

REPORT: SIGMA THETA TAU INTERNATIONAL (STTI) CONFERENCE, LAS VEGAS, USA, 7–11 NOVEMBER 2015

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INTRODUCTION

Four delegates from the Department of Health Studies attended the conference. They were Dr Maboe, Dr Masango, Dr Mokoboto-Zwane, Mrs Makua and Prof Mavhandu-Mudzusi. The theme of the conference was “Serve Locally, Transform regionally, Lead Globally”. The objectives of the conference were to:

- Identify strategies that promote collaboration in interprofessional initiatives
- Enrich the achievement of knowledge, leadership and professional service to promote and sustain collaboration amongst diverse communities
- Explore innovative strategies to promote excellence in global nursing
- Enhance clinical, patient and educational outcomes through transformative nursing practice

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

The grand opening was done on the first day of the conference. This was done in style where approximately fifty-one flags of different countries were displayed.



Welcome Address

The President of STTI, Prof. Klopper, welcomed all the delegates. In her welcoming address, she indicated that the conference has become the most visible embodiment of the STTI mission. This mission is to advance world health and to celebrate nursing excellence in scholarship, leadership and service. She indicated that delegates will be afforded an opportunity to share ideas, knowledge, and perspectives of experiences that unite us as a global network of nurses, whether they are clinicians, researchers, educators, or policymakers. The conference represents a tremendous opportunity to exchange evidence-based information and to learn with and from one another. The conference brought together nearly 2 500 delegates from around the world. More than 1 000 oral, symposia and poster presentations detailed the latest clinical innovations, critical research projects and important leadership initiatives. She encouraged delegates to explore the vibrant city of Las Vegas and the wonderful Aiala Resort.

Presentations

The sessions of presentations were divided accordingly as follows:

- Developing leadership skills in new nurses
- Cultural competence in Nursing Education
- Improving Nursing practices in the clinical environment
- Developing nurse leaders
- Caring for the public health
- Developing online nursing education

I presented a poster related to online technologies in an Open Distance Education. The students indicated that they still struggle with the utilisation of technology. They are frustrated by the university systems, which are offline and worse during peak hours such as during assignment submission and registration. Students need support from the educators and the University.

Dr Masango presented a poster titled “Experiences of newly qualified nurses allocated to critical care units in their first year post-graduation”. Mrs Makua presented a paper on developing leadership skills in new nurses.

Awards

Three awards were given. They are:

- Founders Awards celebration being the most prestigious awards of the convention.
- Tribute Awards event.

- Chapter Awards Recognition Event, which recognises chapters and chapter leaders for their continued success in membership engagement and programming.

APPRECIATION

Networking channels were established. An opportunity was granted to present our posters for academic growth. Unisa management is thanked for affording us an opportunity to attend the conference.