



Nursing leadership in global health: Implications for the future of nursing education, scholarship and interprofessional practice

The Consortium of Universities for Global Health (CUGH) the world's largest organization of academic institutions involved in addressing global health challenges, hosted its 9th annual conference, Health Disparities: A Time for Action, in March 2018. CUGH includes more than 170 member universities worldwide with the mission to improve the wellbeing of people and the planet through advocacy, education, and research. This year's conference theme reflected one of the world's great challenges—health disparities - and provided a forum to engage, learn, and collaborate. As health services are brought to scale to address disparities, nurses contribute in critical ways. Already, the critical role of nurses in the global HIV response is evident. Therefore, a network of nursing leaders hosted a preconference session devoted to Nursing and Global Health. The session, entitled Nursing Leadership in Global Health: Implications for the Future of Nursing Education, Scholarship, and Interprofessional Practice, brought together key nurses from all over the world.

The meeting explored the central role of nurses and midwives in achieving HIV epidemic control and universal health coverage. Funded through a grant from the Columbia University office of the President, ICAP at Columbia University worked with the Yale University School of Nursing, the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care (ANAC), Johns Hopkins University, the University of Washington in Seattle, and Kamuzu College of Nursing at the University of Malawi for this event. Many of the presenters and attendees were members of ANAC. We summarize the presentations and key themes from the day's proceedings in this report.

Nursing Leadership in Global Health

The meeting began with an introduction by Dr. Ann Kurth, Dean of the Yale School of Nursing and incoming chair of CUGH, welcoming attendees to examine the contributions of nurses and midwives to global health. The comprehensive agenda commenced with an overview of the Global Nurse Capacity Building Project (GNCBP), an 8-year multi-country project funded by PEPFAR through HRSA and implemented by ICAP at Columbia University. Launched in 2009, GNCBP addressed the urgent need to strengthen nursing education and leadership as part of a successful HIV treatment scale-up in Africa. GNCBP worked to improve both the quality and quantity of the nursing workforce. Susan Michaels-Strasser, Senior Implementation Director at ICAP, presented ICAP's six building blocks for the GNCBP and the progress made to date in (a) training more nurses and midwives; and (b) training them better using competency based curricula, simulation based training, effective policies, and continuing professional development reflective of real world practice demands (Figure 1). She put forward a call to continue transforming nursing education:

We need to continue to highlight, emphasize, and cheer the role of nurses in global health...universal health care will only be achieved when nurses are at the table of policy and practice decision making. It's that reality check of nurses that's going to change the way health care services are provided and where the money

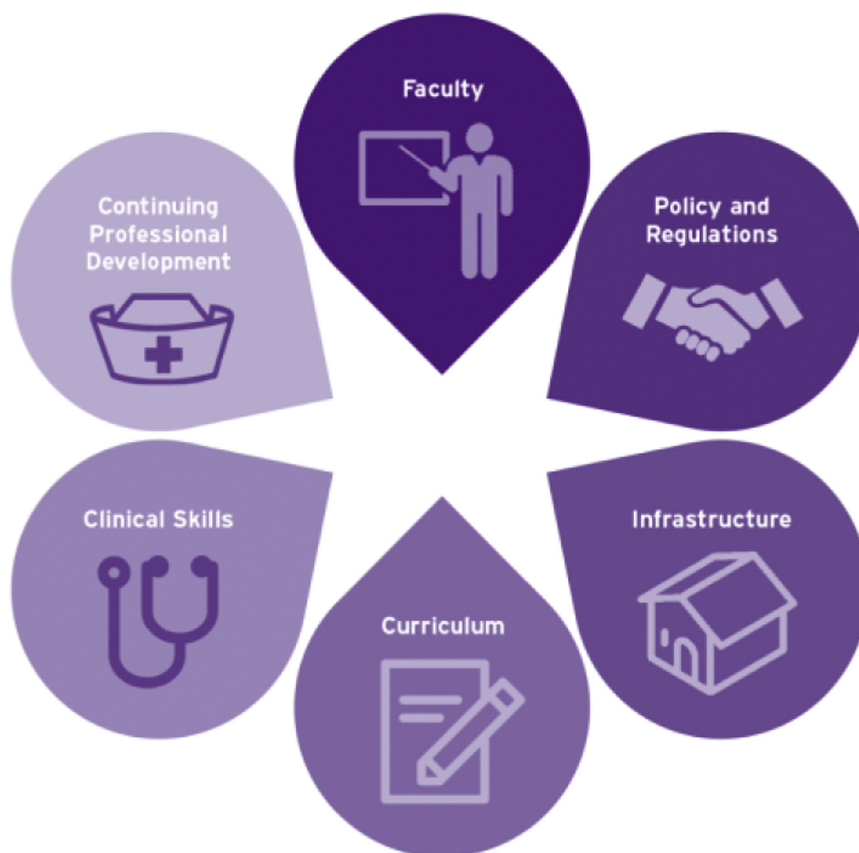


Figure 1. ICAP's 6 building blocks for strengthened nursing education and training.

goes. (Susan Michaels-Strasser, personal communication, March 15, 2018)

Sheila Dinotshe Tlou, PhD, Co-Chair of the Global HIV Prevention Coalition and the Nursing Now Campaign (Box 1), spoke to the role that nurses must play in leadership and decision making, and to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. She commented on the shortage of human resources for health and the focus of Nursing Now, "The United Nations estimates that there is a shortage of 18 million health care workers, (50%) of which are nurses and midwives." She further noted that

...feminism is part and parcel of nursing; we are women, mostly... If we can have gender equality in the health system, we will have

better paid nurses, better recognized nurses, better educated nurses and nurses who are able to really take part...in the decision making in health care, not just nursing care. (Sheila Dinotshe Tlou, personal communication, March 15, 2018)

Dr. Tlou, the Minister of Health for Botswana (2004-2008), has shown the way forward for transformative nursing leadership through effective decision making and policy formation. During her tenure, she successfully introduced and effectively scaled up the policy of opt-out testing for prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, a policy now implemented globally (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2004).

Dr. Tlou's passion for educating nurses and midwives remains unwavering, emphasizing that nurses are key to achieving the United Nations

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