

Development and Collaborations of a Nursing Workgroup Within a Bilateral Global Medical Consortium

Keywords:

Global Health, Nursing Consortium/Workgroup and Nursing collaborations

Abstract Summary:

We describe the formation of a bilateral nursing workgroup within a global medical consortium of North American and Kenyan healthcare providers and detail our collaboration to advance nursing care, education, and research to improve patient outcomes across a variety of specialties in acute care and community settings in both countries.

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Author Summary: Dr. Reid is a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Future of Nursing Postdoctoral Scholar and public health clinical instructor at The University of Texas at Austin School of Nursing, where she also completed her graduate degrees. Her research aims to improve newborn health as they transition from the hospital into the community. Dr. Reid continues to work as a neonatal intensive care nurse, which she has done for the past 15 years.

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Author Summary: Dr. von Gaudecker is an assistant professor at Indiana University School of Nursing. Her research focuses on identifying cultural factors that contribute to treatment gap among people living with stigmatized neurological disorders in Kenya. This presentation reports the findings of the first survey study conducted among adult and pediatric patients who seek care for their neurological disorders at Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital in western Kenya

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Author Summary: Dr. Julie Zuniga is an assistant professor. Her research interest include self-management of stigmatized illnesses in conjunction with co-morbid conditions, with a focus on HIV and diabetes. Dr. Zuniga received her doctorate in nursing at The University of Texas at Austin and completed her post-doctoral fellowship at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia.

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Ninth Author

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Author Summary: Chris Abbyad has worked in maternal-child nursing for 44 years. She currently holds a clinical associate professor position at the University of Texas at

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Author Summary: Alexandra Garcia is Associate Professor and Chief of Community Engagement and Health Equity in Population Health at The University of Texas at Austin Dell Medical school and School of Nursing. Projects include work with the Academic Model Providing Access to Healthcare (AMPATH); a partnership between Moi University, Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital, and North American universities led by Indiana University, and the Kenyan Government focused on global holistic, sustainable health in Kenya and beyond.

Eleventh Author

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Author Summary: Dr. Buelow has worked with people with epilepsy for 30 years both clinically as a clinical nurse specialist and as a researcher. She have been funded by the Epilepsy Foundation, NIH, and PCORI to study self-management in people with epilepsy, interventions for parents of children with a rare epilepsy and to study patient outcomes for people with epilepsy.