



# HEMISPHERIC & GLOBAL REPORT

2020-2021

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI  
SCHOOL of NURSING  
& HEALTH STUDIES





# Welcome Message

This Hemispheric & Global Report encompasses a dramatic period for universal health, punctuated by the first-ever International Year of the Nurse and the Midwife, once-in-a-century COVID-19 pandemic, and worldwide reckoning with systemic injustices.

Within this context, we are especially proud of our institution's preparedness to adapt and pivot quickly in the face of drastic, unexpected, and unprecedented challenges, both to health care and higher education.

Through this report, we are excited to share an overview of some of the innovative objectives, strategies, and outcomes of these past two years, with a focus on three key impact areas: health care across the hemisphere, health disparities research, and our initiatives as a PAHO/WHO Collaborating Centre for Nursing Human Resources Development and Patient Safety.

These endeavors, while ambitious, helped us remain relevant, responsive, and resilient. Of course, none of this would have been possible without the collaborative efforts of our incredible faculty, staff, students, and hemispheric partners. Now, as we look forward to hosting the prestigious XVII Pan American Nursing Research Colloquium in Miami this November 2022 (delayed two years due to COVID), we hope you will find this retrospective glance not only informative and instructive, but also inspirational to your own pursuits of advancing universal health.

**Cindy L. Munro, PhD, RN, ANP-BC, FAAN, FAANP, FAAAS**  
*Dean and Professor*  
University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies

**Johis Ortega, PhD, APRN, ACNP-BC, ENP-BC, FNP-BC, FAAN, FAANP**  
*Associate Dean for Hemispheric & Global Initiatives, and Professor of Clinical*  
University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies

## NOVEL • OPTIMISTIC • WORLD-CHANGING

For more information, visit: <https://www.SONHS.miami.edu/academics/hemispheric-and-global-initiatives> or call (305) 284-2589.



# HEALTH CARE ACROSS THE HEMISPHERE

## INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE NURSE AND THE MIDWIFE Nursing Now

**Nursing Now USA South Florida Lecture Series:** The School of Nursing and Health Studies (SONHS) became active in Nursing Now, a global organization launched in anticipation of the 2020 Year of the Nurse and Midwife to maximize the visibility and status of nurses. SONHS activities included a Nursing Now USA South Florida Lecture Series, featuring prominent nurse leaders Dr. Patricia Brennan (NIH), Dr. Elizabeth Madigan (Sigma Theta Tau International), and Dr. Barbara Stilwell (Nursing Now). To maximize access, the lectures were available via Zoom in English with a Spanish translation option.

*The school's Nursing Now USA website is at [pahowho.sonhs.miami.edu/nursing-now-usa](http://pahowho.sonhs.miami.edu/nursing-now-usa).*



Dr. Patricia Brennan



Dr. Elizabeth Madigan



Dr. Barbara Stilwell

**Nightingale Challenge:** SONHS also dove into Nursing Now's Nightingale Challenge, establishing a nurse leadership development program in 2020 that engaged over 70 early-career nurse leaders in South Florida, Latin America, and the Caribbean in leadership development opportunities.

“Accept challenges. Be bold.”

— Johis Ortega, SONHS

The international challenge was so successful it continued through 2021. Dr. Johis Ortega, associate dean for Hemispheric and Global Initiatives, represented the School of Nursing and Health Studies at Nightingale Challenge: One Year On! This virtual nursing leadership conference was hosted by Nursing Now in June 2021. In addition

to being a career advice panelist, Dr. Ortega was invited to report on outcomes of the creative Nightingale Challenge approach that SONHS took to engage early career nurses across the hemisphere via virtual platforms. Joining him on the panel were SONHS Nightingale Challenge participants from Chile and El Salvador.

“This is a more critical time than ever to identify nurse leaders.”

— Elizabeth Madigan, STTI





## GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT GOES VIRTUAL

As a result of COVID-19, global health education exchanges evolved from in-person to innovative virtual experiences. The Office of Hemispheric and Global Initiatives at SONHS launched several creative student exchange opportunities in 2020 and 2021.



### DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

“Patient Safety Across Borders During the Covid-19 Pandemic,” a bilingual virtual course taken by 40 nursing students from SONHS and the Dominican Republic’s largest university, Universidad Autónoma de Santo Domingo (UASD) launched January 29 via Zoom with financial and technical support from the U.S. Embassy in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. The cross-cultural course, which grew out of connections made at the Florida-Dominican Republic Higher Education Summit, featured patient safety modules, a group project, and five real-time virtual meetings with health leaders from Miami and Santo Domingo.

“I am excited to see the opportunities for collaboration in health and education that will arise from this program.”

— Carolina Escalera, U.S. Embassy, Dominican Republic

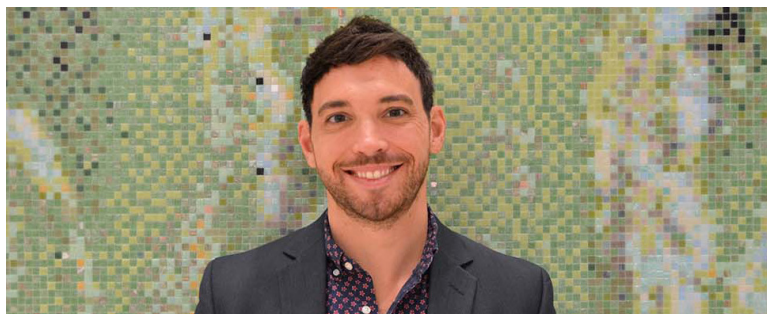
## FACULTY IMPACT ABROAD



**CHILE:** Dr. Cynthia Foronda presented on “Efectividad de la simulación virtual” (Effectiveness of virtual simulation) for the 5th Sociedad Chilena de Simulación Clínica - SOCHISIM.



**JAPAN:** Dr. Juan M. González served as a panelist for the 2nd Global Symposium hosted by Juntendo University Faculty of Health Care and Nursing, Graduate School of Health Care and Nursing, discussing conditions and challenges of on-campus training to bridge clinical practice in the COVID-19 era.



**ISRAEL:** Dr. Nicholas Metheny was selected to participate in the Jewish National Fund-USA Boruchin Center’s new faculty fellowship exchange program.



## HAITI

### Operation Lakay

As a senior at SONHS, Diane Stephen, BSPH/BSHS '21, took her public health capstone and civic scholars project to Haiti to improve the hygiene of 150 children attending the free elementary school in Milot. There is no running water, no electricity, and no roof over the makeshift classrooms. When it rains, the students sit in puddles. Yet health outcomes at Ecole Marie Claire Heureuse de Milot have improved since Stephen instituted Operation Lakay (Operation Home). Informed by her Public Health Statistics course at SONHS, she developed and introduced monitoring, mask-wearing, sanitizing, handwashing, and other measures aimed at curtailing communicable diseases. As a result, the common incidents of scabies, pink eye, lice, diarrhea, ringworm, and viral infections at the school all but disappeared. Moreover, when occasional health concerns do arise, they are documented in medical incident reports, shared electronically with a community agency, and if necessary referred to an area hospital.

“Public health is all about preventing rather than treating disease.”

— Diane Stephen, alumna

Stephen, a first-generation Haitian-American, accomplished all of this from South Florida by connecting with stakeholders on the ground in Haiti. She also raised nearly \$1,000 to support school programs and purchase thermometers, masks, hand sanitizer, soap, all-purpose cleansers, bleach, and wipes to curtail the spread of infection. “The whole point was not to treat every illness the same way, to keep track of who got sick, and to intervene when needed,” said Stephen. “And it worked. Every single month, there was a decrease in the number of people who got sick, in the cases referred to the hospital. I can’t begin to describe the feeling. I was overjoyed—that I was able to help not only 150 children, but also the staff. For them it was eye-opening. We all could see how one little intervention in a population could affect the whole community.”



### Earthquake

In August 2021, a 7.2 magnitude temblor struck southwestern Haiti, leaving more than half a million people in dire need of emergency aid. SONHS faculty and staff helped by delivering basic health supplies collected during the pandemic to the school’s longtime global outreach partner.



Dr. Ortega in Haiti, a few years after the 2010 earthquake



# HEALTH DISPARITIES RESEARCH

## MHRT GRANT

Renewed in 2019, the school's competitive Minority Health and Health Disparities Research Training Program (MHRT) grant from the National Institutes of Health's National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) continues to support the development of health disparities scientists from diverse backgrounds around the U.S.

**2020-2021 Cohort:** Led by Dr. Ortega, the school's MHRT advisory committee selects a new cohort of promising participants each year. Summer 2020 placements were virtual because of COVID-19-related travel restrictions. However, by Summer 2021, several trainees were able to take part in face-to-face opportunities. Two students, for example, conducted research in University of Miami labs, while a couple more were cleared to complete on-site MHRT research plan activities at Universidad de Costa Rica (UCR).



**Research Day, December 2021:** At this in-person event, 13 MHRT participants presented their research posters on topics spanning studies taking place in Miami, Peru, Mexico, Jamaica, Colombia, Costa Rica, and the Dominican Republic. MHRT mentor Dr. Roger McIntosh, of UM's Department of Psychology, was the featured speaker, discussing "Effects of Stress and Trauma on Neurocognitive Outcomes in At-Risk Populations."

**A New Normal:** As next year's Global Report will note in greater detail, MHRT activities have resumed with vigor. For the 2022 cohort, 16 participants were selected to conduct research in Miami (UM) and at partner institutions in Colombia, Jamaica, Dominican Republic, Mexico, and Costa Rica.



**"It is very important how programs like MHRT allow minorities to participate in high-quality research."**

—Jennifer Francisco, University of Puerto Rico



**Feedback:** Jennifer Francisco (pictured), a 2021 MHRT trainee and University of Puerto Rico dental student, helped conduct virology research at the Universidad de Costa Rica's Center for Research in Tropical Diseases. "Working alongside members of other underrepresented communities," she said, "will allow us to feel empowered through science and promote the development of knowledge that will put us one step closer to equity."

<sup>1</sup> This grant is supported by the National Institute On Minority Health And Health Disparities of the National Institutes of Health under Award Number T37MD008647. The content of this article is solely the responsibility of the issuing institution and does not necessarily represent the official views of the National Institutes of Health.



# PAHO/WHO COLLABORATING CENTRE



PAHO/WHO Collaborating Centre  
for Nursing Human Resources Development  
and Patient Safety



## CENTRE REDESIGNATION, 2020-2024

The University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies (SONHS) was redesignated as a Pan American Health Organization/WHO Collaborating Centre for Nursing Human Resources Development and Patient Safety for 2020-2024. This prestigious designation has been in place since 2008, formalizing our long-term commitment to promoting nursing education, research, leadership, and health care workforce development with our global partners in the Americas. There are only **9** other nursing-related WHO Collaborating Centres in the United States and **43** total worldwide. The school's work plan and terms of reference (see page 12) emphasize patient safety, health disparities, training program development, and disaster response. One new project, for example, involves analyzing COVID-19 infection rates among nurses and other health professionals in the Americas. Throughout the pandemic, the school continued to address the nursing shortage and improve universal health coverage with PAHO/WHO and its hemispheric partners in many ways, including the following:

“Our role as a Collaborating Centre aligns with UM’s hemispheric vision to connect institutions, individuals, and ideas across the Americas and throughout the world.”

— Dean and Professor Cindy L. Munro, SONHS

## JAMAICA

**New Nursing Leadership Training:** Addressing a mandate to double Jamaica’s nursing education capacity, the SONHS Collaborating Centre teamed with PAHO/WHO and the PAHO/WHO Collaborating Centre at the University of the West Indies School of Nursing (UWISON) to create a 20-week Nursing and Midwifery Leadership course for 32 emerging nurse leaders in Jamaica. Launched November 2020 under the guidance of 10 expert faculty mentors (5 from UM-SONHS and 5 from UWISON), the course covered nursing leadership and management principles employed in clinical practice. Mentors met regularly with their students via Zoom to review and customize course content from the PAHO Virtual Campus of Public Health and to provide insights on each training module. The supportive, small-group tutoring environment engaged participants, who also attended a webinar series featuring transformational nursing leaders like SONHS Dean and Professor Cindy L. Munro, among others.



Dr. Silvia Cassiani



Dr. Tomlin Paul



Dean Cindy L. Munro



Claudett James



Casimiro Dias



Dawn Munroe





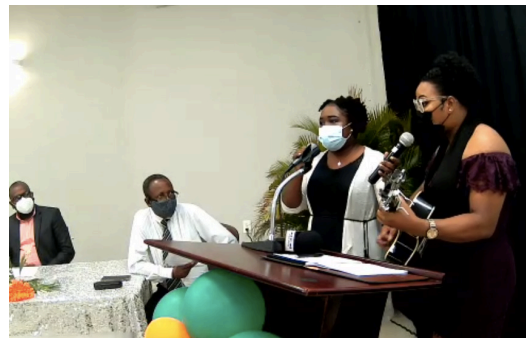
## GUYANA

### Certificate in Nursing Education for Nurse Educators

As of 2021, over 100 nurse tutors had successfully completed the Certificate in Nursing Education for Guyana's Nurse Educators established in 2015 as a joint initiative of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies (SONHS) PAHO/WHO Collaborating Centre for Nursing Human Resources Development and Patient Safety, and the Guyana Ministry of Health. The course moved from a hybrid in-person and online course to a fully virtual course in 2020, allowing a seamless continuation of education throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. The first all-online cohort of 25 nurses and nurse-midwives graduated in March 2021, overcoming everything from severe weather and spotty internet service to pandemic curfews and COVID fatigue. The moving graduation ceremony took place in-person in Guyana with a live Zoom feed from the University of Miami.

“This course has been a tremendous learning experience.”

— Guyanese nurse-midwife Jenesa Fields, 2021 course graduate



“Vulnerabilities intensified by the pandemic have only strengthened our resolve to build lasting academic bridges with the Caribbean and Latin America.”

— Dr. Johis Ortega



## COVID-19 - NURSES HELP ACROSS THE HEMISPHERE

### MIAMI

SONHS faculty Johis Ortega, PhD, APRN, ACNP-BC, ENP-BC, FAAN, and Juan M. González, DNP, APRN, AGACNP-BC, FNP-BC, CEN, FAANP, were tapped to document their experiences as emergency department nurses on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic for a series produced by PAHO/WHO. Read more at [news.miami.edu/sonhs/stories/2020/04/nursing-in-the-time-of-covid-19.html](https://news.miami.edu/sonhs/stories/2020/04/nursing-in-the-time-of-covid-19.html).



## CARIBBEAN

After she and her mother contracted COVID-19, Beverly Fray, BSN '03, MSN '06, a former SONHS Alumni Association president, spearheaded the COVID-19 Jamaican/Caribbean Community Conversations through which Dr. Fray and a group of Jamaica-born clinicians from Miami's Jackson Memorial Hospital educated Caribbean nationals on the importance of the COVID-19 vaccine and other ways to combat the virus.



## MEXICO

As a nursing student at SONHS, Andrea Leiner, MSN '19, helped run pop-up clinics in Jamaica. When the pandemic began exacting its global toll in 2020, Leiner joined an NGO providing disaster relief at the U.S.-Mexico border to help prevent thousands of vulnerable migrants living packed in impromptu tents in Matamoros, Mexico, from catching COVID. “...[T]here are people in the world who need help, and it is all of our duty to step in,” said Leiner.



# PAHO/WHO COLLABORATING CENTRE

The World Health Organization (WHO) has redesignated the University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies (SONHS) as a **Pan American Health Organization/WHO Collaborating Centre for Nursing Human Resources Development and Patient Safety** for the next 4-year cycle (2020-2024). The prestigious SONHS designation has been in place since 2008. The School is currently one of only **9** nursing-related WHO Collaborating Centres in the nation and one of **43** in the world.

Redesignation initiatives:

- Develop, implement, and evaluate a Health Personal Safety Training Course.
- Develop and implement an online course and three webinars to strengthen nursing education and advanced educational technology.
- Offer a training program on Nursing Education in different countries of the Caribbean.
- Provide support to strengthen PAHO/WHO's work in nursing research in the region of the Americas.
- Develop an analysis of Nursing workforce infection rate with COVID-19.
- Evaluate and update the content of the nursing leadership online course: *Empowering Nurses in Latin America and the Caribbean*.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT  
OUR EXCITING INITIATIVES, VISIT:**  
[www.pahowho.sonhs.miami.edu](http://www.pahowho.sonhs.miami.edu)



## SONHS PAHO/WHO GLOBAL PARTNERS

- The Global Network of WHO Collaborating Centres for Nursing and Midwifery Development
- The Pan American Network of Nursing and Midwifery Collaborating Centers (PANMCC)
- Latin-American Association of Schools and Colleges of Nursing (ALADEFE)
- International Network of Nursing and Patient Safety Experts (RIENSEP)
- American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN)
- Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society (STTI)

## PAHO/WHO CORE STAFF

Our PAHO/WHO Collaborating Centre operates with a small core staff, with additional support on a by-project basis from the considerable skills and expertise of UM School of Nursing and Health Studies faculty.



### School of Nursing and Health Studies

**Dean and Professor Cindy L. Munro, RN, ANP-BC, Ph.D., FAAN, FAANP, FAAAAS**, is an accomplished nurse leader whose scientific contributions have helped change clinical practice and reduce health care costs by addressing hospital-acquired infection. She has an active research program in prevention of complications in mechanically ventilated adults, including ventilator-associated pneumonia and delirium. Dr. Munro is coeditor in chief of the American Journal of Critical Care. Her extensive experience and history of leadership in the nursing field align with the goals of SONHS and its PAHO/WHO Collaborating Centre to educate students and support the capacitation of an international health care workforce committed to nursing excellence and the delivery of quality care. These contributions to promoting nursing and health care research are in keeping with our Centre's commitment to creating and disseminating health knowledge and providing service focused on patient safety and workforce development locally and across the globe.



### Centre Director

**Johis Ortega, PhD, APRN, ACNP-BC, ENP-BC, FNP-BC, FAAN, FAANP**, serves as associate dean for Hemispheric and Global Initiatives and professor of clinical at SONHS. Dr. Ortega initiated a program of research in education, analyzing outcomes of nursing student international exchange programs. He led the establishment of the school's formal exchange agreements with hospitals and universities in Spain, Chile, Mexico, Haiti, Australia, the Dominican Republic, Brazil, Taiwan, and India. He co-created the Simulation Strategies Workshop for Patient Safety (Estrategias para la Enseñanza Clínica de Enfermería con Simuladores). His awards include the IV Annual Susana Espino Muñoz Academic Trajectory Award of the ALADEFE and UM School of Nursing Faculty of the Year Award. A founding member of RIENSEP, Dr. Ortega also holds membership in ALADEFE, the American Nurses Association, the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners, the National League of Nursing, the American Association of Critical Care Nurses, and the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties. He collaborated with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) on developing the Regional Nursing Body Strategic Framework for 2018-2022. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing and the American Association of Nurse Practitioners.



### Project Manager

**Carlos Arismendi, MS**, serves as the primary liaison between the Centre Director, PAHO/WHO, and other collaborating centres and global partners. He is responsible for the PAHO/WHO CC's strategic planning and development of operations, overseeing implementation and execution of the Centre's terms of reference and work plan in accordance with the WHO' four-year centre designation periods. Mr. Arismendi experience in business development strategy has allowed him to lead projects in Latin America, Asia, and Middle Eastern countries, including Joint Commission International accreditation, development, and implementation of clinical programs, such as bone marrow transplant, medical oncology, perioperative services, and nursing leadership, among others. He holds a bachelor's degree in Spanish literature and Latin American business from the University of Maryland and a master's degree in international management in public health from the University of Liverpool.

Full-length bios are online at <https://pahowho.sonhs.miami.edu/about-the-center/our-team>.



