The Quest for Excellence in International Nursing Research

Stephanie L. Ferguson, PhD, RN, FAAN
Director, International Council of Nurses’ (ICN) Leadership for Change Programme
Facilitator, ICN-Burdett Global Nursing Leadership Institute
Geneva Switzerland
About ICN

The International Council of Nurses is a federation of national nurses associations (NNAs), representing nurses in 135 countries. Founded in 1899, ICN is the world’s first and widest reaching international organisation for health professionals.

Operated by nurses for nurses, ICN works to ensure quality nursing care for all, sound health policies globally, the advancement of nursing knowledge, and the presence worldwide of a respected nursing profession and a competent and satisfied nursing workforce.

Mission: To represent nursing worldwide, advancing the profession and influencing health policy.
ICN Leadership Programmes

  - Nurses
  - National nurses’ associations

- Leadership for Change (LFC) (1995)
  - Nursing and Health Policy and Health System Change

- Global Nursing Leadership Institute (GNLI) (2009)
2013 ICN-Burdett GNLI Graduates
Facing the Challenges of the 21st Century

Global Context

Challenges to Health Care

State of Nursing
Global Context

Challenges in *developing* countries:

- Insurmountable conditions
- Migration of nurses to developed countries
- Lack of resources to deal with health challenges
- 90% of health burden for 10% of resources
Global Context

Challenges in developed countries:

- Important cuts in the healthcare budget resulting from financial crisis
- Nurses and midwives most affected by crisis
- Investment in more cost-effective healthcare workers
The Challenges to Health Care

- Poverty
- Chronic Disease
- Aging Population
- Technological Innovation
The Future of Nursing

- Expanding roles for nurses and midwives as healthcare providers and policy-makers
- WHO roadmap for strengthening nursing and midwifery and a call for nursing and midwifery leadership
- What is your strategic plan and goals to pursue excellence in nursing education, practice, research and regulation?
Steps to Pushing Progress Forward

- Assuming Leadership Roles
- Expanding Nursing Education
- Staying at the Forefront of Research
- Advocating for Good Health, Equality, and Justice
- Maintaining Excellence and Regulation in Nursing Practice
Building Blocks to Success

- Education
- Research
- Leadership
- Advocacy
- Regulation
Excellence in International Nursing Research: Key Points, Recommendations and Strategies

- Biotechnology stands to generate the greatest amount of transformation in the substance of healthcare.
- Gene based therapies, stem cell research innovations and nanotechnology may offer solutions to age old obstacles to good health.
- Research agendas need to focus on the context of global health issues —i.e. non-communicable diseases, strategies for health system transformation to achieve universal health coverage, the way forward post 2015 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).
- Determine the expanded roles of nursing researchers, clinicians and academicians in the context of global health.
- Understand issues unique to international clinical trails, regulatory burdens and financial contract issues. (Citation: Minisman, G. Bhanushali, M. et al. (2012) Journal of the Neurological Science 313, 1-6).
- Advances in Mobile Technology benefit global health, research and care. (Citation: Hampton, T. (2012) JAMA, May 16-Vol 307, No. 19).
Moving Forward:

- Think access, quality and cost when setting international nursing research agendas.
- Be active in policy advocacy.
- Ensure that evidenced-base practice, policy and research content are included in nursing curricula worldwide.
- Study health system reform and transformation models and policies that facilitate and maximize collaboration with interprofessional partners.
- Utilize long-term partnerships between academic institutions and nurses working in the field.
- Nurses are key to disseminate the data needed to more accurately track progress of the UN’s health policy initiatives.
- Create the infrastructure for leadership development, mentoring and coaching opportunities to ensure we have enough international nurse researchers.
Last thoughts:

- Close research gaps.
- Be creative in seeking out funding for international research.
- Be open to working with a variety of key stakeholders to secure money for international research.
- Interprofessional research teams are the way forward worldwide.
- Investing in research is an enormous payoff for population health.
- International funding for health research and development targeted at diseases that disproportionately affect low-income and middle-income countries is needed and current investments need to be doubled by 2020. (Citation: Jamison, D, Summers, L., Alleyne, G. (2013). Global health 2035: a world converging within a generation Lancet: 382:1898-955).
Join ICN in 2015 in Seoul, Republic of Korea
Thank You!

Stephanie Ferguson, PhD, RN, FAAN
International Council of Nurses
3 place Jean Marteau
1201 Geneva Switzerland
Email: ferguson@icn.ch or drsferguson@gmail.com