One Year in Rwanda - Life Lessons
Dr. Mi Ja Kim

I spent a year in Rwanda as a faculty in the Human Resources for Health (HRH) Program. This was after I served as the Coordinator for the HRH program at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), College of Nursing for two years. Human Resources for Health Program was initiated by the Clinton Health Access Initiative to upgrade medical and nursing education in Rwanda to be world-class. The program’s $150 million budget supports sending about 100 medical and nursing faculty (50 each) every year for 7 years (2012-2018). Schools of Nursing from various institutions including Duke, Howard, NYU, Universities of Illinois at Chicago, Maryland, and Texas at Houston participated in the program. Schools of medicine from various institutions including Brown, Columbia, Dartmouth, Duke, Harvard, Universities of Texas and Virginia, Yale, Yeshiva and affiliated hospitals participated in the program. By the program’s conclusion in 2018, Rwanda’s specialist physician capacity will have more than tripled, and the proportion of the country’s nurses with advanced training will have increased by more than 500%.

I co-directed the first global conference on Nursing and Midwifery in Kigali with Dean Donatilla Mukamana on January 26-27, 2015. This was sponsored by the School of Nursing and Midwifery (SNM), College of Medicine and Health Sciences, University of Rwanda (UR). The theme of the conference was “Global Innovations in Nursing and Midwifery Education, Research and Practice.” This conference was developed to realize the vision of the SNM of the UR to be a world-class school that advances nursing and midwifery. Over 300 nurses and midwives from seven countries attended. Twelve papers and 39 abstracts from the conference were published in Rwanda Journal Series F: Medicine and Health Sciences (Mi Ja Kim, Deputy editor).

My husband, Rev. Heung Soo Kim had a special ministry called JOY ministry that involved in the building of 2 buildings (the first one is multipurpose auditorium with 180 seating capacity, primarily for youth leadership training; and the second one is an education building for vocational training). He also had a village ministry involving 237 family visits. Lack of drinking water in the village compelled us to install a water tank.

Life lessons learned:
• Happiness is not necessarily from one’s wealth
• Personal faith in Christ is critical for happiness
• Rwanda below poverty line deserves our support particularly:
  o ‘drinking’ water (one unit of water tank is $10,000 without operational cost
  o Scholarships for children who can’t go to school (e.g. $200 and $900 per year for junior high and senior high school respectively )
We praise God for His blessings to the work in Rwanda, a country of thousand hills.
2015 GKNF Dissertation Award Recipients

SoSon Jong, RN, PhD candidate
University of California, San Francisco

SoSon Jong is a PhD student at the University of California, San Francisco. She graduated from Seoul National University. She has built a strong career in global health and committed herself in developing nursing leadership in global health. She spent two years as a volunteer nurse to the Black Lion Hospital in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. In 2006, she did her internship at the World Health Organization (WHO). In 2011, she was honored as the Afya Bora Global Health Fellowship. Her dissertation research is about improving health care among people living with HIV/AIDS through promoting social capital and social networking.

Chorong Park, RN, PhD candidate
Yale School of Nursing

Chorong Park is a PhD student at Yale School of Nursing. She graduated from Seoul National University. Her research interests are in diabetes and obesity prevention for Asian immigrants, especially Korean immigrants. Her dissertation focuses on identifying Korean Americans’ obesity-risk behavior pathways in the context of immigration and acculturation. Funds from the GKNF-USA will be used to support her dissertation research recruitment by offering modest incentives for participants.

Ju-Young Lee, RN, PhD candidate
University of Texas at Austin

Ju-Young Lee is a PhD student at the University of Texas at Austin. She graduated from the Catholic University of Korea. She is interested in every aspect of women’s health; particularly, focusing on nursing care for pregnant women or mothers with infants. Future plans and goals for research and professional career are related to the enhancement of women’s health.
Welcome to the New GKNF Board Members!

We look forward to your active participation in the organization’s activities and opportunities for leadership.

Sarah Choi, PhD, RN, FNP

Dr. Sarah Choi is the Associate Professor at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) School of Nursing. She received her BSN from Yonsei University, M.S. from UCLA, and PhD from UCSF. Her research focuses on identifying and understanding multi-dimensional (bio-psycho-socio-cultural) factors associated with chronic disease self-management among ethnic minority immigrants, particularly those with diabetes mellitus. Dr. Choi uses quantitative methods in investigating these issues. A recently completed study examined risk perception of heart disease among Korean immigrants with type 2 diabetes and the influence of acculturation and social/family support on diabetes self-management and outcome. Currently, Dr. Choi is planning an intervention study to develop and test culturally-tailored community-based diabetes self-management programs focusing on behaviors such as diet and exercise. The overarching goal in her program of research is to address health disparities in chronic disease management among underserved racial/ethnic minorities and immigrants through innovative community-based approach.

MinKyoung Song, PhD, RN, FNP-BC

Dr. MinKyoung Song is presently the Assistant Professor of Nursing at the Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU), Portland, OR. She received her BSN from Yonsei University, MSN from Yale University, and PhD from the University of Pennsylvania. She worked as an Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention from 2010 to 2012. She was then the first recipient of the Suzanne Bellinger Feetham Professorship (Endowed Chair) at the University of Michigan, a position she held for 3 years prior to transitioning to OHSU. As a behavioral scientist and epidemiologist, Dr. Song promotes physical activity and lifestyle changes as tools for preventing and managing chronic disease (i.e., obesity and diabetes). In specific, Dr. Song’s current focus at OHSU is on identifying and quantifying the influence of family environment on children’s physical activity and health outcomes.
ICN 2015-Symposium

Topic: Nursing education and learning

Abstract Title: Challenges in Education-To-Clinical Transition, Retired Nurse Utilization, and Leadership Training for Asian American Nurses: A Joint Venture of Nurses Association and Leadership Foundation

Duck-Hee Kang, Aisil Shon, Insook Yoon, Myung Cho, Sunja Park-Kim, and Joobong Park

Background: Asian American nurses face many challenges in the American healthcare system. New graduates are less competitive in making education-to-practice transition, and experienced nurses find a delayed promotion to leadership roles. Cultural differences, language limitation, inadequate orientation to work environment, and different social norms and values are some of the barriers. To overcome barriers, resources and training programs must be better organized and utilized. The primary goal of this symposium is to present the examples of innovative approaches for narrowing the gaps via active collaboration between New York Korean Nurses Association (NYKNA) and Global Korean Nursing Foundation (GKNF).

Programs: Four projects will be highlighted: (1) Nurse Clinical Transitional Program for Asian American new nursing graduates to ease the transition from education to practice - collaboration among NYKNA, GKNF, and nursing schools; (2) Retired Nurse Program to highlight the utilization of potential resources for training new nurses in need and improving community healthcare services; (3) Leadership training and networking for nurses in academia and practice - GKNF fellowship and mentorship programs; and (4) NYKNA-GKNF collaborative projects to share the academic and practice expertise, do cross mentoring, and develop an educational loan program for Asian American nurses. The joint ventures maximizing resources from both practice and academia will empower Asian American nurse workforce.

Outcomes and Impact: The potential impact includes the increased skills and confidence for successful job performance at the individual levels, and empowerment of Asian American workforce and leadership contributing to the quality of health care for all at the global level.

Discussion/Conclusion: Joint ventures between practice and academia may bring many synergistic effects for promoting education, practice, and healthcare. Innovative programs need to be further supported and expanded to help other groups in need.

Leadership Program

On August 7-8, 2015, the GKNF-USA held the inaugural leadership program titled "Leadership Program for a Successful Academic Career," at Mercy Center, Burlingame in San Francisco, CA, targeting the Korean American faculty. The leadership program was hosted by Dr. Oi Saeng Hong, President of GKNF-USA and Professor at University of California, San Francisco (UCSF). A total of 22 participants attended the program, which featured presentations from prominent Korean-American Nurse Leaders. The presentation topics were as follows: Leadership Essentials for Scholarship, Strategies for Successful Academic Career as a Nurse Educator and Researcher, Successful Transition to Academia, Tenure and Promotion, Grant Writing, Publication (Manuscript writing), and Public Speaking (Scholarly work). Two panel discussions were held, one addressing the question, "What would I have done differently in my academic career?", and the second on "Alternative ways to join academia." The various topics covered in the program prompted attendees to actively engage in open discussion and participation. Attendees shared their academic and research expertise and provided valuable advancement to academic thinking. The following are notes from the attendees that capture the essence and significance of the leadership program and express special appreciation to the GKNF board members.

"I am most grateful for our seon-bae-nim-dul for their knowledge, wisdom, passion, and above all, their amazing generosity in giving and being of service to others. Their presentations not only nourished my brain but also my heart and soul. It was truly an humbling experience for me and I came away inspired to do more and be more. I would like to give my sincere thank you to seon-sang-nim dul who worked so hard to make this conference happen.” (Sarah Choi, PhD, RN, FNP)

“This was the first special work shop specifically targeting the Korean American faculty. I would also like to emphasize that all attendees were highly motivated and also engaged in the discussion that I personally was impressed and pleased.” (Kunsook Song Bernstein, RN, PhD, PMHNP-BC, FAAN)

“By far, one of the most helpful and useful conferences I have attended. Very well-organized and well thought out in topics/contents choices and logistics/venue. Conference setting and environment were conducive to learning, thinking, and networking. Small group facilitated individual level advice and open discussion.” (anonymous participant)
News Update of Members

Dr. Misook Chung
(University of Kentucky, College of Nursing)

(1) Promotion

Dr. Misook Chung has been promoted to tenured full professor in this summer. She is a co-director and research scientist with the RICH Heart Program based in the College of Nursing, University of Kentucky.

(http://www.uky.edu/nursing/faculty-research-practice/faculty/chung-misook-lee)

(2) Publications


(3) Two abstracts were selected as the best abstracts at the international conferences.

1. Chung, M. L., Bakas, T., Plue, L. D., & Williams, L. S. (November, 2015). Gender moderates the associations between caregiving and health status in stroke caregivers. Poster presentation of the Best of AHA Specialty Conference at the 2015 Scientific Session of the American Heart Association, Orlando, FL. This abstract was within top 10% of abstract at the AHA International Stroke Conference and it was reinvited to present at the AHA Scientific Session.


Dr. Mijung Park
(University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing)

(1) Grant - Received K1 from NINR

(2) Publications


(3) News - AAPINA-Okura Mental Health Leadership Fellow

### Organization

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<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
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### For Contributions to the GKNF

- **Bank information:** MB Financial Bank
- **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

### Editorial Board

Chief Editor: Dr. JooBong Park
Assistants: Dr. Dal Lae Chin, Dr. Linda Kim