

REPORT: 25th INTERNATIONAL NURSING RESEARCH CONGRESS

M.G. Makua, M Cur, RN
University of South Africa
Department of Health Studies
Corresponding author: makuamg@unisa.ac.za

A. Mosalo, M Cur, RN
University of South Africa
Department of Health Studies

T.S. Mokoboto-Zwane, D Cur, RN
University of South Africa
Department of Health Studies

The Honour Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI) hosted the 25th International Nursing Research Congress at Hong Kong from 24–28 July 2014. The venue was the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre in Wan Chai. The congress is held annually, with a rotation of venues internationally. The number of attendees was 824 and they came from 31 countries.

We attended as an incentive with funds awarded upon completion of the mentorship programme of the College of Human Sciences at the University of South Africa and our colleague Dr Mokoboto-Zwane, delivered a paper. The theme of the congress was: ‘Engaging colleagues: improving global health outcomes’. More than 700 oral and poster presentations were delivered by nurse researchers, educators and clinicians. There were also workshops and symposia. There were many interesting activities, but only a few will be highlighted in this report.

FIRST-TIME ATTENDEE ORIENTATION

This was a special session organised for people who were attending the International Nursing Research Congress for the first time so they would know what to do and where to go, and benefit from the event. Almost 400 attendees from 28 countries attended the guidance session conducted by experienced conference veterans.

PLENARY SESSIONS

The panel discussion, 'Evidence- based nursing practice' was moderated by Dr Hester C. Klopper (STTI president). The panellists were Dr Irmajean Bajnok, Dr Laura Cullen, Mr Craig Lockwood, Dr Brendan McCormac, Dr Bernadette Mazurek Melnyk, and Dr Kathleen M. White. They discussed the current research and evidence regarding global nursing care, current trends, challenges and solutions that affect the implementation of evidence-based practice in nursing. The panellists agreed that nurse clinicians and nurse researchers should keep on 'keeping on', regarding the improvement of nursing practice and research.

The other plenary session was presented by Dr H.C. Klopper, STTI president. The topic was: 'Engaging colleagues: improving global health outcomes'. She described the role of nurses in the sustainability of health by contributing to the post-2015 global agenda and mentioned health as a critical indicator for sustainable development. The president also talked about the next phase after the Millennium Development Goals, namely the Sustainable Development Goals. It was noted that one of the proposed Sustainable Development Goal is to 'ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages'.

The closing plenary session was presented by Dr Stephanie L. Ferguson, who is an international health-care consultant. She reminded the attendees about the global challenges in the 21st century that have an impact on nursing excellence, like the migration of nurses from developing countries to developed countries and the lack of resources faced by nurses in developing countries. She indicated that nurses should take part in policy-making at the highest echelons of government to address nursing issues effectively.

The 26th International Research Congress will be held on 23–27 July 2015 at San Juan, Puerto Rico. For more information visit [http:// www.nursingsociety.org](http://www.nursingsociety.org) or send an email to events@stti.org.