

# GKNF-USA

## 2023 Newsletter

Celebrating on the 20th Anniversary

### President Message

## The Story Behind Our Preparation for the GKNF's 20th Anniversary in Korea

First and foremost, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all the key leaders and board members of GKNF-Korea, including Secretary General Eunha Noh and staff members from the GKNF office in Korea, as well as GKNF-USA, who worked to prepare the GKNF's 20th anniversary over the last 10 months. Without their tireless work and dedication, we would not have been able to plan and execute this event successfully.

After deciding to celebrate the GKNF's 20th anniversary in Korea, the leadership team, consisting of key leaders from both GKNF-Korea and GKNF-USA, initiated virtual meetings in January 2023 to develop specific plans. As a first step, the group decided to have this event in collaboration with the 2023 International Nursing Conference hosted by the College of Nursing at Yonsei University. Recognizing the conference as an opportune moment for our celebration, we communicated a decision with Dr. Hyeonkyeong Lee, program director for the Yonsei International Nursing Conference. Through continuous and in-depth conversations involving leaders from the GKNF and the College of Nursing at Yonsei University, October 6 and 7 emerged as the optimal dates for the joint event. The conference, titled "Person-Centered, Technology-Driven Health Care Innovation Toward Health Equity," took place on October 6, day one of the international conference, while October 7, day two, was dedicated to celebrating 20 years of the GKNF, established in Los Angeles in 2003.

**Young-Me Lee, PhD, RN**

**Professor and Vincent DePaul Professor  
School of Nursing, DePaul University**

For October 6, the GKNF prepared and sponsored a section titled "GKNF 20th Anniversary Special Symposium: Technology and Collaboration Partnership in Global Nursing and Health." A dedicated team was assembled for this session, including Dr. Misook L Chung, representing GKNF-USA, and Dr. Hyeonkyeong Lee, representing GKNF-Korea, alongside two additional members from Korea. They had regular virtual meetings to prepare and extend invitations to panelists for the session. They reached out to globally recognized scholars to find the best match for this topic. They were able to finalize and invite three panelists to run this session.



## President Message

Two additional teams were formed for October 7, designated as the day to celebrate the GKNF's 20th anniversary. One team was tasked with developing a program for the 7th, while the other focused on compiling and publishing a comprehensive history book describing all the works, activities, and events that the GKNF has been involved in over the past 20 years. Dr. Taewha Lee and Dr. Euisook Kim, representing GKNF-Korea, joined forces with Dr. Mi Ja Kim, Dr. Minkyong Song, and myself, representing GKNF-USA, to form the group to develop a program for October 7. We discussed various excellent ideas to ensure the event aligned well with the GKNF mission.



To create the GKNF history book, several board members were invited to participate in this significant project. Volunteers from Korea included Dr. Sookjung Lee, Dr. Euisook Kim, Dr. Sohyun Park, Dr. Gasil Oh, and Secretary General Eunha Noh. Volunteers from the United States comprised Dr. JooBong Park, Dr. Minseung Chu, Dr. Hyejin Kim, and myself. Under the leadership of Dr. Sookjung Lee, the Korean team and the U.S. team independently delved into historical documents, organizing all events chronologically. The process of scouring through old documents proved challenging for everyone involved. We also contacted board members to uncover insights into GKNF's past. The process was sometimes frustrating and time-consuming, leading to mental and physical exhaustion for all team members. In the beginning, I found myself struggling. However, as time went on, I enjoyed searching through our past and arrived at a more comprehensive understanding of the GKNF. Our 10 months of dedicated effort and hard work finally paid off, and we published a GKNF history book titled 'Rewards and Hope for the GKNF Anniversary.' We express our gratitude to all the GKNF members from our past for their contributions to our organization. During the final meeting of the history book editorial team, we celebrated the successful accomplishment of our task and reflected on the lengthy journey. We praised and consoled each other for the devotion and effort we put in together. It was very emotional and touching.

Overall, participating in the preparation of the 20th-anniversary event was a pleasant and enjoyable experience for me, and learning more about the GKNF helped me feel a stronger connection with our GKNF-Korea members. Even though the whole process of preparing for this event was not easy for us, the GKNF members from Korea and the United States have developed connections, partnerships, and friendships. This was not our first time preparing an event for the GKNF in either Korea or the United States. However, the 20th anniversary celebration strengthened the bond between our U.S. and Korean members, reminding us that we are sister organizations that gain strength through collaboration.

I confess that it was not always easy in the beginning, but by the end I was enjoying working with the GKNF's Korean and U.S. members.

**Young-Me Lee, PhD, RN**

**President of GKNF-USA**

# GKNF 20th Anniversary: Enduring Global Nursing Leadership Future of Digital Health Care



**Angela HaeJeong Jun,  
DNP, FNP-BC, ACHPN**

**Associate Clinical Professor  
University of California, Irvine  
Sue and Bill Gross School of Nursing**

We are delighted to share with you the highlights from the GKNF 20th-anniversary special symposium titled "Technology and Collaborative Partnership in Global Nursing Health" held on Oct 6, 2023. This symposium was part of the 2023 Yonsei International Nursing Conference in Seoul, Korea.

The Global Korean Nurses Foundation (GKNF) marked its 20th anniversary with a special symposium, "Technology and Collaborative Partnership in Global Nursing Health," at the 2023 Yonsei International Nursing Conference in Seoul, Korea. Dr. Lee, Young-Me, President of GKNF-USA and professor at the School of Nursing, DePaul University, led the symposium, opening it with remarks by Dr. Taewha Lee, Chair of GKNF-Korea and professor at the School of Nursing, Yonsei University. Three distinguished presenters from different countries shared their insights during the symposium.

## GKNF 20th-anniversary special Symposium "Technology and Collaborative Partnership in Global Nursing Health" Presentors

**Dr. Hugh McKenna**

Professor  
Ulster University

"Addressing Challenges and Opportunities in  
Artificial Intelligence: A Key Role"

**Dr. Michele Rumsy**

Professor  
University of Technology Sydney

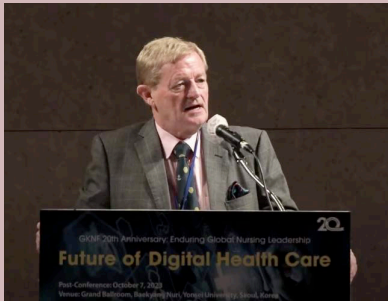
"Nursing and Midwifery Workforce Development:  
Successful Applications of Appropriate Technology"

**Dr. Hyunsook Kim**

Professor  
Kyung Hee University

"Nursing Education in Low and Middle-Income  
Countries"

# GKNF 20th Anniversary: Enduring Global Nursing Leadership Future of Digital Health Care



The keynote speaker for this special event was Dr. Hugh McKeena, a professor at Ulster University, United Kingdom and a distinguished presenter from the GKNF-supported symposium during the 2023 Yonsei International Nursing Conference. Dr. McKeena delivered profound insights on "Three Pillars for Enduring Global Leadership."



In the subsequent plenary session, Dr. Misook Lee Chung, a professor and co-director of the RICH Heart program at the University of Kentucky, presented her groundbreaking work addressing cardiovascular health issues in the poverty-stricken Appalachia region. Her innovative use of digital health technology showcased the transformative impact nursing can have on the lives of underserved populations.

To commemorate the 20th anniversary, GKNF-USA and GKNF-Korea collaborated to host the GKNF 20th-anniversary special symposium at the 2023 Yonsei International Nursing Conference, titled "Enduring Global Nursing Leadership" on Oct 7, 2023. During the opening ceremony, Eun Ha Roh, Secretary-General of GKNF-Korea, introduced the rich history of the GKNF. This poignant moment allowed for reflection on our journey, filling us with pride and reaffirming our continued commitment to another century of impactful work.



Dr. Jennie De Gagne, a professor at Duke University, delivered a timely talk on "AI in Health Education Innovation and Impacts." Her presentation served as a catalyst for faculty in higher education,

encouraging them to embrace AI as an essential tool in shaping the future of healthcare education.

Dr. Seon Heui Lee, a professor at Gachon University in Korea, shared her research project on digital healthcare for old adults.

Her presentation highlighted nurses' vital role in leading community and academia-partnered projects, emphasizing the critical role of nursing in the digital healthcare era for old adults.



# GKNF 20th Anniversary: Enduring Global Nursing Leadership Future of Digital Health Care

The event was further enriched by a delicious lunch provided by the GKNF, made possible by the generous support of Jung Ja Chwa, a devoted advisory committee member of GKNF-USA. During the luncheon, we took a moment to acknowledge and express our gratitude to the five contributors who played a key role in the success of the GKNF initiatives: Suji Kim, Mo Im Kim, JooBong Park, and Connie Eunja Kim. Dr. Soo Kim received on behalf of Dr. Suji Kim, who had then passed away. Dr. Youngme Lee, the president of GKNF-USA, received it on behalf of Connie Eunja Kim who was unable to attend the event.

This moment provided a valuable opportunity to express our appreciation to all our generous donors, acknowledging their crucial role in advancing the GKNF's mission. We extend our sincere thanks for their ongoing support, and we look forward to continuing our journey of global nursing leadership together.

The event achieved success in several aspects, with a turnout of over 200 attendees. The positive engagement and diverse participation underscored the event's meaningful impact, creating a welcoming environment for valuable interactions and discussions.



After the event, core members from GKNF-USA and Korea met for a debriefing session. They discussed the event's achievements, areas for improvement, and encouraged GKNF-Korea members to attend the 2023 GKNF-USA Annual Conference in Chicago from December 8 to 10. This collaborative discussion provided valuable insights for refining future conferences.

The event was a success on multiple fronts, drawing in more than 200 attendees. The enthusiastic engagement of diverse participants highlighted the meaningful impact of the occasion, fostering a welcoming environment for valuable interactions and discussions.

# GKNF Member News



## Young-Me Lee PhD, RN

Professor and Vincent DePaul Professor  
School of Nursing  
DePaul University

The GKNF President Dr. Young-Me Lee was honored with the Provost's Award for Excellence in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion as a founding member of the "Nursing During COVID-19" Research Team. This award acknowledges individual faculty members or groups demonstrating excellence in advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion at DePaul and was announced at the University Convocation on August 31, 2023.



## Chil Sook Kwon, DNP, ANP-BC, PCNP, RN

Adjunct Assistant Professor  
Hunter College  
City University of New York  
Elmhurst Hospital

Dr. Chilsook Kwon was recognized with the prestigious Maes-MacInness Award for Innovative Contributions, highlighting her outstanding endeavors in clinical innovation on behalf of professional nursing. Over the past decade, Dr. Kwon has dedicated her efforts to serving undocumented individuals without health insurance at a free clinic. Her commitment extends beyond conventional boundaries, as she actively facilitates access to healthcare through the 'NYC Care' program—a specialized healthcare access initiative for medically underserved individuals, offered at New York City hospitals with minimal charges. The program brings patients with serious illnesses to Elmhurst Hospital where she works, resulting in numerous recoveries from life-threatening conditions. This notable achievement was acknowledged at the NYU Rory Meyers College of Nursing "Dean's Alumni Awards Lunch and Keynote" on Saturday, October 28, 2023.

***Congratulations to you!***



## GKNF Member News



### **Sun S Kim PhD, APRN-BC, FAAN**

Professor  
Manning College of Nursing and Health Sciences  
University of Massachusetts Boston

Dr. Kim was promoted to full professor effective on September 1, 2023. She was first appointed as an associate professor in 2014 and then tenured in 2018. Dr. Kim's program of research centers on developing culturally tailored smoking cessation interventions, especially for underserved populations such as Asian immigrants, people living with mental illness, and people living with HIV. Dr. Kim is a board-certified clinical nurse specialist in adult psychiatric mental health. She currently works as a co-investigator on a project exploring substance use problems among Asian Americans. The Bureau of Substance Addiction Services within the Massachusetts Department of Public Health funded the project.



### **Jeungok Choi, PhD, MPH, RN**

Professor  
Elaine Marieb College of Nursing  
University of Massachusetts Amherst

Dr. Choi was promoted to full professor effective September 1, 2023. Since joining UMass EMCON in 2007, her research endeavors have centered around the exploration of innovation and technology for health management.



## New Board Member



### **Hyejin Kim, PhD, RN**

Assistant Professor  
Department of Adult Health & Gerontological Nursing  
College of Nursing Rush University

Dr. Hyejin Kim's research focuses on the psychological and social aspects of late-life cognitive changes, including Alzheimer's disease, related dementias, and mild cognitive impairment. Dr. Kim is committed to improving the well-being of older adults dealing with cognitive impairment and their family members. Currently, she and her research team are developing a pilot project of stress reduction intervention tailored for underserved populations, specifically targeting Korean-American dementia family caregivers—an ethnic minority in the United States.

### **Eunhee Park, PhD, RN, PHNA-BC**

Assistant Professor  
School of Nursing  
University at Buffalo

Dr. Eunhee Park's research program aims to develop, implement, and disseminate effective interventions to mitigate the harms of risky behaviors, with a specific focus on smoking and substance use prevention among young people with low socioeconomic status (SES). Her multifaceted research agenda encompasses three primary lines of inquiry: understanding the mechanisms and contextual factors of risk behaviors among young people, devising innovative intervention strategies utilizing technology, the internet and media, and formulating implementation and dissemination plans for sustainable health outcomes.



## New Board Member

### Kay Yang, DNP, RNC-OB

Assistant Professor  
Patricia A. Chin School of Nursing  
California State University, Los Angeles

Dr. Kay Yang brings over 30 years of professional experience in tertiary healthcare institutions to her current role in her school, where she has held diverse leadership positions. This transition into nursing education provides an exciting opportunity for Dr. Yang to actively engage with and mentor the future generation of nurses. Her academic focus centers on evidence-based, effective, and efficient nursing practices across all levels of care, with a specific emphasis on promoting women's health and nurturing nursing leadership. Dr. Yang earned her Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) from California State University, Los Angeles, specializing in leadership, management, and administration. She completed her Master's at the University of Illinois at Chicago and obtained her baccalaureate from Seoul National University in Korea.



### Sangwoo Ahn, PhD, RN

Assistant Professor  
College of Nursing  
The University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Dr. Sangwoo Ahn obtained his PhD in Nursing from the University of Minnesota School of Nursing, with prior training in geriatric nursing (BSN and MSN from Yonsei University, Seoul, Korea). His research program is dedicated to identifying effective strategies for delaying the onset of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, along with mitigating the burdensome aspects of caregiving through non-pharmacological approaches, such as promoting healthy lifestyles, including physical activity.

# GKNF Scientific Scholarship Award



## **Min Jeong Jeon, MSN, RN, ARPN, CPNP-PC**

PhD Candidate  
School of Nursing  
George Washington University

Ms. Jeon is a primary care pediatric nurse practitioner certified by the Pediatric Nursing Verification Board. Her research interests include health disparities, child health, women/mothers living with HIV, and HPV infection and vaccination.

## **Geunyeong Cha, MSN, RN**

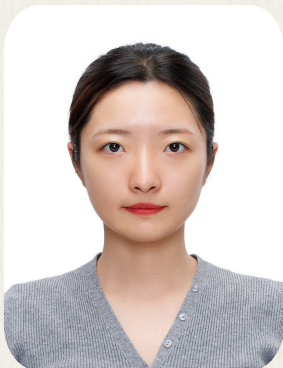
PhD Candidate  
College of Nursing  
University of Kentucky

Ms. Cha's research delves into the physical function and psychological distress of cardiac patients, particularly focusing on the benefits of therapeutic yoga for older adults who have completed facility-based cardiac rehabilitation. To address the challenges of maintaining self-care in these patients, Ms. Cha explores sustainable care options. She aims to bridge the gap in long-term studies on physical activity and stress management after interventions like cardiac rehabilitation and home-based exercise. Her goal is to enhance the impact of secondary cardiovascular prevention in aging populations.



## **Eunjung Ko, MSN, RN, AGPCNP-BC**

PhD Candidate  
College of Nursing  
Ohio State University



Ms. Ko's research interests encompass dementia caregiving, minority populations, mental health, and interventional studies. She earned her bachelor's degree in nursing from Chung Ang University in South Korea and her master's degree in nursing from New York University. Throughout her master's and doctoral programs, she has actively contributed as a graduate research assistant and associate, engaging in technology-based interventions for breast cancer survivors and caregivers of individuals living with dementia. Eunjung's dissertation concentrates on first and second-generation East Asian American immigrant dementia caregivers, exploring their help-seeking behaviors to enhance their own mental health.

# GKNF Scientific Scholarship Award & Ann S. Jhin Scholarship Award



**Seo Yoon Lee, MPH, BSN, RN**

PhD Candidate  
College of Nursing  
University of Illinois at Chicago

Ms. Lee obtained a BSN and an MPH with a concentration in health policy and management from South Korea in 2013 and 2016, respectively. Her research, centered on healthcare service outcomes influenced by health policy, was enriched during her master's program. As a research assistant, she contributed to multiple studies by employing large datasets, which included hospital administrative datasets.

Currently, her dissertation research – inspired by a prior grant project during her master's program – aims to estimate patient-level nursing costs and explore associated patient and nurse factors. She envisions that defining patient-level nursing costs will significantly impact patient and nurse outcomes, which would align with her long-term goal of improving the quality and efficiency of nursing care services. Concurrently, Ms. Lee actively contributes to the Global Korean Nursing Foundation, supports Korean nurse leaders, leads the UIC College of Nursing PhD Mentorship program, and represents the College of Nursing in the Your Future in Science Seminar Committee at the Center for Clinical and Translational Science, University of Illinois at Chicago.

## Mi Ja Kim Research Grant



**Eunhee Park, PhD, RN, APHN-BC**

Assistant Professor  
School of Nursing  
University at Buffalo

Eunhee Park's program of research is to develop, implement, and disseminate effective interventions that reduce the harms of risky behaviors, particularly focusing on smoking and substance use prevention among young people with low SES. Her research pursues three lines of inquiry including the following: (1) understanding the mechanisms and contextual factors of risk behaviors among young people, (2) finding innovative intervention strategies using technology, internet, and media, and (3) developing implementation and dissemination plans for sustainable health outcomes.

# Duck Hee Kang

## Distinguished Mentoring Award



### **Jung-Ah Lee, PhD, RN, FGSA, FAAN**

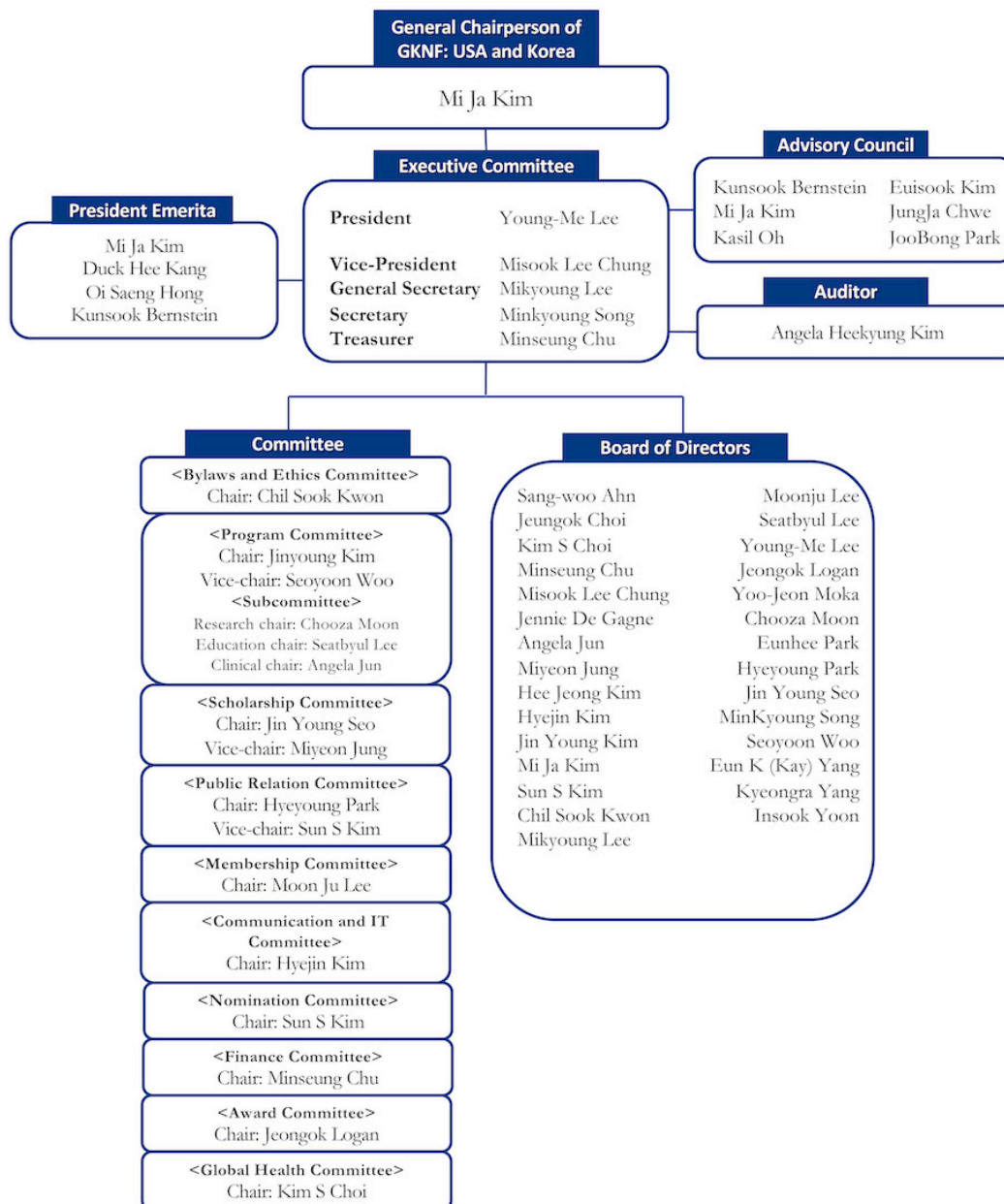
Professor and Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belongings  
Sue & Bill Gross School of Nursing  
University of California, Irvine

Dr. Jung-Ah Lee is a nurse scientist with expertise in gerontology and health service research using mixed methods. Her research focuses primarily on translational approach improving care delivery and quality of life for patients and caregivers. Within this focus, a recurring theme of her work is to explore racial and ethnic disparities in quality of care. Culturally sensitive approaches to care delivery in chronic diseases such as dementia is a primary consideration of her research. Currently, she is the primary principal investigator of an NIH/NIA - funded dementia caregiver support study.

As a founding faculty member at UCI, Dr. Lee has mentored numerous nursing students across all programs from prelicensure to doctoral programs, providing compassionate mentoring for under-represented students and junior nursing scholars. Through her continuous support and mentorship, her mentees successfully received scholarships, research awards, academic positions, and tenure promotions. Currently she is the President-elect of the American Asian and Pacific Islander Nurses Association (AAPINA) and a board director at the National Coalition for Ethnic Minority Nurses Association (NCEMNA) contributing to the improvement of diversity/equity in health care. She is a fellow of the Gerontological Society of America (GSA) and the American Academy of Nursing (AAN).



# GKNF Organization Chart



# Public Relation Committee News



## New GKNF Public Relations Committee Email

**Your central hub for communications!**

- Contact us at [\[GKNF.comms@gmail.com\]](mailto:GKNF.comms@gmail.com) for all newsletter and public relations matters.

## New Publishing Schedule

- Our newsletter is issued twice a year.
- January-June edition in July, July-December edition in January.
- Share your news with GKNF members – we welcome your contributions!

## Follow Us on X (Twitter) !

- GKNF has a new Twitter account [[@GKNFnews](https://twitter.com/GKNFnews)].
- Stay connected for updates, events, and engaging content.



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APT 3203  
Chicago, IL 60611



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