



2010



STORIES



AUDIO

ICN
TODAY

Participants at the 2010 Credentiailling & Regulators Forum

Credentiailling and Regulators Forum

Analysing the impact of today's critical issues on health care, the regulatory environment and the evolution of nursing practice, the first joint Credentiailling and Regulators Forum was held in Maryland, USA in 2010. 33 participants from 16 countries gathered to discuss: advanced practice; regulatory reform; fraud in regulation; credentialing and regulatory research; and evolving scopes of practice in health care delivery.

A second meeting of the Forum was held in Taipei, Taiwan, 31 October-2 November 2011 with a total of 41 participants from 14 countries. The topics discussed at this meeting included: the influence of social media on regulators and credentialing agencies; the impact of the economic crisis; evolving scopes of practices and continuing competence.

The annual Forum provides participants with an opportunity for interaction, information sharing and dialogue on international issues pertaining to credentialing and regulation.

ICN Observatory on Licensure and Registration

The ICN Observatory on Licensure and Registration enabled ICN and the nursing profession to anticipate and respond in a timely, appropriate manner to international regulatory developments by providing leadership in influencing policy on global regulatory matters.

In November 2010, the Observatory provided feedback on a draft of the most recent planned addition to ICN's regulation toolkit series on Complaints Management and had discussion on the impact of the global economic recession on regulation; capacity building of regulators; regulation of midwifery and its relationship with registered nursing and the regulatory implications of two recent WHO Documents: "Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel" and "Increasing Access to Health Workers in Remote and Rural Areas through Improved Retention".



Nurses in Haiti using the ICN Mobile Library

Supporting Nurses and Nursing in Haiti Fund

In January 2010, a 7.0 magnitude earthquake struck the poorest country in the Americas, Haiti, killing and injuring hundreds of thousands of people and destroying homes, hospitals, schools and infrastructure. The National School of Nursing in Port-au-Prince was completely destroyed, killing 200 nursing students. ICN established the "Supporting Nurses and Nursing in Haiti Fund" in order to strengthen nursing and education in Haiti. ICN worked with the Association Nationale des Infirmières Licenciées d'Haiti (ANILH) to identify priority areas for the Fund. The Elsevier Foundation provided a US \$15,000 grant to ICN to produce and deliver five French Mobile Libraries (Bibliothèque Mobile), specially adapted for the post-disaster situation in Haiti. ICN President Rosemary Bryant visited Haiti at the end of 2010 to meet with the ANILH and Haitian nurse leaders, to bring the moral support of the global nursing community, and to assist with pressing policy matters.



Anti-Counterfeit Medicines Campaign

In 2010, with its partners in the World Health Professions Alliance (WHPA), ICN launched the *Be Aware, Take Action* campaign, to better equip health care professionals to combat counterfeit medical products. The campaign provided tools and strategies for nurses, dentists, pharmacists, physicians and physical therapists, as well as health care advocates and patients.

In March 2010, the WHPA issued a joint statement on counterfeiting of medical products. This was followed in May 2010 with the launch of the *Be Aware, Take Action* toolkit which sought to help educate and improve the capacity of health professionals to detect, report and prevent counterfeit medical products. In October 2010 the first regional workshop on counterfeit medical products was held in San José, Costa Rica during which 23 national health professional organisations agreed upon and signed the WHPA San José Call to Action on Counterfeit Medical Products. This was followed by multiprofessional regional workshops in Nigeria in November 2010 and Taiwan in July 2011, during which participants endorsed the WHPA Taipei Call to Action to reduce the harmful impact of falsified and counterfeit medical products on patients and the public. In November 2011, national health professions organisations attending the WHPA workshop held in Prague endorsed the WHPA Prague Call to Action, to reduce the harmful impact of falsified medical products on patients and the public and to urge governments to ramp up the fight against falsified medical products.

Positive Practice Environments Campaign

The Positive Practice Environments (PPE) Campaign was a joint effort by ICN, the International Hospital Federation, the International Pharmaceutical Federation, the World Confederation for Physical Therapy, the World Dental Federation, the World Medical Association and the Global Health Workforce Alliance (GHWA). It aimed to improve the quality of health services by raising awareness, identifying good practice and developing tools for managers and health professionals, and implementing national and local projects to improve practice environments. The campaign promoted safe, cost-effective and healthy workplaces, thereby strengthening health systems and improving patient safety. In addition to global efforts, the PPE campaign supported the design and implementation of national projects to improve practice environments.

Inaugural workshops were undertaken in the three GHWA-funded countries (Morocco, Uganda and Zambia) in March and May 2010. Country case studies of the national practice environment situation and health worker retention were published for the three countries. In January 2011, ICN delivered an all day workshop on PPE at the Second Global Forum on Human Resources for Health in Bangkok, Thailand. The focus of the forum was on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and the urgency of all stakeholders to work towards human resources for health and health system strengthening, to respond appropriately, efficiently and effectively. The workshop provided an insight to the multi-stakeholder and multi-disciplinary campaign, created awareness of the importance of PPE for staff well-being and quality of care delivery and shared the experience of introducing the campaign in Zambia, Uganda and Morocco. ICN was the key informant and focal point for the Global Health Workforce Alliance (GHWA) independent external evaluation of the PPE Campaign which was conducted in November/December 2011.





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Anti-Counterfeit Medicines Campaign (see story for background)

ICN is a member of the multi-stakeholder Fight the Fakes campaign that aims to raise awareness about the dangers of fake medicines, which put the public at risk, could increase resistance to real treatments, and may cause further illness, disability or even death.

The Fight the Fakes (www.fightfakes.org) campaign is a global movement of organisations and individuals that will speak up and help spread the word about this under-reported, yet growing threat to public health. The campaign aims to give a voice to those who have been personally impacted and share the stories of those working to put a stop to this threat to public health.





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Socio-Economic Welfare and Investing in Nursing (real recording)



- Howard Catton, ICN Chief Executive Officer, 2019-



ICN
TODAY



Socio-Economic Welfare is an important pillar of the ICN's work, along with professional practice, regulation and education. We believe that the welfare and well-being of nurses and the nursing workforce and quality patient care are two sides of the same coin. For example, continuing nursing education is important to the maintenance of high standards of nursing competence and continuing practice and patient safety. However, it is also important in terms of career and professional development, workloads and staffing issues for nursing staff. We believe that investing in nurses is investing in patient care and we remain at the forefront of efforts to improve the working conditions of nurses. The ICN, in collaboration with our national nurses associations, holds annual workforce forums to monitor nursing workforce developments and to consider issues of shortage, migration and staffing levels. We have produced policy position statements and documents on issues such as nursing pay, staffing levels and the retention of nurses. One major concern is the need to educate a sufficient number of nurses and to retain those nurses that we already have. In 2017, the ICN welcomed the report of the UN High-Level Commission on Health Employment and Economic Growth. We know that under-staffing leads to poor quality care, and that this results in negative patient outcomes and increased mortality rates. Investment in nursing results in positive patient outcomes and safety and increased access to health care. Research indicates that an empowered and appropriately educated and remunerated workforce is vital to a country's prosperity and security. This is why socio-economic welfare of nurses and the nursing workforce will always be a key pillar of ICN's work.





2011



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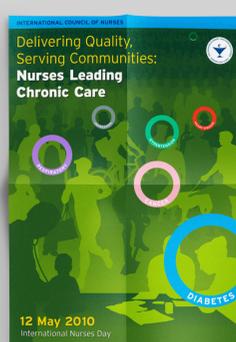
ICN
TODAY

Third ICN Conference, La Valetta, Malta

With a conference of theme of *Nurses driving access, quality and health*, which was also the focus of the International Nurses Day, the third ICN Conference was held at the Malta Fairs and Convention Centre. The scientific programme was framed by the three ICN Pillars of Professional Practice, Regulation and Socio-Economic Welfare. The conference further assisted nurses in disseminating knowledge and leadership skills across different specialities and cultures. Nurses spoke out against non-communicable chronic diseases and discussed what action should be taken so that patients may have greater access to nursing services. Rosemary Bryant, ICN President, promoted the need for access by all people to quality health services and to nursing services; access by nurses to appropriate education; and access by governments to nursing policy advice.

eHealth Development

In 2011, the ICN eHealth programme was launched at the ICN Conference in Malta, encompassing the International Classification for Nursing Practice (ICNP®), the ICN Telenursing Network and Sanofi Connecting Nurses. The eHealth Programme aimed to transform nursing through the visionary application of information and communication technology; and to advance nurses' knowledge of and involvement in eHealth worldwide.



Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)

As the world faces a massive increase in the levels of death and disability resulting from chronic disease, there is an urgent need for nurses everywhere to proactively engage with all parts of the community and all sectors to address this growing threat to global health and development.

In 2010, ICN chose as the theme for International Nurses Day, *Nurses Leading Chronic Care*. The IND Toolkit provided extensive background information about the increasing need and demand for chronic care, using type-2 diabetes as an example. It challenged nurses and others to understand the enormity of the problem and to recognise that with knowledge, courage, vision and commitment nurses are well placed to assume a lead role. ICN called upon nurses everywhere to move to action, in their personal lives and professional roles, to stem the pandemic of chronic disease.

In collaboration with the World Health Professions Alliance (WHPA), ICN launched a campaign against non-communicable diseases. In a joint statement released December 2010, the global leaders of nurses, pharmacists, physical therapists, dentists and physicians, said what is needed is a single strategy to prevent and manage NCDs. The Campaign released an easy-to-use, practical guide to help individuals and their health professionals reduce the risk of NCDs

In 2011, ICN and Pfizer carried out a global survey on non-communicable diseases, which showed that although nurses want to lead in the global fight against the further spread of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) workload and time constraints are holding them back. The survey showed that 95% of the 1,600 nurses across the eight countries polled want to use their skills and time to educate individuals on the threat and prevention of NCDs. It also revealed that 95% of nurses surveyed experienced time pressures that are having negative effects on patient health and one third reported that their workload had worsened over the last five years.

In 2010-2011, ICN partnered with the Dialogue on Diabetes and Depression (DDD) – a global initiative involving several organisations – and the Association for Improvement of Mental Health Programmes (AIMHP) to implement the African Nurse Training Programme (ANTP) to improve awareness, recognition and management of co-morbid diabetes and depression. The nurse training programme saw people as individuals, placing them at the centre of care with full voice in the decision-making process. In 2010-2011, the programme prepared 30 nurses each from Botswana, South Africa and Uganda; 15 nurses each from Lesotho and Swaziland and 28 from Uganda.

In 2012, ICN, in collaboration with Pfizer, launched the Grow Your Wellness initiative, which provided educational resources for health professionals and the public to improve the understanding and prevention of non-communicable diseases. In the same year, ICN, Pfizer and the South African Depression and Anxiety Group jointly developed Growing Your Wellness, a 'speaking book' which employed new technology and educational approaches to explain the importance of healthy eating, healthy living and tobacco abstinence in preventing NCDs, such as diabetes, heart disease, and some cancers.

At the 66th World Health Assembly in May 2013, Member States adopted the WHO Global NCD Action Plan 2013-2020. ICN provided several comments during the consultation process and our recommended actions have been included in the Plan.

In 2016, ICN participated in the First WHO Global Meeting of National NCD Programme Managers and Directors in organised by the WHO Global Coordination Mechanism on non-communicable diseases (NCDs). The aim of the meeting was to discuss among peers how countries can develop ambitious national responses to the NCD-related targets in the Sustainable Development Goals. ICN presented examples of primary healthcare (PHC) models from different regions in which nurses play a significant role in effective prevention and management of NCDs.

Climate Change

In 2011, ICN signed the Durban Declaration on Climate and Health calling on national delegations to the 17th Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Advocating for Fair Trials in Bahrain

In June 2011, following the arrests of 47 doctors and nurses for their actions during pro-democracy protests in Bahrain, ICN and the World Medical Association issued a joint statement calling on the Bahraini authorities to ensure a fair trial. In September 2011, 20 of the health workers were convicted by a military court. ICN wrote directly to the Government of Bahrain demanding that charges be dropped and sentences reprieved. ICN CEO, David Benton, gave an exclusive interview to Press TV saying, "It is completely unacceptable that nurses and doctors should be treated in this way. They have a moral and ethical duty to treat everyone that comes into the hospital irrespective of their colour, irrespective of their political affiliation. Someone that comes in need needs to be treated and that is their responsibility."

We also called on our member national nurses associations and individuals to write to the Kingdom of Bahrain. The following month, the sentences were overturned, and it was announced that the defendants would be retried by a civilian court in 2012. ICN then wrote to the King of Bahrain to request a fair and equitable trial and an investigation into the use of torture and ill treatment of some of the defendants. In 2013, an appeals court reversed the conviction of the most of health workers.

Call for increased nursing representation at WHO

At the ICN Conference in Malta in May 2011, ICN's governing body passed an emergency resolution expressing ICN's extreme concern at the lack of nursing policy presence within the World Health Organization (WHO). ICN President Rosemary Bryant followed this with wrote an open letter to WHO Director General Dr Margaret Chan calling for an immediate remedy to the lack of nursing leadership positions throughout WHO structures, including at headquarters and in the regional offices, beginning with reestablishment of the post of WHO Chief Nurse Scientist. This concern was raised again at the 2011 World Health Assembly.

In 2012-2013, ICN lobbied through letters, interventions at the Executive Board and World Health Assembly and meetings with WHO leadership to increase the number of nurses in WHO.





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ICN TODAY



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Climate Change

(see story for background)

In 2019, ICN released a new position statement on [Nurses, Climate Change and Health](#) which calls for involvement of the nursing profession to mitigate the impact of climate change, to address climate change risks to health and to support sustainable practices in healthcare.

ICN also [called on](#) governments to take immediate action to tackle climate change, after latest Lancet Countdown report revealed impending health crisis for future generations. Details in the latest Lancet Countdown: Tracking Progress on Health and Climate Change [report](#) show how the lives of every child born this year will be profoundly affected by climate change throughout their lifetimes.





2012



STORY



Revised ICN Code of Ethics

The revised ICN Code of Ethics, published in 2012, reflected the realities of nursing and health care at that time. The Code was a guide for action that was based on social values and needs. The Code of Ethics had served as the standard for nurses worldwide and since first adopted in 1953 had been regularly reviewed to meet the realities and challenges of nursing and health care in a changing society. The 2012 version highlighted the importance of positive practice environments and of evidence-based practice.





2013



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ICN 25th Quadrennial Congress
MAY 2013 | MELBOURNE AUSTRALIA

25th ICN Congress, Melbourne, Australia

ICN President, Dr Rosemary Bryant from Australia (2009-2013), welcomed more than 4,000 nurses from 120 countries to her native country to attend the 25th ICN Congress. *Equity and Access to Health Care* was the theme. The Congress was organised with the support of the Australian College of Nursing. In his keynote address, Michael Kazatchkine, UN Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Eastern Europe and Central Africa, discussed the inequitable burden of infectious diseases. Leslie Mancuso, President and CEO of Jhpiego, spoke on women's access to health care; and Prof Sheila Tlou, Director, UNAIDS Regional Support Team for Eastern and Southern Africa spoke on the *Millennium Development Goals*. Prof Anne Marie Rafferty, Dean of the Florence Nightingale School of Nursing and Midwifery at Kings College London, presented the Virginia Henderson Memorial Lecture. Kirsten Stallknecht, former ICN President, received the Christiane Reimann award. Mary Robinson, first female President of Ireland, former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and UN Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region of Africa, received the 2013 Health and Human Rights Award. ICN launched the 2013 *ICNP (C)* – a nursing terminology that supported standardised nursing documentation worldwide. The Congress featured a Student Nurses Assembly. Prior to the Congress the CNR's met in Melbourne from 16-19 May 2013 during which Dr Judith Shamian (Canada) ([read more](#)) was elected as ICN President for the period 2013-2017 under the watchword "*Impact*".



Maternal and Child Health

In 2013 ICN worked in collaboration with WHO, UNFPA, the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM), Jhpiego and other committed global leaders that strongly support maternal/child health to address such areas as the need for family planning and accessible midwifery, nursing and health worker education and training related to basic emergency obstetric and newborn care. ICN was one of 16 organisations who endorsed the joint "Statement for Collective Action for Postpartum Family Planning" and one of seven organisations who signed the consensus statement "Post Abortion Family Planning: A Key Component of Post Abortion Care". ICN is a member of the Technical Advisory Group to review a series of new e-learning modules based on the basic emergency obstetric and new-born care being developed by Jhpiego in collaboration with WHO and UNFPA. With ICM, ICN facilitated the distribution of a United States Agency for International Development (USAID) global survey on the ability of midwives to perform manual vacuum aspiration and prescribe and dispense family planning methods. ICN also updated the position statements on Women's Health, Breastfeeding, and The Distribution and Use of Breast Milk Substitutes.

HEALTH CARE IN DANGER **IT'S A MATTER OF LIFE & DEATH**

Health Care in Danger

On 22 October 2013, ICN and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) signed a memorandum of understanding to promote the "Health Care in Danger" project, which ultimately aims to make access to health care in situations of armed violence more secure. The Project produced several materials including a film "Health care in danger: The human cost" and a publication "Health care in danger: the responsibilities of health-care personnel working in armed conflicts and other emergencies" which was disseminated to ICN members and other partners. ICN's participation in the project included contributing the knowledge and experience of national nursing associations, notably on ethical issues, to project-related debates; co-organising round tables with practitioners; informing its membership on project developments; and distributing project publications and other documents, including the Health Care in Danger Global Report, to its membership and to other organisations, such as the World Health Professions Alliance





Judith Shamian

Judith Shamian, RN, PhD, LL.D (hon), D.Sci (hon), FAAN, was the President of the International Council of Nurses (ICN), president and CEO of the Victorian Order of Nurses (VON). Dr. Shamian is past president of the Canadian Nurses Association (CNA). She is also a professor at the Lawrence S. Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing at the University of Toronto, and the founding executive director of the Office of Nursing Policy at Health Canada. Shamian obtained her PhD from Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio, her master's in public health from New York University, and her baccalaureate in community nursing from Concordia University in Montreal. Dr. Shamian holds three Honorary Doctorates and recipient of numerous awards including Canada's Most Powerful Women: Top 100 award from the Women's Executive Network. Dr. Shamian is a strong voice for the role and impact of nurses and nursing can make on global health. Global Health will only be attained by including civil society and professional voices in the planning and implementing of global agendas like UHC, NCDs and others



Judith Shamian





2013



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The 25th ICN Congress, Melbourne, Australia (real recording)



- Mary Robinson, Former President of the Republic of Ireland



(Davos, Switzerland, 26 Jan 2013 - Mary Robinson, Copyright by World Economic Forum. swiss-image.ch/Photo Michael Wuertenberg) (CC BY-SA 2.0)

The right to health is a fundamental part of our human rights and of our understanding of a life in dignity. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights mentions health as the part of the right to an adequate standard of living and the right to health is recognised as a human right in the 1966 international covenant on economic, social and cultural rights. Nurses are at the frontlines in defending health and the right to health on a daily basis as I've seen in different parts of the world frequently in the most challenging of circumstances. As President of Ireland and later, as UN High Commissioner on Human Rights, I travelled to countries in conflict to very difficult situations and met so many nurses who were operating professionally, without water, sometimes, without adequate circumstances and even at risk to their lives and their own health. And I have the highest regard for the work that they have been doing.





2015



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Fourth ICN Conference, Korea

In 2015, more than 7,000 nurses attended the fourth ICN Conference in Seoul, Republic of Korea, co-hosted by the Korean Nurses Association. The CNR met prior to the conference. The Conference theme was *Global Citizen, Global Nursing*. Participants explored the importance of cross-cultural understanding and global cooperation in addition to disseminating nursing knowledge and leadership across specialities, cultures and countries. Main sessions presented were on nursing education, mental health, e-Health, human resources, infectious diseases and counterfeit medicines.

In her keynote address ICN President Dr Judith Shamian stressed the impact nurses had on the development of health policy saying that the pressing health problems of the day could not be solved without nurses. In her address Dr Margaret Chan, Director-General of WHO advised that: “Nurses need to take a more active role in health policy process. The profession is a “sleeping giant that must now wake up, speak with one voice and take proactive actions for the improvements of laws and institutions” (ICN 2015)

ICN (2015) 28th ICN Conference Seoul, Republic of Korea *International Nursing Review* 62(3) 281-87



Global Strategy for Health Human Resources

The WHO Global Strategy for Health Human Resources was set up in 2015 in recognition of the fact that many countries were struggling with the realities and implications of health worker shortages and under resourced workplaces, all of which were impacting on healthcare delivery. As nursing comprised the major health professional workforce, ICN believed that nursing should have a voice in the development of early global strategy development, such as the HRH global strategy.

ICN, in ensuring that the 16 million practicing nurses worldwide were able to influence global strategy for health human resources, set up two working groups to guide its efforts on this strategy. This consultation supported the *Strategy* through encouraging and facilitating the engagement of national nursing associations in the WHO consultation process, leading up to its review by the World Health Assembly (WHA) in May 2016. ICN advocated for nurses to be included in each country’s delegation to the WHA. Following the WHA, ICN continued its engagement through dialogue. This served to provide direction on the HRH global strategy to WHO and other international partners by using the slogan: NO HEALTH without a workforce: NO WORKFORCE without nurses and midwives. (MacDonald-.Rencz 2015)

Writing in 2016, Judith Shamian ICN President advised that over the past few years, ICN had focused on health and was involved in the development of the *WHO Global Strategy on Human Resources for Health: Workforce 2030*. She advised nurses to keep up the Workforce 2030 Momentum. To support this strategy, Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary General of the UN, along with the presidents of France and South Africa and representatives from OECD, WHO and the International Labour Organisation established in 2016, a high-level *Commission on Health Employment and Economic Growth*. The ICN President was honoured to be appointed to this Commission, the aim of which was to stimulate and guide the creation of 40 million new jobs in the health and social sectors and to reduce by 2013 the shortfall of 18 million health workers, mainly in low income countries. This target had not been achieved by 2013. The Commission’s Report submitted in September 2016, to the UN General Assembly in New York set out a strong economic-based case for investing in the health workforce. The ICN *International Workforce Forum* called on governments to do more to educate and retain nurses and ICN’s President encouraged nurses worldwide to support recommendations from the Commission’s Report by working with their governments in encouraging higher investment in nursing. (Shamian 2016).

MacDonald-Rencz, S (2015) ICN ensuring nurses influence global strategy for health human resources. *International Nursing Review* December 62(4):431-2

Shamian J. (2016) Investing in the Health Workforce-Keeping up the Momentum *International Nursing Review* 63(4)520





2015



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ICN TODAY

Global Strategy for Health Human Resources

(see story for background)

In 2019, ICN made an intervention at the World Health Assembly on “Human resources for health – WHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel: third round of national reporting” We also produced a new position statement on *International career mobility and ethical nurse recruitment*.





2016



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Ninth ICN Nurse Practitioner/Advanced Practice Nursing Network Conference, Hong Kong

The ninth ICN NP/APN Network Conference was held in September 2016 in Hong Kong. The theme of this conference was “Advancing Health and Nursing: Emerging Possibilities” and included keynote lectures and panel discussions with experts from all over the world, themed pre-conference workshops, study visits. The ICN NP/APNN Conference is the leading biennial conference for nurse practitioners, advanced practice nurses, clinical nurse specialists, nurses, researchers, educators, policy makers, and managers from all over the world. The Conference provides a distinctive arena to share and analyse issues on advanced nursing practice locally and globally.



Caption

Strategic Directions for Nursing & Midwifery 2016-2020

WHO launched its new Strategic Directions for Nursing & Midwifery (SDNM) 2016-2020 at a joint ICN/WHO event in May 2016. The SDNM 2016-2020 aims to ensure that the nursing and midwifery workforce contributes to Universal Health Coverage and the Sustainable Development Agenda by ensuring equitable access to skilled and motivated nursing and midwifery workforces within performing and responsive health systems.





2016



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Ninth ICN Nurse Practitioner/Advanced Practice Nursing Network Conference, Hong Kong
(see story for background)

In 2020, the [ICN NP/APN Network Conference](#) will be held in Halifax, Canada with the theme “Envisioning Advanced practice Nursing Beyond 2020”





2017



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The Sustainable Developmental Goals (SDGs)

A set of new global development goals to end poverty by 2030 and pursue a sustainable future was adopted by the United Nations in September 2015. Although nurses' main contributions are to Goal 3 on health and wellbeing, ICN believes that health must be considered in many of the other goals. The SDGs provided the investment framework and follow on from the *Millennium Development Goals* of the period 2000-2016.

In 2017, ICN introduced an exciting brand new identity and format for its International Nurses Day resources, supported by several media to offer a broad and interactive range of insights on the profession and to highlight the outstanding work carried out by nurses everywhere who strive to care for their communities. With the theme, Nurses: A Voice to Lead, Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, the 2017 resources focused around the targets adopted in 2015 by the UN in order to emphasise how nursing practice and nurse-led innovations are undoubtedly the catalysts for change leading communities, health care systems and policy makers towards the successful achievement of not only Goal 3: Good Health and Well-Being, but all 17 goals.



26th ICN Congress, Barcelona, Spain 2017

More than 8,000 nurses from 134 countries attended the 26th ICN Congress in May 2017 and in doing so participated in one of the world's largest gathering of nurses. Ms. Annette Kennedy ([read more](#)) was elected as 28th ICN President for the period 2017-2021 during the meeting of the CNR, held prior to the Congress. She chose 'Together' as her Watchword. The Congress attracted keynote international speakers who addressed delegates on areas relating to safe staffing, social justice, gender advocacy, healthcare models and global health challenges.

Dr Mary Wakefield, former Secretary General of the US Department of Health presented on how nurses should become more proactive in health policy development. Participants heard the Honourable Julie Duncan Cassall, Liberia's Minister of Gender, Child and Social Protection speak of nurses participating in the political process. Dr Linda Aiken, Director of the Centre for Health Outcomes and Policy Research at the University of Pennsylvania received a standing ovation for her presentation on safe staffing. She spoke about the importance of evidence and of bringing this evidence forth to governments. Dr Aiken was presented with the Christiane Reimann Prize. Dr. Leslie Mancuso gave the traditional Virginia Henderson lecture saying "no one knows health care better than nurses." Dr Sheila Dinotshe Tlou and Dr Linda Aiken were jointly presented with the Christiane Reimann Prize.



ICN Health Policy Summit

In 2017, ICN held a Health Policy Summit in the USA, bringing together nurse and global health experts to discuss topics of particular relevance to the global nursing organisation. Generously supported by Johnson & Johnson and global top-tier universities, the Summit posed the question "What should nursing's response be to human rights issues and in humanitarian crises?" The Summit was designed to harness the expertise of a carefully selected list of experts and offer a forum to share, learn and influence future decision making. Emphasis was put on the importance of creating partnerships across specialties, professions, nations and organisations as the nursing profession is faced with increasingly more complex and interrelated challenges to which it needs to respond and adapt if it is to carry out its central role in the health of populations. Featured stimulus talks by experts in key areas of concern focused on ageing, mental health, the health effects of climate change; and migrants, refugees and displaced persons.



Dr Tedros, the Director General of WHO, appointed Elizabeth Iro as Chief Nursing Officer in 2017.

WHO Chief Nursing Officer

Prior to the 2017 elections of the new WHO Director General (DG), ICN wrote to the three candidates for this position to ensure that nursing plays a stronger role in the development and implementation of WHO global action plans and policies. In particular, we urged them to take a crucial look at the impact of the absence of a Chief Nurse Scientist at WHO on global action plans and policies.

Since his election, ICN has formed a close relationship with the new WHO DG, Dr Tedros, who made a special intervention at the ICN 2017 Congress, addressing the 8,000 nurses present in the audience via teleconference. In his message, Dr Tedros expressed his gratitude to the nursing profession, recognising its "invaluable contribution and sacrifices at the frontlines of health services around the world". He emphasized the key role nursing leadership plays in bringing quality and affordable healthcare to communities worldwide, saluting ICN's focus on the SDGs as a fitting agenda matching his own vision turned towards achieving universal healthcare. He also reaffirmed his pledge to collaborate with ICN to ensure that nurses are fully included in policy making processes and made the commitment to have a senior level nurse on his team.

In October 2017, Dr Tedros kept his pledge to re-instate a very senior nursing role that will provide nursing advice to him across all WHO's key priorities. Elizabeth Iro of the Cook Islands was appointed as the WHO's Chief Nursing Officer.





Annette Kennedy

Annette Kennedy was elected President of the International Council of Nurses in May 2017 an organisation representing 133 National Nurses Associations and broadly 20 million nurses worldwide. She was Vice President of ICN 2013-2017. She was awarded an honorary fellowship in nursing from the Royal College of Surgeons Ireland in 2016.

She was President of the European Federation of Nurses from 2005-2007 representing 30 European National Nursing Associations and Executive Board member of EFN 1999-2004.

Annette is actively involved in social society and is currently Chairperson of the Bray Homeless Forum an organisation made up of voluntary, statutory and community organisations and agencies working with /supporting people who are homeless or having a policy remit around homelessness. She is also a Director on the Citizens Information Service Board.

Annette has been an elected representative on many university boards and has served on many national and international committees.

Annette Kennedy established the very successful Education, Research and Resource Centre for the Irish Nurses and Midwives Organisation (INMO), the largest professional representative organisation for nurses and midwives in Ireland. Annette on behalf of the INMO advocated and worked towards moving nursing and midwifery into the mainstream of university life, the development of legislation for nurse prescribing, the development of advanced nurse practitioners and the development of the recent Nurses and Midwives Act.

She has a keen interest in workforce planning and the creation of positive practice work environment for nurses.

Annette has added the nurse's voice by building partnerships with government, regulatory bodies, universities and other representative groups in Ireland.

Annette is a registered nurse and a registered midwife with a Bachelor's degree in Nursing (BNS) in Nurse Education from University College Dublin, a diploma in Mgt and a diploma in HR and a Master's degree in Public Sector Analysis from Trinity College Dublin.



Annette Kennedy





2017



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26th ICN Congress, Barcelona, Spain (real recording)



- Dr Judith Shamian, ICN President, 2013-2017



Investing in health is investing in economic growth. So when I said in the opening ceremony for those that were there, that nursing is not an expense, it is an investment, it is not me, Judith Shamian, or nurses, or ICN speak, but it is the global community speak based on evidence and other information, so it is clearly identified that one in ten positions in the world in most countries are held by somebody who serves the health services, or the health agenda. In Germany, for example, it is one in seven. And it says something very important that each dollar invested in the health sector results in an additional 77 cents contribution to economic growth. So investing in health is investing in the economic success of the country. And that's not a language that we've talked about before or a language that we as nurses are familiar with.





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AUDIO



ICN TODAY



Lord Nigel Crisp, Baroness Mary Watkins, HRH the Duchess of Cambridge, Elizabeth Iro, Annette Kennedy and Diana Atwine

Launch of Nursing Now

In February 2018, the Nursing Now campaign was launched with the aim of raising the profile and status of nursing. HRH Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge, joined nurses and other health leaders across the world in launching the global campaign which recognises that nurses are at the heart of countries' efforts to provide health for all.

The campaign was launched simultaneously at St Thomas' Hospital, London and the University Hospital of Geneva. Attending the event alongside The Duchess were WHO Director-General, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus and Elizabeth Iro, WHO's Chief Nursing Officer; global nursing advocate, Princess Muna Al-Hussein of Jordan; Annette Kennedy, ICN President; Nursing Now co-Chairs Lord Nigel Crisp and Professor Sheila Tlou, senior ICN Executives and Board; and health leaders and nurses from countries around the world.

The three-year global campaign is being run as a programme of the Burdett Trust for Nursing, in collaboration with ICN and WHO. *Nursing Now* was founded by nurses and other health experts based on the findings of the 2016 *Triple Impact* report produced by the UK's All Party Parliamentary Group on Global Health. The report concluded that strengthening nursing globally would have a triple impact of improving health, improving gender equality by empowering women and building stronger economies. Universal Health Coverage will not be achieved unless nursing is strengthened.

The campaign focused on five core areas: ensuring that nurses and midwives have a more prominent voice in health policy-making; encouraging greater investment in the nursing workforce; recruiting more nurses into leadership positions; conducting research that helps determine where nurses can have the greatest impact; and sharing of best nursing practices.

NURSES A VOICE TO LEAD HEALTH IS A HUMAN RIGHT

Nurses: A Voice to Lead – Health is a Human Right

The theme for International Nurses Day 2018 was *Nurses: A Voice to Lead – Health is a Human Right*. Unique in its field, the IND 2018 report explored the critical role nurses play in delivering Universal Health Coverage and improving access to quality health care. It featured over a dozen case studies sourced by nurses globally, showcasing the invaluable contribution of nurses to healthcare systems as well as their capacity to bring health to all. The IND resources included a website, www.icnvoicetolead.com, and downloadable document, accompanied by a growing database of case studies, posters and logos in various languages.

40th Anniversary of the Declaration of Alma-Ata

In October 2018, ICN attended the Global Conference on Primary Health Care in Astana, Kazakhstan, celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the Declaration of Alma-Ata. ICN and Nursing Now issued a joint statement calling on governments to remove barriers that impede nurses to work to their full scope to achieve the vision set out in the Astana Declaration. Both ICN and Nursing Now also endorsed the Civil Society Statement which called on governments to strengthen political leadership and governance; improve financing; enhance accountability; and advance country-led solutions. ICN, as the global voice of the over 20 million nurses worldwide, strongly believes that the effective and safe delivery of comprehensive PHC services depends on the strength, capacity and capability of the health workforce. The Global Conference on Primary Health Care, co-hosted by the Government of Kazakhstan, WHO and UNICEF, aimed to renew a commitment to primary health care to achieve universal health coverage and the Sustainable Development Goals.



First ICN Regional Conference, Abu Dhabi, UAE

First ICN Regional Conference, Abu Dhabi, UAE

Over 1,100 nurses attended the inaugural ICN Regional Conference in September 2018 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. The theme was *Nurses: A Voice to Lead – Ensuring Access to Healthcare through Leadership, Innovation and Collaborative Practice*. The conference was co-hosted by the Emirates Nursing Association in collaboration with the SEHA International Nursing, Midwifery and Allied Health conference.

The conference provided a platform to improve patient care, build nursing research and mobilise, promote and raise the profile of the nursing profession across the region. Her Royal Highness Princess Muna Al-Hussein was the Guest of Honour. Key speakers included: Annette Kennedy, ICN President, who briefed participants on *ICN Strategic Directions: Regional focus*; Lord Nigel Crisp, co-Chair of *Nursing Now*, spoke about the global campaign to raise the status and profile of nursing and of placing nurses at the heart of the health team; Professor Didier Pittet, Hospital Epidemiologist and Director of the Infection Control Programme and WHO Collaborating Centre on Patient Safety, Geneva, Switzerland addressed the audience on *The Global Dimension of Hand Hygiene Activities for Patient Safety*; Howard Catton, Director of Nursing and Health Policy at ICN presented *ICN's Health Policy: Global Perspectives* and Kathleen Vollman, a Critical Care Clinical Nurse Specialist, Educator and Consultant advised on *Innovative Models of Patient Care* and gave a workshop on *Infection Control and Prevention*.

Concurrent sessions covered topics such as governance and leadership; clinical outcomes and impact; cost effectiveness; emerging trends in nursing and midwifery education; evidence-based practice; positive practice environment; midwifery and maternal child health; community health; patient safety; cultural diversity in healthcare; work life balance; and health informatics and technology.

Fifth World Health Professions Regulation Conference

Health professional regulation faces many challenges in a world characterised by political, social, economic and technological change. Widespread reform of health professional regulation reflects policy initiatives by many governments to ensure sustainable, efficient and effective health service delivery. But what are the implications, and how do we ensure the public's best interests are met? Every two years, immediately before the World Health Organization's World Health Assembly in Geneva, the World Health Professions Regulation Conference (WHPRC) provides participants with insights, perspectives and discussion on current challenges in health professional regulation. Key speakers explore the lessons learned from competence-based approaches to regulation, compare regulatory models and examine ways of promoting best practice in regulatory governance and performance.

The 2018 WHPRC, titled *Health Professional Regulation-Facing challenges to acting in the public interest* was organised by the World Health Professions Alliance (WHPA) of which ICN is a member. Annette Kennedy, ICN President and Mr Thomas Kearns, ICN Interim Chief Executive Officer, were amongst the presidents and chief executive officers from the alliance who welcomed delegates. Programme topics were divided into three plenary sessions: A call to set the right standards in regulation; safety, quality and compliance: benefiting patients, communities and populations and supporting the quality of lifelong learning. The WHPA speaks for more than 31 million health professionals worldwide in more than 130 countries. WHPA was formed in 2009 by the global organisations representing the world's nurses, pharmacists and physical therapists and was joined by the global dental organisation in 2005 and the organisation representing physical therapists in 2010. This unique alliance addresses global health issues and collaborates on health agendas with health professional regulation being high on its agenda.

Labour market and education system analysis in Africa

ICN, the World Bank, Jhpiego and the East, Central and Southern Africa College of Nursing (ECSACON) convened a consultation meeting with 15 Eastern, Central and Southern Africa (ECSA) countries in Nairobi, Kenya in March 2018 to discuss and plan the labour market and education system analysis of nursing and midwifery.

The aim of the meeting was to discuss the proposed analytical work aiming to assess nursing labour and education markets in the ECSA countries; to engage with nurse leaders representing government, regulatory bodies and associations from ECSA nations to build consensus and an action plan for investing in nursing education in the ECSA countries; and to identify synergies with other regional initiatives and develop partnerships to implement and disseminate the results from the analytical work and an action plan for investments.

ICN believes an active and committed health workforce is a necessary prerequisite to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC). However, current challenges such as weak health systems, made worse by migration and the shortage of health professionals, emerging health threats such as pandemics, natural disasters, war and conflict and the current economic crisis all complicate progress.

Patient Safety

In May 2018, ICN formally endorsed the Tokyo Declaration on Patient Safety which was developed at the Third Global Ministerial Summit on Patient Safety held in Tokyo, Japan. Founded on the policies articulated in World Health Assembly resolution WHA55.18 (2002), which urged Member States to "pay the closest possible attention to the problem of patient safety and establish and strengthen science-based systems, necessary for improving patient safety and the quality of health care", the Tokyo Declaration on Patient Safety called for greater commitment to accelerate progress towards improving patient safety globally.

In 2019, ICN and the Saudi Patient Safety Center launched their *White paper on Nurse Staffing Levels for Patient Safety and Workforce Safety* which brought together evidence from a wide range of sources, covering different countries and contexts, showing that having the right numbers of nurses, in the right place and at the right time, delivers quality and safety for the populations they serve, and will help to retain nurses. This seminal white paper, informed by the ICN *Position Statement on Evidence-based safe nurse staffing*, focused on showing the relationship between nurse staffing and patient safety and how both safeties are aligned.



Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)

In 2018, ICN attended the General Meeting of the WHO Global Coordination Mechanism on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases (GCM/NCD) which brought together GCM/NCD Participants representing Governments, the United Nations system, and non-State actors with the aim to cooperate at the local, national, regional and global levels to meet the NCD targets of the WHO Global Action Plan and the NCD-related targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In 2018-2019, ICN's President, Annette Kennedy, was a Commissioner on the WHO Independent High-Level Commission on Non-Communicable Diseases to advise the WHO Director General recommendations on how to transform new opportunities to enable countries to accelerate progress towards SDG target 3.4 on NCDs. ICN was actively involved in providing recommendations to support the Commission, and strongly advocated for the inclusion of a nurse on the technical expert group. The final report of the Commission, *Time to Deliver: Accelerating our response to address NCDs for the health and well-being of present and future generations*, was released in June 2018. It referred to models of care (many of which are now nurse-led), enabling nurses to work to their full scope, recognising nurses' role in terms of health promotion, health literacy, disease prevention and management; it recognised the need for financial support and resources.

In September 2018, the United Nations General Assembly held the third High-level Meeting on the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases. As part of our partnership with the Global Coalition on Circulatory Health, ICN worked on a White Paper which was presented at the High-Level Meeting. ICN attended the meeting which adopted the political declaration based on the recommendations of the WHO Commission. The declaration includes commitments to reduce NCD mortality by one third by 2030, and to scaleup funding and multi-stakeholder responses to treat and prevent NCDs.



2018



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AUDIO



ICN TODAY



ICN TODAY

Launch of Nursing Now (see story for background)

The Nursing Now campaign has over 100 groups across the world. At the ICN Congress in Singapore, Nursing Now launched the Nightingale Challenge which asks every health employer around the world to provide leadership and development training for a group of young nurses and midwives during 2020 the Year of the Nurse and Midwife. Currently 369 employers | 50 countries have accepted the Challenge!

Fifth World Health Professions Regulation Conference (see story for background)

In May 2020, ICN and the other members of the World Health Professions Alliance will host the 2020 World health Pprofessions Regulation Conference





2018



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ICN
TODAY



Nursing Now (real recording)

– HRH Duchess of Cambridge, HRH Catherine,
Duchess of Cambridge



HRH the Duchess of Cambridge launches the Nursing Now campaign in London in 2018.

First of all, I'd like to say how pleased and honoured I am to be here today, at St Thomas' Hospital, to launch Nursing Now!, to help promote the vital work of Nurses around the world.

This campaign means a lot to me personally – my great grandmother and my grandmother were both volunteer nurses – they would have learnt first-hand from working with the Voluntary Aid Attachment and the Red Cross about the care and compassion that sometimes only nurses can provide.

Decades on, nursing has come a long way and continues to play a significant role in all our lives. From what I see from visits to hospices and hospitals across the country, nurses are always there. You care for us from the earliest years. You look after us in our happiest and saddest times. And for many, you look after us and our families, at the end of our lives.

Your dedication and professionalism are awe-inspiring. I have been struck today by the enormous range of responsibilities that nurses have, not only in providing access to healthcare but also in terms of providing a holistic approach to caring for our physical and mental health.

You also promote good health and disease prevention, in some parts of the world nurses are perhaps the only qualified healthcare professionals in their communities, so your work is all the more vital.

Sadly however, many people still don't have access to regular healthcare and it's in this context that a global campaign to raise the profile and status of nursing worldwide is so important.

I was surprised to learn that to keep pace with rising global demand, the world will need an additional 9 million nurses by 2030. In simple terms, that's about 2,000 more nurses every day for the next 12 years.

This shows that we must act now to support and develop nurses with the skills and talent to cope with future global health needs.

Nursing Now is a call to raise the profile of nursing internationally and to help grow the profession further so it can play a key role in meeting real health challenges across the world.

Finally, I'd like to congratulate and thank all nurses everywhere on what you achieve on a daily basis. The difference you make should not go unrecognised. I'd also like to acknowledge the International Council of Nurses, The World Health Organization and the Burdett Trust for Nursing, who are playing key roles in ensuring the future of the profession.

I am most grateful for you asking me here today to support the launch of this exciting new campaign. I do hope its work will go on to inspire the next generation of nurses for years to come. Good luck to you all."

– Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Cambridge





2019



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NURSES

A VOICE TO LEAD

HEALTH FOR ALL



Nurses: A Voice to Lead Health for All

International Nurses Day 2019 was celebrated with the theme, *Nurses: A Voice to Lead Health for All*. Nurses all over the world provide Health for All in the most challenging circumstances with limited resources to deliver health care to those most in need. Accounting for more than half of the global health workforce nurses are vital for realizing universal health coverage, but to do so the world will need 9 million more nurses and midwives. IND 2019 provided three important messages for nurse and policy makers: (1) Nurses save lives and improve, protect and promote health and well-being; (2) Nurses are a vital access point to 24/7, birth to death, emergency and ongoing care; and (3) Nurses are the foundation to high quality, affordable, accessible care.



ICN President, Annette Kennedy, with Dr Tedros, Director General of the WHO, at the ICN Congress in Singapore.

27th ICN Congress, Singapore 2019

ICN's 27th Congress took place from 27 June to 1 July 2019 in the Marina Bay Sands Hotel, Singapore. The theme: *Beyond Healthcare to Health*. The Congress was hosted by the Singaporean Nurses Association. This international gathering of thousands of nurses explored the many ways in which nurses' work to achieve universal access to health, not only by providing health care but also addressing the social determinants of health, such as education, gender equality, and poverty amongst others. The Congress provided opportunities for nurses to build relationships and to disseminate nursing and health related knowledge.

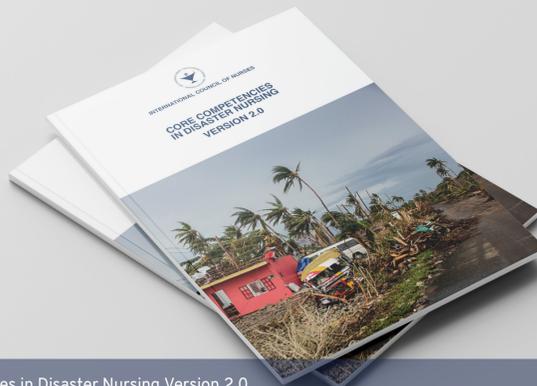
Plenary speakers included: Singapore's President Madam Halimah Yacob WHO Director-General, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus Elizabeth Iro, WHO Chief Nursing Officer; former Prime Minister of Republic of Korea, Kim Hwang-sik; Professor Linda Aiken and Professor Matthew McHugh from the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing; Cindy McCain, American businesswoman, philanthropist, educator and humanitarian; and Kevin Hyland, OBE, member of the Council of Europe Independent Group of Experts for Trafficking and former Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner for the UK.



Primary Health Care On The Road To Universal Health Coverage – 2019 Monitoring Report

Universal Health Coverage

ICN represented the voices of the world's 20-plus million nurses at the UN's first ever High-level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage in New York in September 2019. During the meeting Heads of State and Government adopted a political declaration, 'Universal Health Coverage: moving together to build a healthier world', in which they reaffirmed their commitment to Health for All and to scaling up the global effort to achieve it. The declaration recognised that primary health care (PHC) is the most inclusive, effective and efficient approach to safeguarding people's physical and mental health and social wellbeing. PHC is the cornerstone of a sustainable health system for UHC and the Sustainable Development Goals.



Core Competencies in Disaster Nursing Version 2.0

Disaster Nursing Competencies

ICN issued a newly updated guidance on how nurses should respond if they find themselves in a disaster situation. The new version of the *Core Competencies in Disaster Nursing* report outlined what nurses should know and be able to do for the effective prevention, preparedness, response and recovery from disasters. Since 2010, more than 2.6 billion people have been affected by natural phenomena such as earthquakes, tsunamis, cyclones, heat waves, floods or other extreme events. These often lead to mass casualties with the potential to overwhelm local medical resources and have lasting effects on the health system.

ICN worked with other global organisations to develop the *Core Competencies for Disaster Nursing* with the aim of improving disaster prevention, preparedness, response and recovery. The guidance described the competencies that nurses must have, depending on their personal career histories and expertise.

