The 2018 International Korean Nursing Conference
The conference was held in New York City, NY, USA from June 28th through 30th, 2018. Three-hundred and twenty attendees came from seven different countries. The conference was organized by three Korean nursing organizations: Global Korean Nursing Foundation-USA (GKNF-USA), New York Korean Nurses Association (NYKNA), and Overseas Korean Nurses Association (OKNA). The conference was organized to discuss the following themes: 1) Current Trends in Nursing Education, Practice, and Research, 2) Strategies for Future Nursing Leadership in the Health Care System, 3) Leadership Development in Academia and Clinical Practice, and 4) International Networking. The presidents of each organization (Dr. Kunsook S Bernstein, GKNF-USA; Kyungwha Han-NYKNA; and Myungsook Cho, OKNA) delivered the opening remark for the conference. Dr. Diana Mason who was the keynote speaker for the first day delivered a presentation titled “How to build a culture of health by strategizing nursing policy leadership within the current health care system.” Dr. Mi Ja Kim delivered the keynote speech titled “Bona Fide Leaders: Building Korean American Nursing Leadership” on the second day. The conference ended with a group tour to the Long Island Jewish Medical Center. During the conference, the GKNF-USA funded two research projects and gave two scholarship awards to selected applicants (see pages 3-6).

Member Highlights

Misook Lee Chung, PhD, RN, FAHA, FAAN, was inducted into Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing’s International Nurse Researcher Hall of Fame in Melbourne, Australia, July 21, 2018.

Created in 2010, the International Nurse Researcher Hall of Fame recognizes nurse researchers who have achieved significant and sustained national or international recognition and whose research has improved the profession and the people it serves.

Dr. Chung earned her master’s degree from the College of Nursing, Ewha Womans University, Seoul, Korea, and her PhD from the University of Kentucky College of Nursing. Dr. Chung is currently a professor at the UK College of Nursing, University of Kentucky, where she is a co-director and research scientist in the RICH Heart Program. She serves as Chair of the Scholarship Committee for the GKNF. Her research emphasis is on the dynamic interdependent relationship between patients with chronic cardiovascular disease and family caregivers, and the behavioral, physiological, and psychological outcomes of both participating members, and on developing effective family-based interventions to improve outcomes in both patients and caregivers.
Jennie De Gagne, PhD, DNP, RN-BC, CNE, ANEF, FAAN was selected as a recipient of the 2018-2019 American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Excellence Award. The purpose of the award is to recognize a faculty member who systematically investigates questions related to student learning and the conditions under which it occurs in order to improve outcomes. The review committee noted many wonderful comments about De Gagne and her teaching. One reviewer commented, "Dr. De Gagne serves as a mentor to others and a role model who is committed to improving nursing education and health care worldwide." She accepted her award at the AACN Doctoral Education conference in Jan. 2019 in Coronado, CA.

Dr. De Gagne is an Associate Professor in the Duke University School of Nursing (DUSON). Her program of scholarship seeks to advance the science of teaching and learning through the effective use of instructional technologies to create a student-centered environment that facilitates deeper and more constructive learning. Cybercivility is on the cutting edge of this very important topic, inciting her to develop and lead novel projects addressing cyberincivility among health professionals and students. She has been highly productive in disseminating her scholarly work through more than 130 publications and 90 presentations on technology use in the classroom, faculty development in online education, and cybercivility, as well as workforce training through distance/online instruction. De Gagne is a member of the National League for Nursing (NLN) Academy of Nursing Education and the American Academy of Nursing.

Hyochol Ahn, PhD, RN, MSN, MS-EDE, MS-CTS, ANP-BC received as PI (a subcontract) of R37(NIH R37AG033906) titled “Ethnic Differences in Response To Painful Stimuli” for 5/1/19 – 4/30/24. This is an extension of his earlier R01 funded project. The project will elucidate the mechanisms underlying ethnic group differences in knee osteoarthritis-related pain using neuroimaging and quantitative sensory testing methodologies. The project is a collaboration of several researchers including Dr. Roger B. Fillingim, PhD who is PI of the project at University of Florida, Pain Research and Intervention Center of Excellence.

Dr. Ahn has published numerous articles in the related area and is lead author of the following two articles:


Joshua (Seok Hyun) Gwon, PhD, RN, Assistant Professor, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, gwon@uwm.edu, Board member since 2018.

Dr. Gwon is an assistant professor in the College of Nursing at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee since 2016. He migrated to the U.S. for the nursing PhD program at the University of Virginia in 2013. His program of research is to promote nicotine-free and vape-free behavior among young adults. Dr. Gwon's professional goals for this year are to successfully complete ongoing research projects and be prepared to write grant proposals for larger funding based on the findings from his ongoing projects. His personal goals for this year are to respect, love, and stay committed to his spouse.

Grant: Virginia S. Cleland Scholar Fund / American Nurses Foundation
Project Title: A missing piece in Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS) use: Attentional bias to ENDS cues among young adult ENDS users Role: PI

Grant: Association of Community Health Nursing Educators Research Grant
Study: Associations between public health nurse workforce factors and health outcomes
Role: PI

Jin Young Seo, PhD, WHNP-BC, RN, Assistant Professor, Hunter College, City University of New York js3149@hunter.cuny.edu, Board member since 2018.

Dr. Seo is an assistant professor at Hunter College, CUNY since 2015. She has clinical expertise in women’s health and maternal-child health. She received a doctoral degree from University at Buffalo, SUNY. Her research focuses on investigating health seeking behaviors and health service utilization among Asian immigrant women. Her current project aims to develop, pilot-test, and evaluate a culturally tailored educational intervention for breast cancer risk reduction, which is more specifically focused on reducing breast cancer risk factors and increasing uptake of breast cancer screening among Korean immigrant women.

Grant: New York State Department of Health, Patricia S. Brown Breast Cancer Risk Reduction Education Research Projects
Project Title: A culturally tailored education program to reduce breast cancer risk in Korean immigrant women
Role: PI
So Hyun Park, PhD, Assistant Professor at Florida State University College of Nursing

Her research interests focus on developing and testing interventions that help children, families, and communities work together to prevent and reduce childhood obesity. The purpose of this study is to test the feasibility and impact of a mentoring program utilizing college students as mentors to increase the level of physical activity in preschoolers who live with their grandparents. The study proposed here has the potential to support interventions of significant value to a vulnerable population and addresses a crucial public health problem at a point in children’s lives when they are establishing lifelong habits.

Jeongok Logan, PhD, Assistant Professor at University of Virginia School of Nursing.

Her research has focused on the prevention of cardiovascular disease using subclinical biomarkers. With support from the NIH/NINR grants (F31, K23, and SBIR), she has been conducting her research studies to identify causal risk factors of subclinical biomarkers including arterial stiffness and blood pressure variability.

MinKyoung Song, PhD, Assistant Professor at Oregon Health and Science University School of Nursing (Portland, Oregon)

Her research aims to discover how to improve health behaviors and weight-related outcomes for children through family context interventions. Her specific areas of research have been: (1) to explore bio-behavioral susceptibility for poor health behaviors and weight-related outcomes and test family context interventions to mitigate that susceptibility, and (2) to improve children’s weight-related health by conducting interventions with their adult caregivers. She has had several studies funded through competitive funding sources and recently she conducted two studies where interventions with adult caregivers showed a positive return on weight-related outcomes and health behaviors in their children.

Solim Lee, PhD candidate, University of Pennsylvania, School of Nursing

Her long-term career goal is to reduce unplanned hospitalization in patients with chronic heart failure by improving self-care. Among several aspects of heart failure patients’ self-care, she is focusing on the symptom perception process because she strongly believes that patients’ delay in care-seeking can be prevented if they detect their symptoms earlier and correctly evaluate the symptoms. She had the training and research experience from a rigorous and research-intensive nursing doctoral program at the University of Pennsylvania. It has provided her with an excellent background in research methods and expertise on self-care for heart failure.
Three Beauties

Rising Star Award
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