

A stylized orange globe with white outlines of continents, serving as the background for the report cover.

HEMISPHERIC & GLOBAL REPORT 2019

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI
SCHOOL of NURSING
& HEALTH STUDIES





JAMAICA

Welcome Message

As highlighted in this report, the University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies (SONHS) is answering the call to build a diverse, culturally proficient health care workforce for the 21st century. Our international collaborations throughout 2019 included academic exchanges, clinical and community outreach, continuing education, minority health and health disparities research training, and long-term capacity building programs through our role as a PAHO/WHO Collaborating Centre since 2008.

From remote, resource-challenged communities to dense urban cores, our students learned to lean into complex, interconnected health challenges facing the Western Hemisphere. Around the world, our faculty led cross-national research efforts, provided training for clinical simulation programs, offered online patient safety courses, and presented at important summits and conferences.

These and other culturally tailored initiatives support the University of Miami's hemispheric presence as leaders, learners, and collaborators, bolstered by UM's role in the Hemispheric University Consortium. As we continue advancing a healthier, safer world for all, our hemispheric and global connections serve as constellations, heralding the way toward new horizons in research, health equity, and educational innovation.

NOVEL • OPTIMISTIC • WORLD-CHANGING

OUR MISSION

At the School of Nursing and Health Studies, we **transform lives** and health care through **education, research, innovation,** and **service** across the hemisphere.

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 Associate Professor of Clinical
University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies

A large, stylized map of the Americas in shades of orange and white serves as the background. Overlaid on the map are several photographs of healthcare professionals. In the upper right, a woman with glasses and a stethoscope around her neck holds a young child. Below her, two women in green scrubs and surgical masks smile. In the lower left, a group of healthcare workers in green scrubs and caps are posed together.

HEALTH CARE ACROSS THE HEMISPHERE

“SEEING PATIENTS IN A RANGE OF CULTURAL AND CLINICAL SETTINGS GLOBALLY
ALLOWS OUR STUDENTS TO APPLY THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND EXPAND THEIR EXPOSURE.
IN THESE WAYS, THEY BECOME MORE EFFECTIVE, EMPATHIC PRACTITIONERS.”

—Johis Ortega, Associate Dean, Hemispheric and Global Initiatives

The School of Nursing and Health Studies coordinates mission-based trips with organizations and universities outside of the U.S. to provide primary care and health education to underserved populations, and conduct health screenings that address health disparities prevalent in these communities. Culturally competent care—along with a focus on disparities, vulnerable populations, and global health—is a hallmark of education at SONHS.

Santiago de los Caballeros—As part of an ongoing international exchange with **Clinica Union Medica del Norte**, SONHS faculty and 11 nurse practitioner M.S.N. students conducted a mobile clinic in rural Los Montones, providing community health education and screening residents for diabetes mellitus, hypertension, and hyperlipidemia. In country for two weeks in May, the students also had the opportunity to observe practice in the local hospital, where faculty lead Juan M. Gonzalez taught a class and lab for medical residents on using ultrasound to improve outcomes for central line insertion.





Huehuetenango—Half of Guatemala’s more than 15 million residents live in conditions of poverty, according to the World Bank’s most recent report. Often this means little or no access to primary care. Last June, for the first time, SONHS faculty, staff, and nurse practitioner students deployed with the U.S. Southern Command’s Beyond the Horizon joint foreign military interaction and humanitarian exercise. Sleeping on army cots and eating MREs, the faculty and students helped provide much-needed clinical care to adults and children in the region.

“Working with the U.S. and Guatemala armies to provide resources and care to people in remote, rural areas provided a new appreciation for how much our soldiers sacrifice. It also gave our students a great opportunity to learn about multi-center humanitarian civic efforts in a new clinical setting,” said Dr. Juan M. González, faculty lead for the expedition and associate professor of clinical at SONHS.

Over the course of four days, the Beyond the Horizon team succeeded in providing health services to 3,734 individuals, and distributing over 1,000 units of water and 2,500 snacks and milk boxes.

Patzún—Last November, SONHS assistant professor of clinical Dr. Nicole Gonzaga Gomez and two third-year D.N.P. students in the nurse anesthetist program, Morgan Phillips and Jennifer Trock, traveled to this medically underserved area as part of a continuing collaboration with the Healing Hands Foundation. In Patzun’s Hospital de Corpus Christi, where resources are limited and equipment can be decades old, the trio had the chance to assist with anesthesia on medically necessary, sometimes life-saving surgeries being performed at no charge for patients who otherwise could not afford treatment.



“THESE EXPERIENCES PROVIDE OUR STUDENTS WITH CLINICAL JUDGMENT IN DIVERSE ATMOSPHERES OUTSIDE OF THE CLASSROOM AND ALLOW US TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE EFFORTS OF OUR PARTNERS ACROSS THE HEMISPHERE.”

—Johis Ortega, Associate Dean, Hemispheric and Global Initiatives



Kingston—SONHS expanded its ongoing collaboration with the **University of the West Indies** (UWI), Jamaica’s Ministry of Health, and local health professionals to launch a new series of “pop-up” mobile health clinics last June.

SONHS faculty and 14 nurse practitioner students worked with local partners in Kingston to host four days of mobile clinics in remote areas, using tarps, trees, and even boulders to create spaces to triage, interview, and treat hundreds of patients while maintaining their comfort and privacy. “Most of Jamaica is rural, so logistics can be quite an obstacle. The local clinic might be a 10-kilometer walk down a mountain road, and if you’re working every day and have children at home, getting there is a challenge,” said participant Andrea Leiner, M.S.N. ‘19, of the advantage of mobile care. “Whether it was a church, a community center, or a lean-to, we arrived with all of our equipment and made the location work. Residents helped us set up and solve some of the challenges of working half indoors and half outdoors in the summer heat. It was truly neighbors helping

neighbors. Everybody was excited to have a check-up—the first for a lot of people.”

Helping co-staff the clinics with SONHS were faculty and students from UWI’s medical, nursing, pharmacy, and dental programs. “I developed professionally and experienced personal growth through collaboration with the local providers and their approach to rural health care,” said Carissa Dobert, M.S.N. ‘19. SONHS students received 56 clinical hours of primary care experience while addressing a wide range of acute and chronic conditions, contributing to inter-professional health teams, making referrals, and helping diagnose patients. “It was awesome to collaborate and grow as a provider, especially outside of the very tidy, technology-based U.S. system,” said Leiner. “I appreciated every second of this education. It helped me develop confidence as a practitioner.”



GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

HEALTH CARE IN ACTION

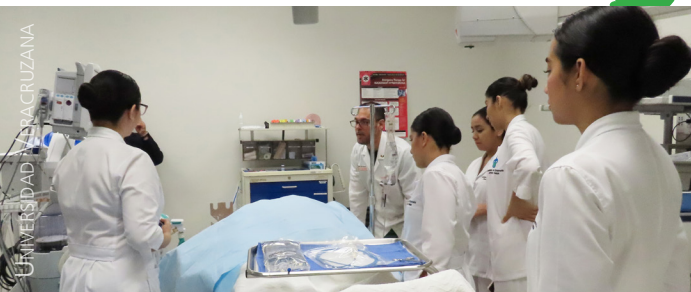
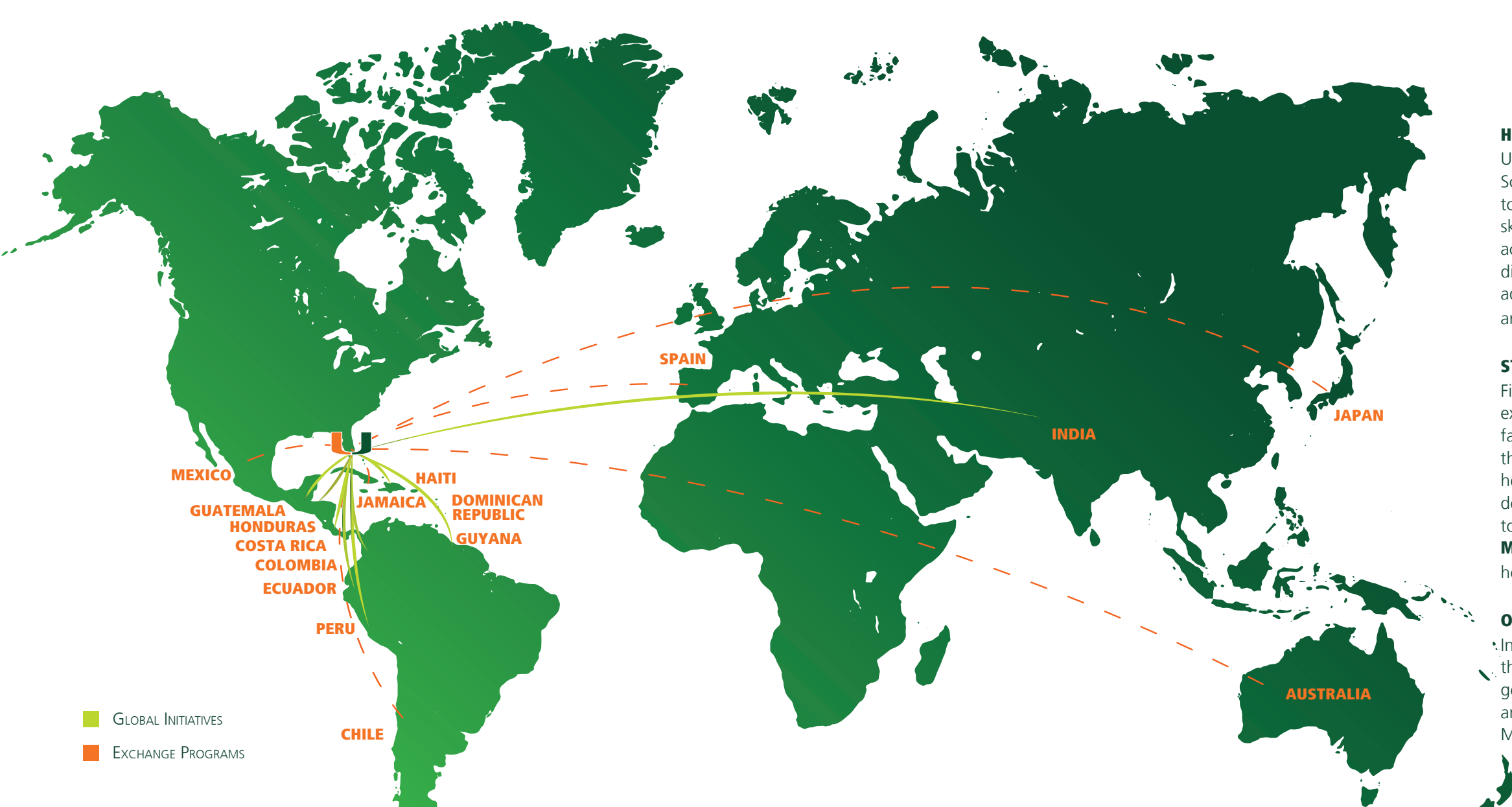
Using its location at the Gateway to the Americas to unite partners across the hemisphere, the School of Nursing and Health Studies (SONHS) fosters relationships and transfers knowledge to make an impact on the health care professions. In addition to learning clinical and academic skills required of successful professionals in their fields, students participate in international academic exchanges through the Office of Hemispheric and Global Initiatives. Learning about diverse cultures, health systems, and worldviews first-hand allows them to become adept at addressing global issues. At the same time, SONHS hosts students and faculty from institutions around the world through its observership program.

STUDY ABROAD

Fifteen public health, health science, and nursing students participated in a nine-day academic exchange with **Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile** under the auspices of SONHS faculty Dr. Diego Deleon and Dr. Johis Ortega. Taking advantage of Chile's summer in January, the groups visited campuses in Quilpe, Vina del Mar, and Valparaíso, learning about Chile's health care system and epidemiological profile and exploring intercultural health and social determinants of health care, among other subjects. Last June, five SONHS nursing students took part in a three-week Global Health practicum at **Australian Catholic University in Melbourne**, visiting public and private hospitals and an aboriginal community center to learn how Australia's health care delivery system compares to that of the U.S.

OBSERVERSHIPS

In 2019, SONHS welcomed over 50 international observers from Central and South America, the Caribbean, Australia, Spain, and Japan. Ranging from a week to a month, observerships generally include immersive tours of the school's Simulation Hospital for Advancing Research and Education in Coral Gables and clinical rotations at UHealth System hospital facilities in Miami, like the National Cancer Institute-designated Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center.



HEALTH DISPARITIES RESEARCH



“HIGHLY TRAINED MINORITY HEALTH INVESTIGATORS FROM HEALTH DISPARITY POPULATIONS ARE IN A POSITION TO MAKE A UNIQUE IMPACT ON THE SCIENCE OF ELIMINATING HEALTH DISPARITIES.”

—Cindy L. Munro, Dean & Professor

Addressing the shortage of Hispanic, Black, and Native American researchers in the health professions pipeline, the School of Nursing and Health Studies is preparing students from diverse backgrounds to become global health disparities scientists. In 2019, ten undergraduates took part in the school's Minority Health and Health Disparities International Research Training program (MHIRT) in Spain, Chile, Jamaica, and Australia. The grant for this prestigious program, which included two months of hands-on research experience with global partners, was supported by the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities of the National Institutes of Health under Award Number T37MD008647. This past August, the competitive, \$1.35 million grant was renewed for another five years, enabling SONHS to continue diversifying the scientific workforce, a crucial step toward achieving health equity in the 21st century.

“It was a tremendous, life-changing experience,” said Chilean-born Belén Hervera, who plans to earn her master's degree in public health. “It made me understand the value of research and its impacts on the health system.” She and her fellow grantees presented their findings back at SONHS last September during Research Day. Poster topics ranged from metabolic syndrome prevalence in rural

Jamaican adults to the impacts of physical activity on depression in older Australian women.

Elena Extrand's poster, “Health Assets and Perceptions of Well-Being of Roma in Northern Alicante, Spain,” was recognized for excellence. “Having an opportunity to talk to Roma women, to see what they've been going through, was very powerful for me,” explained the public health major. “It was invaluable to be able to go to another country and see how they conduct research, their inter-team dynamics. Before this, I had never done a literature review of publishable quality.”

Grantees are expected to continue collaborating with their foreign mentors on scientific presentations and publications. Visit <https://mhrt.sonhs.miami.edu> for more information.





PAHO/WHO COLLABORATING CENTRE



Pan American
Health
Organization



World Health
Organization

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE
Americas

The University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies (SONHS) has been a Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) Collaborating Centre for Nursing Human Resources Development and Patient Safety for the past 12 years and is proud to be one of just 14 nursing centers in the Americas to hold this elite designation. SONHS is committed to working with PAHO/WHO, its partner Collaborating Centres, as well as Ministries of Health and institutions of higher health care education throughout the hemisphere to expand the footprint of world-class nursing education and capacity building. Collaborating Centres like ours are key institutions that support the WHO's mission by providing expertise around the world in strategic areas such as nursing. Throughout 2019, SONHS collaborated on research, education, and workforce development with fellow member institutions and partners, presenting at international forums, hosting educational visits, fostering clinical relationships, and co-authoring publications, among other impactful efforts.

Last July, SONHS welcomed PAHO/WHO and health department leaders from over a dozen Pan American countries to tour the school's Simulation Hospital for Advancing Research and Education. The officials gathered in Miami to discuss the nursing and midwifery workforce in preparation for 2020's first-ever State of the World's Nursing Report, to which Dr. Johis Ortega was a contributor. "We are honored to have so many distinguished guests from the PAHO/WHO Pan American Region here," said Dean Cindy L. Munro.

2019 Impact Abroad

Dean Munro and Dr. Ortega were active at many hemispheric events that emphasized interprofessional education and bridging the gap between training resources and health care needs. Those events included:

- **Pan American Network of Nursing and Midwifery Collaborating Centers (PANMCC) Summit**, held last October at the University of Pennsylvania.
- **XV Conferencia Iberoamericana de Educacion en Enfermeria ALADEFE**, "Innovation in nursing education, transcending through humanized care to achieve universal health," a joint effort of the Universidad de Panama and Association of Latin American Schools of Nursing, held in Panama last September.
- **Florida-Dominican Republic Higher Education Summit**, hosted by the U.S. Embassy last November in Santo Domingo, D.R., where Dean Munro and Dr. Ortega presented on disaster preparedness, response, and simulation training opportunities to higher education, government, private sector, and social organizations.
- **International Council of Nurses 2019 Congress**, held in Singapore, June 27 to July 1, where Dr. Ortega presented the poster, "Study Tour and Summer Program, a Contribution to Raise Global Citizens in Nursing: The Perspective of Participants," with colleagues Dr. Lilian Ferrer, from Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, and Dr. Carlos Masías Valdés, from The School of Health Sciences in Switzerland. They were among 8,000 attendees at the Congress, themed "Beyond Healthcare to Health."
- In addition, Collaborating Centre faculty continued their ongoing work with nursing educators across Latin America to launch advanced **Nursing and Patient Safety** online courses and to prepare new cohorts of nurse educators in **Guyana**.

MIAMI-MEXICO HEALTH RESEARCH

Faculty and students from SONHS and Mexico’s **University of the Americas Puebla** (UDLAP) will collaborate to examine the burden of chronic and noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) in Puebla, Mexico. Dr. Johis Ortega, SONHS principal investigator (PI), and his UDLAP co-PI, Dr. Lucila Castro-Pastrana, a pharmaceutical chemist, aim to identify social determinants of health in rural Puebla and evaluate the impact on the prevalence of common metabolic risk factors for Mexico’s major NCDs, such as obesity. “The rapid growth in obesity prevalence in Mexico has led to high rates of obesity-related diseases such as diabetes, cardiovascular disorders, and cancer, and their associated health care costs,” said Drs. Ortega and Castro-Pastrana.

PIs Drs. Rosina Cianelli and Giovanna De Oliveira, of SONHS, and UDLAP pharmacology researcher Dr. Erika Palacios Rosas will lead another interdisciplinary study to evaluate the quality of life of patients suffering from renal disease and other chronic illnesses, such as HIV, hypertension, obesity, diabetes, and depression. Data from primary care centers in Puebla will be analyzed to develop evidence-based prevention strategies for patients with co-occurring chronic conditions and/or life-threatening diseases.

“There is a pressing need for joint efforts that effectively expand research to address complex concerns for public health and well-being,” said Dr. Ortega. “A long-lasting academic collaboration between UM and UDLAP will allow both institutions to achieve hemispheric and global impact on public health through ongoing excellence in education, research, and service.”



SIMULATION CAPACITY BUILDING IN JAMAICA

Faculty from the **University of the West Indies School of Nursing** (UWISON) acted quickly to care for patients facing a series of critical, undiagnosed ailments and initiate treatment during three simulated scenarios they helped develop as part of a simulation capacity-building initiative. The on-site training, led last May by Dr. Johis Ortega and a team of SONHS faculty, will help UWISON fulfill its national mandate to double nursing education capacity in a region with limited clinical placements. “I know simulation will be a very important part of our curriculum and will play a role in increasing the number of students we can prepare,” said Melissa Walker, UWISON undergraduate program coordinator. Professor Eulalia Kahwa, UWISON graduate program coordinator, added, “UWISON staff benefited greatly from the expertise of the UM simulation team.” While in Kingston, SONHS faculty also presented on advances in simulation and classroom technology at UWISON’s 29th Nursing and Midwifery Research Conference.

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, supported on a by-project basis by the considerable skills and expertise of faculty at the University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies. For full-length bios, visit <https://pahowho.sonhs.miami.edu/about-the-center/our-team>.



School of Nursing and Health Studies

Dean and Professor Cindy L. Munro, RN, ANP-BC, Ph.D., FAAN, FAANP, FAAA, 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 associate 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. Carlos’s 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.

