As we face the global pandemic crisis COVID-19 (COVID) in these days, uncertainty and high risk situation of COVID have impacted drastically to front line nurses who are working every day, especially in hospitals. These nurses are challenged with an overloaded number of COVID cases with constant medical crises including death. The health care system was not fully prepared for this unexpected pandemic. Health care workers including nurses are straining to adequately and safely care for their patients because of various reasons: shortage of manpower, shortage of protective gears, over long working hours, etc. Many nurses fear for their own and their family’s safety as they fear contracting the coronavirus while taking care of their patients.

Meanwhile, political and health care leaders struggle to lead the groups/society, not knowing exactly how to handle an exploding number of new cases daily. In such a crisis situation, leaders must compare the “unknown” to the “known of previous ones,” and identify patterns and develop appropriate and timely responses. When what is important becomes urgent and urgent becomes critical, “leaders must delegate the urgent by empowering others to lead around a common purpose.” (Gary Burnison, Korn Ferry, 3/15/2020; gary@kornferry.com).

This crisis brought the heroic roles of nurses to the attention of the media. We as nurses have never had such wide media coverage on the importance of our role and actions as now in this life and death situation of COVID. Every day, the media deliver coverage of citizens’ outpouring of thanks and praises for nurses who risk their lives to care for them. For example, it was some sight to see on TV that a whole neighborhood drove their cars by the house of a critical care nurse while honking their thanks to her. While this is all gratifying and appreciated, nursing leaders need to be vigilant and think ahead, guide everyone’s heads and hearts together, and prepare for the future of the pandemic. Developing a partnership between nurse clinicians and researchers in a joint effort of preparation and development of evidence-based practice to support nursing workforce policy is a good beginning.
On a brighter note, we applaud the WHO as they have declared 2020 as “the International Year of the Nurse and the Midwife.” We celebrate the progress nursing has made in advanced nursing roles in a majority of member countries of the WHO (50/95, 53%). Our attention goes to the statement, “…opportunities for advanced nursing education and enhanced professional roles … can drive improvements in population health”. (WHO report, “The State of the world’s nursing 2020: Investing in education, jobs and leadership”, accessed on 4/13/2020). We take this as a good reminder for us to strengthen the specialty of public health nursing which plays a pivotal role in population health.

The current crisis compelled the leaders of the GKNF-USA to assess what is urgent for us to do now. In line with Burnison’s thought, the GKNF has established a Task Force to address urgent clinical matters and develop plans prioritizing from an immediate intervention to a long-term plan of actions. The foundation aims to delegate these urgent critical health and nursing issues by empowering clinical leaders and researchers to lead toward a common purpose of developing data that could provide evidence-based care for COVID affected people in the global community. The Foundation’s task force called the Board of Directors who are accomplished researchers or clinical leaders, to join the task force. While clinical leaders observe and report the COVID-related need assessment from clinical sites, researchers develop studies addressing clinical problems systematically. The Foundation has committed a special grant for COVID nursing research that would generate data describing what and how nurses are doing for the care of critically ill COVID patients. Wide dissemination of findings of such research will advance deeper understanding of how illness affects not only individuals, but also their families and communities, and portray nursing as a profession based on science. A joint webinar on Nursing Leadership in Pandemic Disaster sponsored by the GKNF-Korea and GKNF-USA on 4/28/2020 further illustrated the power of nursing minds to lead the implementation of the strategies against the COVID in Korea and the USA. We look forward to continuing such collaborative events to achieve the overall mission of the GKNF.

We end this special message with a quote from Madeline Albright:

“[The] best response to disaster is resilience.” (NYT, Opinion, 4/13/2020).

Nurses are known for their resilience! We will not only endure this crisis with compassionate care for the COVID patients and their families, but also come out stronger and even better prepared to face such crises in the future.

Mi Ja Kim and Kunsook Bernstein
Chair of the Board of Directors, GKNF and President of the GKNF-USA
# 3rd Moim Kim Academic Open Forum: Nursing Leadership in Pandemic Disaster

The Korea and USA joint academic open forum took place online online.

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Speaker/Presenter</th>
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<tr>
<td>19:00-19:05 (CST)</td>
<td><strong>Welcome remark</strong></td>
<td>Mi Ja Kim, Chair-person, GKNF</td>
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<td>19:05-19:15 (CST)</td>
<td><strong>Remark</strong>&lt;br&gt;Nursing leadership in COVID-19</td>
<td>Eui Sook Kim, Chair-person, GKNF-Korea</td>
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<td>19:15-20:15 (CST)</td>
<td><strong>I. Nursing response to COVID-19 in South Korea and USA</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>1. Korea response to COVID-19 pandemic and major issues</td>
<td>Suha Han, RN, PhD, ICAPN, SoonChunHyang University</td>
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<td>2. Institutional response to COVID-19 pandemic</td>
<td>Soyeon Yoo, RN, PhD, ICAPN, Gachon University</td>
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<td>3. American nursing response to COVID-19</td>
<td>Moonju Lee, RN, PhD, MSN, UT Health San Antonio</td>
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<td>20:15-21:25 (CST)</td>
<td><strong>Nurse stories</strong>: Korean American clinical nurse’s COVID-recovery story</td>
<td>Chil Sook Kwon, RN, DNP, ANP-BC, PCNP, Elmhurst Hospital Center, Hunter College, City University of New York</td>
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<td>21:25-22:00 (CST)</td>
<td><strong>II. Nursing competence of pandemic disaster response</strong></td>
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<td>1. Current issues and quality improvements in Korean preservice nursing education</td>
<td>Kyung Mi Kim, RN, PhD, ICAPN, Chungbuk National University</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2. Nursing education and disaster response competence in the USA</td>
<td>Jennie De Gagne, RN, PhD, DNP, NPD-BC, CNE, ANEF, FAAN, Duke University</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3. Disaster response training using (Virtual) simulation and GKNF response to COVID-19</td>
<td>Hyunsook Shin, RN, PhD, CPNP-PC, KyungHee University</td>
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<tr>
<td>21:25-22:00 (CST)</td>
<td><strong>Q &amp; A and discussion</strong></td>
<td>Hyunmi Ahn, RN, PhD, Korean Bible University</td>
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Jennie De Gagne, PhD, DNP, RN-BC, CNE, ANEF, FAAN  
Professor, Clinical Health Systems & Analytics Division  
School of Nursing, Duke University  

Dr. De Gagne talked about the current state of COVID-19, as well as the implications for academic nurse educators during and post COVID-19. Strategies and competencies, particularly in the area of leveraging technology, were discussed to respond to a global pandemic for current and future educators.

Chil Sook Kwon, DNP, RN, ANP-BC, PCNP  
Nurse Practitioner, Elmhurst Hospital  
Adjunct Assistant Professor, Hunter College, City University of New York  

Dr. Kwon shared her personal experience of COVID-19 from the patient’s perspective after she contracted the virus while working on the coronavirus front lines. She detailed a variety of symptoms and their fluctuations over time throughout the course of her illness. She is currently fully recovered from the illness and works again on the front lines.

Moonju Lee, PhD, MSN, RN  
Assistant Professor, University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio  

Dr. Lee presented “US Nursing Responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic” from the public health nurse’s viewpoint. She presented the current status of COVID-19 in the US, the responses of the US nursing leadership, challenges of COVID-19 responses in the health care system, nurses’ roles in the pandemic, and what the next steps are from the lesson learned.
Induction, Appointment, Promotion, and Tenure

Misook Lee Chung, PhD, RN, FAHA, FAAN
Professor, University of Kentucky

Dr. Chung received the Visiting Professorship at Linköping University, Sweden, in 2019. Dr. Chung was appointed as a Distinguished Joint Faculty at Yonsei University, College of Nursing, for two years (3/2020 - 2/2022).

Members’ Research Highlights

Sun S Kim, PhD, APRN-BC
Associate Professor, University of Massachusetts Boston

Dr. Kim received an American Association of Cancer Research and Johnson & Johnson Lung Cancer Innovation Scient Grant ($1,000,000) in December 2019 for the research project “A Digitally-enhanced Smoking Cessation Intervention for High-risk Smokers” (Dec.1, 2019-Nov.30, 2022). The project is a collaborative effort by three PIs (Mary Cooley, PhD, at Dana Farber Cancer Institute, Peter Castaldi, MD at Harvard Medical School, and Sun Kim, PhD at University of Massachusetts Boston).

Hyochol Brian Ahn, PhD, MSN, MS-ECE, MS-CTS, APRN, ANP-BC
Associate Professor, University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston

Dr. Ahn received a research award (1R01NR019051-01) from the National Institute of Health/National Institute of Nursing Research in April 2020. His funded study is titled “Combination Therapy of Home-based Transcranial Direct Current Stimulation and Mindfulness-based Meditation for Self-management of Clinical Pain and Symptoms in Older Adults with Knee Osteoarthritis.” The funding amount is $2,410,755 and the study period is between April 2020 and January 2025. Dr. Ahn’s research activities are further highlighted in the next page.
Dr. Ahn’s R01 award is the culmination of a years-long pursuit to find a treatment that can be easily accessible and cost-effective for patients with knee pain. He is the PI of an R15 research project “Self-Administered Transcranial Direct Current Stimulation for Pain in Older Adults with Knee Osteoarthritis: A Phase II Award Randomized Sham-controlled Trial from the NIH/National Institute of Nursing Research ($463,737, 8/2019-7/2022).

Dr. Ahn is also a site PI of the subaward, R01 research project titled “Ethnic Differences in Responses to Painful Stimuli from the NIH/National Institute of Aging ($955,221, 6/2019-2/2024). Dr. Roger B Fillingim at the University of Florida is the PI of the project.

Dr. Ahn has been interviewed by a number of local television and radio networks and newspapers on his promising research projects. The photo shown on the right was published online as a news release by AAS EurekAlert! on December 18, 2019. In this interview, Dr. Ahn said, “This study has the potential to significantly improve the self-management of pain, decrease public health expenditures, and improve the quality of life for older adults. To read the full coverage of the news release, please visit https://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2019-12/uthbhc121819.php?fbclid=IwAR1qW3bCcZsGsglK557XYx9s-d-2SKCacHU7M4m8sfyR_u33D5iBhpJbk.

Photo by Maricruz Kwon at University of Texas Health
New Board Members

**Jeungok Choi, PhD, MPH, RN**  
Associate Professor, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Dr. Choi has worked at the University of Massachusetts Amherst since 2006. She earned her PhD degree in Cornell School of Nursing at Boston College (2001), and Master of Public Health (1999) at Tufts University. Her program of research is to improve fatigue symptoms using a mobile technology for old adults with chronic conditions such as arthritis. Dr. Choi currently conducts as PI of an NIH-funded research project titled “Tablet-based Cognitive Behavioral Intervention (Tab-CBI): Comparison of Group vs. Individual CBT Education” (P20NR016599-03).

**ShinHi Han, PhD, RN, CNN**  
Assistant Professor, LaGuardia Community College, City University of New York

Dr. Han has extensive clinical experience from over 16 years as a staff, head nurse, vascular access coordinator, and outcome manager in the nephrology and oncology nursing field. Her current research project explores relations between HPV vaccine literacy, attitudes toward HPV vaccination, subjective norms, vaccine intention, acculturation, and vaccine completion among immigrant college students. It aims to examine the relationships among these variables and develop a culturally tailored intervention program. Dr. Han wants to establish a foundation to support the HPV vaccination administration for the underrepresented immigrant college student population.

**Chil Sook Kwon, DNP, RN, ANP-BC, PCNP**  
Nurse Practitioner, Elmhurst Hospital

Dr. Kwon has been a nurse practitioner in medical primary care for the past seven years. She has recognized the importance of disease prevention while taking care of cancer patients and growing her desire to prevent diseases and promote the health of people before having diseases. Dr. Kwon has been focusing on the improvement of health outcomes for medically underserved populations through optimal disease management and education on disease prevention and health promotion. Furthermore, Dr. Kwon has a passion to educate future nurse practitioners and nurse leaders and has been teaching as an adjunct faculty in the Adult-Gerontology Nurse Practitioner program at Hunter College, City Uni-
Moonju Lee, PhD, RN  
Assistant Professor, University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio  
Dr. Lee has years of research and teaching experience in community and public health nursing. Her research interests lie in the areas of health disparities in cancer prevention, inequity and inequality in healthcare service utilization and community engagement, and capacity building among the underserved minority populations (mainly Korean immigrants, Hispanics, and refugees). Dr. Lee received the Carol Lindeman Award for New Researcher from the Western Institute of Nursing in 2015. In 2019, she was delegated the oversees council member of the National Unification Advisory Council – The Republic of Korea to serve the health and education committees.

Kyungeh An, PhD, RN  
Associate Professor, Virginia Commonwealth University  
Dr. An’s research focuses on the biobehavioral impact of stress on cardiovascular health. She has conducted observational research addressing the chronic impact of hurricanes on psychological stress and salivary biomarkers among hurricane survivors. Dr. An’s lab is currently conducting a series of studies investigating the impact of chronic health conditions such as chronic liver disease and cancer on cardiovascular pathogenesis and cardiac mortality.

WELCOME,  
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Name of Account: Global Korean Nursing Foundation (GKNF)
Check payable to: GKNF-USA
Mail to: Young-Me Lee
9036 W. Heathwood Cir. Niles, IL 60714
Phone: (773) 325-4105 / E-mail: ylee23@depaul.edu

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