

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI

SCHOOL of NURSING
& HEALTH STUDIES



HEMISPHERIC & GLOBAL REPORT 2018



Haiti

**“THE WORLD NEEDS DREAMERS AND THE
WORLD NEEDS DOERS. BUT ABOVE ALL,
THE WORLD NEEDS DREAMERS WHO DO,”**

wrote the author Sarah Ban Breathnach.

Our faculty at the University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies are equipping learners at all levels with the skills, confidence, and opportunities to become “dreamers who do,” to understand the role of health care in a wide range of environments—from the most resource-challenged, remote communities to bustling metropolitan city centers.

In an increasingly globalized context, the need is greater than ever for care providers proficient at delivering culturally tailored interventions. Local, national, and international events reinforce the call for this workforce to be capable of caring for diverse populations amid complex public health concerns. We are proud of our UM SONHS community for answering that call.

Through student exchanges, community outreach, health disparities research, and long-term initiatives such as the PAHO/WHO Collaborating Centre, the SONHS is educating professionals capable of and dedicated to making the world a healthier and safer place for all. This report highlights our hemispheric and global impact over the past year through ongoing excellence in education, research, and service.

MISSION:

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

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HEALTH DISPARITIES RESEARCH

With a five-year Minority Health International Research Training Program (MHIRT) grant funded by the NIH's National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities, the School of Nursing and Health Studies continues to educate students from diverse backgrounds for careers in global health disparities research. The MHIRT initiative bolsters the school's commitment to a national mandate calling for diversification of the scientific workforce—a crucial step toward achieving health equity in the 21st century.

This summer, through a competitive application process, the SONHS placed its MHIRT scholars at foreign institutions on four continents. After a three-week orientation with their SONHS mentors, the students spent eight weeks abroad with senior-level mentors at their foreign host institutions, participating in research activities. Upon return to Miami, they completed a week-long seminar and evaluation at the SONHS and continued working with their mentors on plans to disseminate study results.

SONHS nursing students Sabrina Smith and Antonio Sanchez Gonzalez conducted research at **Australian Catholic University's** North Sydney campus related to self-efficacy in stroke patients and their caregivers. "Getting a worldly view, academically and culturally, was incredibly valuable," says Smith.

At **Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile** School of Nursing in Santiago de Chile, public health students Nicole Bazinet and Lydia Franklin and nursing student Eloise Davenport did research on issues impacting Chilean nursing students, including violence, tobacco, alcohol, drug use, and sleep behaviors.

Accelerated nursing student Giselle Rodriguez-Henriquez and public health student Joanna Valencia traveled to **Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra** in the Dominican Republic, where they investigated gender differences in electronic cigarette use among college students and the effect of social support on pregnancy outcomes, respectively.

Nursing student Herveline Saintil and public health student Alexander Vernon focused their scientific studies at the **University of the West Indies** School of Nursing, Mona campus, on adult asthma sufferers in Jamaica, addressing health disparities related to asthma severity and factors that contribute to medication and treatment adherence. "My participation enabled me to see the world through new eyes," says Saintil. "I learned to conduct research and to analyze the research and its findings with more skill," adds Vernon.

In Spain, at the **Universidad de Alicante**, public health student Brianna Scott worked on a study titled "Walkability, health assets, and vulnerable populations," and premed student Claudia Ramirez assisted on an ecological study of the impact of road infrastructure on maternal mortality.

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HEALTH CARE ACROSS THE HEMISPHERE

Faculty, staff, and students from the School of Nursing and Health Studies have forged close ties within some of the world's most vulnerable populations, providing much-needed clinical care, comfort, and community support.

HEALING IN HAITI

SONHS faculty and students see as many as 1,000 patients per year, many of whom are children, during medical mission trips to rural villages near Thomonde, Haiti, where residents rarely receive care. The benefits are great, both for the Central Plateau communities and for the more than 50 SONHS Family Nurse Practitioner and Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) students each year who participate. "The hands-on exposure our students receive on these trips reinforces the importance of culturally tailored interventions while we provide valuable services to the global community," says Dr. Johis Ortega, associate dean for Hemispheric and Global Initiatives and associate professor of clinical at the SONHS, who has been leading the outreach effort for several years.

DNP student Marecia Bell completed her first medical volunteer mission outside of the United States in Haiti this year. "I've never experienced anything like what I experienced in rural Haiti in my 20-year nursing career," she recounts. "I cried every day. It took me to a whole new level, not just personally, but professionally. I couldn't believe we could be so close to another country and not even have a clue the poor conditions they were living in." There were bright spots, too, like the children joyful to see team leader Ortega again, laughing and hugging him, and the camaraderie Bell experienced with her SONHS community. "This was a family atmosphere. We leaned on each other," she says. "I pray that I'm able to continue on this medical mission with the University of Miami and continue to serve Haiti and any other country with health care disparities." Christopher Mourra Thompson, M.S.N. '18, who grew up in Haiti, has taken part in two SONHS trips to Thomonde. "It's so well-organized, and you can tell every faculty member is there from the sincerity of their heart," he says. "It was such an amazing experience to give back to my community. I had to go back."

SUPPORT FOR SANTIAGO

During two trips in 2018, Dr. Ortega traveled with assistant professor of clinical Juan M. González, nurse specialist Amaury Quintana, and 18 Family Nurse Practitioner students to Santiago, Dominican Republic. They ran village clinics and promoted health education in the rural areas around Santiago De Los Caballeros. They partnered with Clínica Unión Médica and the Foundation for Community Assistance (FUPAC) to conduct free health screenings for cardiovascular and hypertension issues, cholesterol, glucose, BMI, and electrocardiogram tests on residents in Los Montones Arriba, San Jose de

las Matas, D.R. The SONHS has been collaborating for years with Clínica Unión Médica. Most recently they formalized an educational and research collaborative exchange agreement that enables SONHS nurse practitioner students to rotate through the private hospital, including the intensive care unit, emergency department, medical-surgical floors, and outpatient clinics, working alongside the physicians and medical residents to perform intracranial intubations, central line placements, incisions, suturing, and drainages. SONHS faculty also presented a Basic Life Support lecture for nurses at Clínica Unión Médica, including a crash cart demonstration and an interactive component where the D.R. nurses practiced chest compressions and ventilations on mannequins, and taught an ultrasound course for ICU and Emergency Department physicians. The lectures transmit valuable evidence-based knowledge to the hospital's workforce while elevating the education and visibility of nurses in the D.R. "Our students observe that the role of nurses in the D.R. differs, and they learn to appreciate the leadership role nurses are playing in transforming our nation's health care landscape," said Gonzalez. "At the same time, when they are seen performing independently during these trips, they help to model a new role for nurses and stimulate the growth of the nursing profession in Latin America."





STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

From Central America to South Asia, students from the School of Nursing and Health Studies explore the world to discover first-hand how different health care systems operate and learn about health disparities in a global context. In addition to leading study experiences tailored to expand students' cultural and career horizons, the SONHS has educational exchange agreements with many foreign institutions, giving faculty and nursing students from around the world the opportunity to study health provision in the United States, take part in observerships and clinical rotations at area hospitals, research initiatives, conferences, and simulation-based education.

NURSING IN JAMAICA

During the summer, six undergraduate nursing students from the SONHS traveled to Kingston, Jamaica, as part of their Global Health Transcultural Nursing course taught by Ruth Everett-Thomas, SONHS assistant professor of clinical. With some time built in to explore the island's natural wonders, the group also spent three days touring the medical wards of the private hospital run by SONHS educational exchange partner in Jamaica, the University of the West Indies, getting a close look at the nursing system there and interacting with the hospital staff. "The nurses at the hospital all worked very well together," observes Everett-Thomas, a long-time registered nurse. "In Jamaica, nursing is a respected profession. People want to be nurses." The SONHS students also rounded with physicians and medical students, and spent one day visiting a public health facility in Kingston, touring area clinics and the surrounding neighborhoods to better understand the kind of health care options residents there have available to them.

ANESTHESIA IN GUATEMALA

Nicole A. Gonzaga, an assistant professor of clinical in the Nurse Anesthesia Program, traveled as a volunteer Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist to Guatemala and Ecuador with the Healing Hands Foundation. She has now leveraged her connection with the nonprofit organization, which provides free hand surgeries for local children in need, to expand clinical opportunities for SONHS students under supervision in a resource-challenged environment. The first SONHS student to have this educational experience was third-year Student Registered Nurse Anesthetist Viviana Castillo, who joined Dr. Gonzaga in Guatemala this past October.

PUBLIC HEALTH IN INDIA

Despite India's powerful economic growth, the nation of 1.3 billion people has a poverty rate of almost 30 percent, mostly concentrated in rural villages. Through an ongoing memorandum of understanding with Manipal University, SONHS public health faculty leader and physician Diego Deleon has led SONHS students on a two-week global health practicum in India's southwest state of Karnataka since 2016. This June's trek to Manipal drew a mix of SONHS pre-nursing, health sciences, and public health students. Their mini-course included the chance to visit rural health clinics and speak with government-trained, accredited health educators. The students also attended seminars about health care in India, learned how the country integrates Western medicine and ancient healing traditions, and visited hospitals and the public health department, increasing their knowledge about the impact of diseases rarely seen in the United States, like malaria and leprosy. There was even time for them to do some cultural exploration, from touring the Taj Mahal to sampling Indian cuisine.

Australia



Jamaica





Mexico



Dominican Republic



Spain

“ONE OF THE MOST VALUABLE GIFTS WE CAN GIVE STUDENTS IS ACCESS TO A GLOBAL HEALTH CARE EXPERIENCE.”

—Johis Ortega
SONHS Associate Dean for
Hemispheric and Global Initiatives,
and Associate Professor of Clinical



India

Dominican Republic



INBOUND EXCHANGES

This year nursing students and faculty from Australian Catholic University, Universidad Francisco de Vitoria Madrid, Chile's Universidad Andrés Bello, Mexico's Universidad Autónoma de Campeche, and Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile took part in international observership experiences at the SONHS. Ranging from a week to a month, these transcultural initiatives allow students to learn first-hand about U.S. nursing education, health care provision, resources, and technology. “The simulation and clinical experiences helped the students gain skills and knowledge for their career,” said nursing instructor Richard Martinez Escalante, of Universidad Autónoma de Campeche. “We are very grateful to the School of Nursing and Health Studies for this opportunity.”

FORGING NEW TIES IN THE AMERICAS

The School of Nursing and Health Studies has adopted “hemispheric leadership” as a main pillar of its new strategic plan and is aligning its objectives with those of the University of Miami. Johis Ortega, the school's associate dean for Hemispheric and Global Initiatives, is a member of UM's newly formed Hemispheric and Global Affairs Committee. This committee will play a role in shaping the newly formed Hemispheric University Consortium, whose inaugural meeting was hosted by UM this past April. At this historic gathering, leaders from 10 top-rated universities signed an accord to establish the first academic consortium spanning the hemisphere. Along with UM, the founding members include University of São Paulo, Pontifical Catholic University of Chile, the University of Andrés Bello (Chile),

the University of the Andes (Colombia), the University of Costa Rica, the University of the Americas Puebla (Mexico), the Monterrey Institute of Technology and Higher Education (Mexico), Cayetano Heredia University (Peru), and the University of the West Indies. The group's initial strategies include “increasing exchange of students, faculty, and researchers across national borders; addressing the lag of technological innovation in Latin America; and working together to address public health problems, climate change, urban resilience, crime, corruption and other challenges that threaten the collective prosperity and security of the hemisphere,” wrote UM President Julio Frenk in The Washington Post. “We must think beyond notions of higher education rooted in our own cultures and remain open to new ways of pursuing education, research, and innovation. ...”

PAHO/WHO COLLABORATING CENTRE

The University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies (SONHS) marks its 10th year as a Pan American Health Organization/ World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) Collaborating Centre for Nursing Human Resources Development and Patient Safety. One of just 8 such recognized centres in the United States and 15 in the Americas, the SONHS has had its elite PAHO/WHO status renewed twice since 2008, demonstrating its commitment to building leadership capacity in the Americas.

Under the leadership of Dean Cindy L. Munro and Director Johis Ortega, the SONHS Collaborating Centre's goals for the 2016-2020 designation cycle include working with the Washington, D.C.-based PAHO/WHO to:

- Develop and strengthen nursing education in the Americas, with a focus on curriculum development in nursing care and patient safety.
- Disseminate critical information and promote knowledge sharing regarding patient safety to enhance nursing workforce development and technical expertise in the Americas.
- Develop and strengthen multi-center research projects in the Americas with a focus on nursing workforce development, patient safety, and health disparities.

The ultimate aim is to increase access to quality health care for all populations through an “educate the educators” framework in critically under-resourced regions. This model of teaching faculty members and clinicians to provide education to others creates a positive ripple effect that allows communities to chart their own futures.

PATIENT SAFETY THROUGH SIMULATION

The SONHS Collaborating Centre designed “Simulation Strategies Workshop for Patient Safety” in cooperation with the school's International Academy for Clinical Simulation and Research. The customizable course targets Spanish-speaking health care professionals seeking knowledge of simulation and how to integrate it into existing nursing education curricula. The course may be taught throughout the PAHO region and beyond or on site, at the school's 41,000-square-foot Simulation Hospital, which opened September 2017.

GLOBAL DISTANCE EDUCATION

The SONHS Collaborating Centre also offers free web-based distance education courses for nurses, students, and faculty through the PAHO virtual portal. These include “Nursing Leadership: Empowering Nurses in Latin America and the Caribbean,” “Nursing and Patient Safety” (<http://patientsafetycourse.org>), and online certificate courses on topics such as HIV prevention and care, domestic violence, and medical error prevention. Over 10,300 people around the world have taken the “Nursing and Patient Safety Course” in Spanish; more than 1,000 have completed it in English, and over 900 have accessed the Portuguese version. Each SONHS Collaborating Centre project includes a research and evaluation component.



**Pan American
Health
Organization**



**World Health
Organization**
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE
Americas





TRANSFORMING NURSING EDUCATION IN GUYANA
The Certificate in Nursing Education for Guyana’s Nurse Educators—a collaboration of the School of Nursing and Health Studies, the Ministry of Public Health in Guyana, PAHO’s regional office in Guyana, and PAHO headquarters in Washington, D.C.—continues to flourish in increasing the nation’s number of qualified nurse educators.

SONHS faculty Mary McKay and Debbie Salani traveled to Guyana four times in 2018 to conduct onsite teaching and mentoring for 22 nursing tutors (experienced as well as early-career teachers) representing Guyana’s one private and three government hospitals. They also met weekly in a virtual classroom.

The tutors Drs. McKay and Salani are teaching in Guyana in turn will educate countless generations of students in best practices for patient safety, infection prevention, and other critical concerns. The effort launched in 2015 with its first class of 26 tutors. The goal was to combat what the nation’s Ministry of Health had identified as an acute crisis due to the extreme shortage of qualified nursing educators. Guyana had a reported ratio of just seven faculty members for every 500 nursing students.

“This new generation of Guyana’s nursing workforce will be prepared to deliver high-quality, safe, and competent care,” McKay said. “In this way they’ll contribute to the universal health access mission of the PAHO/WHO.”

SONHS faculty developed and led the nurse educator program, covering how to conduct theoretical and clinical instruction with an emphasis on patient safety. They structured the certificate program around the National League for Nursing Nurse Educator competencies, Interprofessional Education Collaborative competencies, and WHO Nurse Educator competencies, conducting baseline assessments of the educational needs and tailoring the course content to specific challenges facing nursing education in Guyana.

“We have to work within their system,” explained Salani. “When you’re working internationally, you have to leave your preset assumptions at home and be respectful that other countries do things differently.”

The goal is to create an indigenous program supervised by the country’s top nursing educators. As inaugural participant Hilary Christopher said, “Ultimately more highly motivated educators and a more stimulating learning experience will lead to greater student success.”

Salani and McKay have been recognized for their ongoing work. Last July, their presentation, “Utilization of Innovative Teaching Strategies Following a Nursing Education Certificate Program in Guyana,” won the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing’s “Excellence in Educational Research Award” at the STTI 28th International Nursing Research Congress. Explained Salani: “We are trying to empower the nurses to be change agents.”

“WE ARE PROUD TO MARK OUR FIRST DECADE AS A PAHO/WHO COLLABORATING CENTRE AND LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUED CAPACITY BUILDING WITH OUR PARTNERS IN THE AMERICAS.”

—Cindy L. Munro
SONHS Dean and Professor

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

The University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies PAHO/WHO Collaborating Centre operates with a small core staff; the considerable skills and expertise of the school’s faculty are available to the Collaborating Centre’s efforts on a by-project basis. For full-length bios, visit <https://pahowho.sonhs.miami.edu/about-the-center/our-team/index.html>.



School of Nursing and Health Studies Dean
Cindy Munro, RN, ANP-BC, Ph.D., FAAN, FAANP, FAAAS, is an accomplished health care researcher and leader in the field of nursing whose scientific contributions have helped change clinical practice and reduce health care costs by addressing hospital-acquired infection. Her research has been awarded over \$13 million in funding. Most recently she received nearly \$2 million from the National Institute of Nursing Research to conduct a study aimed at preventing delirium in critically ill adults. Recipient of the 2017 Leadership in Research Award from the Southern Nursing Research Society, she holds three patents, including an international patent for a vaccine to prevent streptococcal endocarditis. Dr. Munro’s extensive experience and history of leadership in the nursing field align with the goals of the 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. Her 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, ARNP, ACNP-BC, ENP-BC, FNP-BC, FAAN, serves as Associate Dean for Hemispheric and Global Initiatives and Associate Professor of Clinical at the UM SONHS. Dr. Ortega initiated a program of research in education, analyzing outcomes of nursing student international exchange programs and the use of simulation in the nursing curriculum. 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 (2013) and UM School of Nursing Faculty of the Year Award (2009 & 2012). Pew Research Hispanic Center named him in its Twenty Fabulous Hispanic Professors in Florida (2013). A founding member of RIENSEP, the International Nursing and Patient Safety Experts’ Network, Dr. Ortega also holds membership in ALADEFE (the Latin American Association of Schools and Colleges of Nursing), 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. In 2018 he collaborated with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) on developing the Regional Nursing Body Strategic Framework for 2018-2022, presenting the proposal to international delegates at the 45th Annual Regional Nursing Body Meeting in Georgetown, Guyana.



Project Manager
Carlos Arismendi, MS, serves as the Project Manager for Hemispheric and Global Initiatives. He holds a Master’s degree in International Management in Public Health from University of Liverpool. With over 6 years in international health care and project management, his experience include JCI accreditation, program development and implementation of clinical programs in Stroke, Bone Marrow Transplant, Medical Oncology, Perioperative Services, and Nursing Leadership among others. He also has worked in business development strategy and execution of projects in Latin America, Asia and Middle Eastern countries. Prior to join the University of Miami, he worked at Johns Hopkins Medicine International providing management and support of International Projects in Global and Patient Services.

