



# COMMONWEALTH NURSES FEDERATION

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## 2013 CNF COMMONWEALTH FELLOWS



The CNF is very pleased to announce that Ms Alice Mvu and Mr Chido Katsambe from Zimbabwe have been successful in being awarded a 2013 Commonwealth Fellowship. Both Alice and Chido are based in Chitungwiza Central Hospital, Alice in maternity and Chido in paediatrics. They have strong support from their hospital administration for their Fellowship which will provide them with the opportunity to further develop their leadership skills and update their knowledge in relation to midwifery and paediatric care. Alice and Chido will commence their three month Fellowship in April 2013. The CNF is delighted to have the opportunity to sponsor two more Fellows, young nurse leaders, and congratulates Alice and Chido on their success.

## BOTSWANA DEVELOPS NATIONAL CPD PROGRAM

Botswana was one of six countries awarded a Year 2 ARC (African Regulatory Collaborative) grant in 2012. Botswana's proposal was to develop a national continuing education program for nurses and midwives. The ARC grant provided the funding and the opportunity for the Botswana ARC Team to develop the national program. The Botswana CPD Advisory Committee met over four days of intensive deliberation to develop the draft national program which was then presented to a wider stakeholder group for comment and input. The Botswana ARC Team is now developing an implementation plan to launch the national CPD program in 2013.

The Botswana ARC Team consists of representatives of the Botswana Nursing and Midwifery Council, the Botswana Chief Nurse, the Botswana Nurses Union, and the Botswana nursing and midwifery education sector. The CNF provided technical assistance in the development of the program.



## COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT UPDATE

The Commonwealth Secretary General submitted a new version of the proposed strategic plan for the Commonwealth Secretariat at a meeting of the Secretariat's Board of Governors held in London at the end of November. A copy of the latest version can be found on the website of the Commonwealth Health Professions Alliance: <http://www.chpa.co>. While the latest version briefly mentions health, there are no indications whether there will be infrastructure, personnel or resources to support health activities. The plan appears to place a great deal of emphasis on a 'health hub' to be established through the online platform of Commonwealth Connects. Commonwealth Connects can never be a substitute for on the ground activities and direct interventions such as projects and technical assistance. While a 'health hub' could act as a repository for resources, it operates in a similar manner to other online 'chat' facilities: people need to be invited, accept the invitation and commit to participation. The current reach of the Commonwealth Secretariat Health Section through the Commonwealth Ministries of Health and the membership of the Commonwealth Health Professions Alliance (national associations of nurses, doctors, pharmacists, dentists, and community health workers) is millions of people. An online 'health hub' can never be an adequate substitute; quite apart from the fact that, someone has to drive and monitor the hub which takes infrastructure, personnel and resources. A further meeting of the Secretariat Board of Governors is scheduled for the end of January. The CNF will continue lobbying for health to be given priority together with supporting infrastructure. CNF members and friends can help by lobbying their countries High Commissioners based in London.

## COMING EVENTS



10<sup>th</sup> CNF Europe Region Conference  
*Advancing nursing and midwifery through evidence based practice*  
15-16 March 2013 Larnaca Cyprus  
For more information go to: <http://www.cyna.org>



Tanzania Nursing and Midwifery Council  
60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference  
*Looking back and thinking ahead*  
16-19 March 2013 Dar es Salaam, Tanzania  
For more information go to: <http://www.tnmc.go.tz>



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## COMMONWEALTH FOUNDATION UPDATE

The Commonwealth Foundation announced as part of its new strategic plan that the dedicated funding stream for Commonwealth accredited civil society associations (CAs), which gave them privileged access annually to core funding as well as activity funding, will no longer be available. Instead, three funding rounds will be offered each year which will be open to all civil society organisations across the Commonwealth. CAs will have to compete for grant funding along with every other civil society organisation. This decision has significant implications for the CNF which has relied on the annual grant from the Commonwealth Foundation to support its work and provide essential core funding. The Commonwealth Foundation argue that they have a responsibility for all civil society across the Commonwealth and that as accreditation is a function of the Commonwealth Secretariat, accredited CAs are the Secretariat's responsibility. The Commonwealth Foundation has set up a Transition Committee on which the CNF is represented to assist Commonwealth accredited organisations to transition to the new arrangements.

The CNF Board will be considering the implications for the future work program of the CNF. Access to a dedicated funding stream from the Commonwealth Foundation in the past has allowed some certainty for the CNF. The current competitive environment for access to grant funding is a considerable concern. In a previous open funding round, the Commonwealth Foundation had 600 applications and finally approved six. The CNF was advised their application reached the last 23 however that did not result in a grant being awarded. The capacity of the CNF and other small CAs to be constantly applying for grants is very limited.

Early in 2013, a transition plan will be developed by the CNF Board and circulated to members for comment. The CNF is a very cost effective organisation. In partnership with members, the CNF is already providing cost effective in-country education, training and capacity building. All CNF communication mediums, such as the website, the e-News and the journal are managed in-house to reduce costs. With every challenge, there is an opportunity and the CNF Board while very conscious of the challenge are determined to make the most of the opportunity and strengthen the CNF in the process.

## SAVE THE DATE - PLAN TO BE THERE

2<sup>nd</sup> COMMONWEALTH NURSES CONFERENCE 2014

London UK 8-9 March 2014

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Commonwealth Nurses Conference will be held in London 8-9 March 2014 on the eve of Commonwealth Week. The Conference will be preceded by the 21<sup>st</sup> CNF Biennial Meeting on Friday 7 March. If the Inaugural Commonwealth Nurses Conference is any indication, the 2<sup>nd</sup> conference will be a 'must attend' event so mark it in your diary and plan to attend: a 'Call for Abstracts' will be circulated early in 2013.



## Conference 2014

Commonwealth Nurses Federation

**NURSES AND MIDWIVES:  
AGENTS OF CHANGE**

2<sup>nd</sup> Commonwealth Nurses Conference  
Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 March 2014  
London United Kingdom

### Conference Announcement

The conference will be based around key themes and will provide an opportunity for nurses and midwives to showcase their practice and share their contribution to improving the health and wellbeing of citizens of the Commonwealth. The conference is being held on the eve of Commonwealth Week 10-14 March 2014; so come and join the celebrations and fun on Commonwealth Day Monday 10 March 2014 and other Commonwealth Week events.

## ICN CONGRESS

ICN 25th Quadrennial Congress  
*Equity and Access to Health Care*

18-23 May 2013 Melbourne Australia

**REGISTRATION NOW OPEN**

Go to: <http://www.icn2013.ch/en/>



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