

Report to Participants in the *Universitas 21* Heads of Nursing Meeting

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A meeting of Heads of *Universitas 21* Nursing Schools was convened to run in conjunction with the *Universitas 21* Deans of Medicine Meeting held at the National University of Singapore on 23rd and 24th November, 2000.

Meeting Agenda

The meeting commenced with a working dinner on the evening of Wednesday November 22nd. This provided an opportunity for those present to meet informally and to hear short presentations about the major activities of each Nursing School.

The meeting proper commenced on the morning of Thursday November 23rd. The Heads of Nursing took part in the opening of the Medical Deans meeting and heard the Welcome and Introduction by Lee Eng Hin, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Singapore, the Opening Address given by Professor Shih Choon Fong, Vice-Chancellor of the National University of Singapore and the Introductory Address given by Professor Richard Larkins, Dean of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences at The University of Melbourne.

The Heads of Nursing meeting was conducted subsequently over the remaining one and a half days. The overall purpose of the meeting was to discuss how successful collaborations between *Universitas 21* Member Nursing Schools may be achieved and to facilitate the development of a set of recommendations for setting up *Universitas 21* collaborations between Schools. More specifically, the meeting addressed the issues of Curriculum Development, Student and Staff Exchange, Practice Development/Improvement, Research and Collaborative Partnerships within the *Universitas 21* Nursing Schools network.

Specific goals were to:

- identify common areas of research which may enable collaborative work
- explore existing and potential areas of graduate curriculum where collaboration may be fruitful
- share information regarding undergraduate and postgraduate courses
- propose how collaborative curriculum development using multi-media may be developed
- explore avenues for student and staff exchange within the *Universitas 21* Nursing Network

- exchange information about research carried out by higher degree students in order to facilitate communication between research students and expert nursing academics from *Universitas 21*-member and affiliated institutions
- explore problems and strategies surrounding practice training and theoretical training in nursing
- discuss the implementation of research findings to improve nursing practice
- discuss the development of a set of recommendations for enhancing the interaction between practice, training and research within the *Universitas 21* Network.

Meeting Outcomes

Outcomes of the meeting were several:

1. Recognition by participants that this group of Schools of Nursing, based in research-intensive Universities world-wide, is unique internationally. An agreement was reached that the formation of a network of these Nursing Schools would constitute an excellent platform for the development of a range of collaborative endeavours.
2. Agreement to set up a shared database to facilitate the sharing of information between Nursing Schools. Information concerning curriculum, research, staff and student teaching and research interests and contact information are planned to be stored in the database for ease of access by Faculty from *Universitas 21* Nursing Schools. Dr. Heather Wharrad and Professor Shake Ketefian agreed to discuss with Professor Peter Harris the design of a database template to enable the collection, storage and updating of this information.
3. Agreement to organise and attend a second *Universitas 21* Heads of Nursing meeting within the next twelve months. The Heads of Nursing found the interactions facilitated by this meeting to be very valuable and accordingly plan to meet again in a year. A planning sub-committee of six persons, comprising Professors Judith Parker, Laurie Gottlieb, Ada Sue Hinshaw, Colette Clifford, Margaret Horsburgh and Lorraine Smith, will be responsible for planning this meeting. It is planned that this meeting will again run in conjunction with a meeting of *Universitas 21* Medical Deans. It is a goal of the committee to once again structure the Heads of Nursing meeting to allow a session conducted collaboratively with the Deans of Medicine.
4. Agreement to the establishment of an electronic email network. The Heads of Nursing have agreed to utilize a common emailing list to facilitate ongoing communication and collaboration between Faculty at *Universitas 21* Schools of Nursing. Group members will keep one another informed regarding developments in research and teaching at respective Nursing Schools, and keep the group informed of *Universitas 21*-related developments.
5. Developments in collaborative arrangements between specific *Universitas 21* Nursing Schools. As well as facilitating agreements about the conduct of research and

teaching collaborations and exchanges, the Heads of Nursing meeting provided the opportunity for one-to-one discussions between Heads of Nursing Schools that may potentially result in the achievement of collaborative agreements between specific Nursing Schools.