



COMMONWEALTH NURSES AND MIDWIVES FEDERATION

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CNMF 21st BIENNIAL MEETING 2014

Historic constitutional changes endorsed

The 21st Biennial Meeting of the Commonwealth Nurses Federation was held in London Friday 7 March 2014. At the meeting, members endorsed a change of name to the Commonwealth Nurses and Midwives Federation. Other changes to the constitution were an expansion of membership categories and the addition of a values clause. In relation to the name change, the CNMF Board emphasised the inclusion of 'midwives' in the title did not constitute an endorsement of midwifery as a separate profession to nursing. In some Commonwealth countries, midwifery is a direct entry program and midwifery a separate, although closely linked, profession; however in other Commonwealth countries a nursing qualification is a pre-requisite to undertaking a midwifery qualification. An underpinning value of the CNMF is for countries to be self-determining in relation to this issue and for the CNMF to be inclusive of all countries of the Commonwealth. The same philosophy of inclusiveness was also behind the expansion of membership categories. The new constitution is available on the CNMF website: <http://www.commonwealthnurses.org>.

AWESOME!

This was the way participants at the 2nd Commonwealth Nurses Conference, *Nurses and Midwives: agents of change*, described the conference held 8-9 March 2014 in London. Two hundred nurses from 26 Commonwealth countries attended the conference which was held at the beautiful and historic Royal College of Physicians. The conference had four themes: maternal and child health; mental health; primary health care; and acute and chronic health care. Papers presented at the conference were of an exceptionally high quality. The papers will be uploaded to the CNMF website. The proposed dates for the 3rd Commonwealth Nurses Conference which will be held in London are 5-6 March 2016. The conference announcement and call for abstracts will be issued this coming September.



Conference delegates say farewell by joining hands and singing Auld Lang Syne

PAKISTAN NURSES FEDERATION LOSES GREAT LEADER



The Pakistan Nurses Federation announced the death on 16 November 2013 of their beloved Secretary-General, Mrs Nisab Akhtar, who was known as the 'mother of nursing' in Pakistan. Mrs Nisab was Pakistan's Chief Nursing Officer. She was also Secretary-General of the Pakistan Nurses Federation from 1988 until her death. Mrs Akhtar was an outstanding nursing leader, greatly loved in Pakistan, and highly regarded internationally. She will be greatly missed.

NEW CNMF PRESIDENT MEETS THE QUEEN

The new CNMF President, Dr Ramziah Binti Ahmad, from Malaysia, attended the Commonwealth Secretariat reception at Marlborough House on Monday 10 March to celebrate Commonwealth Day. During the reception, Dr Ramziah was delighted to be presented to the Queen (Dr Ahmad is dressed in blue). Commonwealth Day is celebrated the second Monday in March each year. Representatives from national nursing associations attending the 21st CNF Biennial meeting also celebrated Commonwealth Day by attending a commemorative service at Westminster Abbey hosted by the Queen and Prince Philip.



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CNMF FAREWELLS SUSIE KONG

The 21st CNF Biennial Conference farewelled Susie Kong, President of the CNF for the past nine years, and expressed appreciation for her inspirational and transformational leadership. When taking over the Presidency, Susie had a vision for the CNF which she worked hard to see realised during her term of office, bequeathing a strong and vital organisation to her successor. Susie has had an illustrious nursing career and has been an outstanding leader, nationally in Singapore, and internationally. The CNF has benefitted greatly from her energy, commitment and wisdom.



ARC MEETS IN NAIROBI, KENYA Year 3 1st Learning Session



The African Regulatory Collaborative (ARC) held the first learning session of Year 3 of the initiative in Nairobi Kenya in February 2014 for the eleven countries awarded Year 3 grants. The countries are: Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Seychelles, South Africa, South Sudan, Swaziland, Uganda and Zambia. The countries are undertaking a range of regulatory projects including establishing national continuing professional development programs, revising scopes of practice, and developing entry-to-practice licensing examinations. In Year 3, eleven countries were awarded grants compared with five countries in the first year of the initiative, clearly demonstrating the success of the initiative.

MEET THE NEW CNMF BOARD

The new CNMF Board has been announced. In addition to an elected President and Vice President, the CNMF has six regions: Asia; Pacific; Europe; West Africa; East, Central and Southern Africa; and the Atlantic. Each region elects a Board member for a four year term. The Board member for the Asia region is still to be appointed. The new CNMF Board met following the 2nd Commonwealth Nurses Conference to set priorities and plan activities for the forthcoming four years.



Ramziah Ahmad
Malaysia (President)



Kath McCourt
UK (Vice President)



Hossinatu Mary Kanu
Sierra Leone (West Africa)



Paula Hancock
UK (Europe)



Rosemarie Josey
Bahamas (Atlantic)



Lee Thomas
Australia (Pacific)



Paul Magesa Mashauri
Tanzania (East, Central and Southern Africa)

Immediate priorities are to register the name change to the Commonwealth Nurses and Midwives Federation; update the existing website to incorporate the new name; update the Constitution to reflect the new name and the change to membership categories; and notify prospective members of the changes to membership categories. The key priorities are outlined in the CNMF Strategic Plan 2014-2016 which is available on the CNMF website: <http://www.commonwealthnurses.org>.

WHERE THERE IS NO DOCTOR

Where there is no doctor is a widely-used health care manual from Hesperian Health Guides for health workers, educators, and others involved in primary health care and health promotion in any setting. The current edition includes updated information on malaria and HIV. *Where there is no doctor* can be downloaded free from the Hesperian website: <http://hesperian.org/books-and-resources/>.

In May 2013, Hesperian Health Guides teamed up with Worldreader, an e-reader based literacy building program, to deliver, *Where there is no doctor* on Kindle devices throughout sub-Saharan Africa. Since its release for eBook in 2013, Worldreader has placed *Where there is no doctor* on over 1,300 e-readers in Ghana, Kenya and Uganda. Each e-reader device is shared by an entire classroom and can be taken home by students in primary and secondary schools, or by a teacher. With vital medical information readily available, students and teachers are learning about prevention and care for common illnesses and conditions and are sharing the information with friends and families. *Where there is no doctor* can also be downloaded free in PDF format from the Hesperian Health Guides website.

Other titles of interest which can also be downloaded free from the Hesperian website are:

- *Where there is no dentist*
- *Where women have no doctor*
- *A book for midwives.*

<http://hesperian.org/books-and-resources/>