

APACPH REPORT – 2017 – NORTH AMERICA

Prepared by: North American Regional Director, Elahe Nezami, PhD

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

This year has allowed for the implementation of many of the suggestions for future action made in the 2016 North American regional report, specifically activities intended to expand American universities' awareness of, and interest in, the efforts and purpose of APACPH. Once again, collaborations among APACPH institutions were submitted for presentation and publication at American academic conferences and were accepted as such. In addition to a collaborative presentation in 2016 made to great acclaim, another abstract was accepted for presentation in the autumn of 2017. This will occur at the American Public Health Association annual meeting. The American Public Health Association (APHA) annual meeting and conference attracts participants from academia, non-government organizations, the public service and government sectors, with specific focus on public health and its importance to all of the above. In November of 2017, the meeting will occur in Atlanta, Georgia, USA, and will provide an ideal venue to highlight the efforts of joint scholarship among APACPH member institutions. I look forward to once again presenting there. Beyond showcasing academic programming and resultant research endeavors nationally, I have continued to serve as an advocate at my home university, the University of Southern California, for collaboration of our departments and schools with esteemed colleagues from APACPH to expand program offerings. Central to my role as North American Regional Director are my efforts to grow partnerships and relationships with new universities and programs throughout the U.S. and abroad whose contributions and scholarship would benefit the aims of both the institutions themselves and the broader goals of APACPH.

APHA

In the autumn of 2016, I served as an oral presenter at the national APHA conference in Denver, Colorado, USA. The presentation was entitled “Case studies in global competence: preparing students to become culturally competent caregivers,” and was forged in collaboration with my APACPH colleagues from the University of Malaysia and Taiwan Medical University. The oral presentation was well attended, and many questions were asked about the best ways to forge international partnerships. In the interim, I submitted a new abstract to examine educational collaborations that promote mutually beneficial learning experiences in the U.S. and abroad. Again this presentation is based extensively on my work with APACPH colleagues, and their names appear as authors on the abstract. Once again, I will make an oral presentation on this topic and network with conference attendees interested in this program and similar possibilities for their own universities. In so doing, I will be able to emphasize the importance of building relationships with international partners to expose students to a variety of experiences that inform their ideas of both global and public health, and from which everyone, students and their nations' populations, benefits in the long run. This presentation will demonstrate the importance of forging relationships with colleagues from around the world as necessary for collaboration on programs and partnerships that mutually benefit institutions in our home countries. The presentation will describe APACPH as the

common bond among the authors, and familiarize the audience with its work and its goal to expand membership. Without the bonds we have made through APACPH and the shared goal we have of working together to bring countries' education and citizenry to a better understanding of public health, locally and internationally, we would be unable to collaborate so successfully to create opportunities for education in a global context. Sharing that with a new audience of educators will present a great opportunity for growth and expansion for APACPH.

Student Exchange Programs

Ongoing collaboration among peer institutions in the Asia-Pacific region has allowed for the successful continuation of existing program collaborations, which enable benefit to all partners involved, from students to faculty and administrators. I am grateful to work with my colleagues from the University of Malaysia, who successfully hosted an exchange program with our students. I am eager to send a new cohort of students to our longtime partners from Taiwan Medical University (TMU), with whom we have successfully offered exchange programs for years. I also am prepared to work with other colleagues to collaborate on new ways to engage with each other's universities, and look forward to connecting in person and online through APACPH. The exchanges of students, faculty, and staff that are carried out around the world, and facilitated by our APACPH partnership, are critical to our own programs' educational goals. Sharing our home countries' healthcare systems, both the good and the bad, grants students a broader view of the needs and challenges of different countries, as well as a view of universal issues that will need to be addressed regardless of where one may be. The unique exposure granted by these exchanges is the first step in truly educating the public in global challenges. It is our great hope that students will use the insights they gain to work toward health equity and healthcare as a human right across the globe.

Brief Overview of Prospective Member Institution

Oregon Health and Science University

<http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/education/schools/school-of-medicine/>

Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) is the state's only comprehensive public academic health center. Its fundamental purpose is to improve the health and well being of people in Oregon and beyond. A ten-member Board of Directors nominated by the Governor and confirmed by the Oregon Senate governs the university.

As Oregon's only public academic health center, OHSU educates the physicians, nurses, dentists, and other health care professionals who will lead the state's health care providers in the future. Our students thrive through innovative curricula, access to world-class tools and experiences, and learning new ways of working in the health professions.

The institution has six schools: pharmacy, medicine, dentistry, public health, rural health, and nursing, preparing students for service in a wide variety of clinical careers.

(<http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/education/>)

Enrollment numbers:

620: M.D. students; **811:** graduate studies students; 229: total Ph.D. students; 85: physician assistant students

The following excerpt from OHSU's web site gives specific indications as to the institution's Public Health department's mission and values:

“To provide professional education, research, and innovative public service in health promotion and the prevention and control of illness and injury utilizing a population-based perspective.”

Additionally, OHSU recently developed a new research-specific vision statement:

“Advance health through excellence in scientific discovery, fueled by a diverse culture that enables collaboration and inspires innovation.”

(http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/education/schools/school-of-medicine/news-and-events/research_vision_2017.cfm)

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE ACTION

The continued development, growth, and expansion, as reasonable and desirable to partners, of academic exchanges and partnerships is of great benefit to universities, and, eventually, the global health workforce, as more students will gain a broader understanding of the world in which they live and the challenges individual places and populations face. I fully support further networking and discussions with member institutions to address such possibilities, and to maintain and revise those we have in place currently for their optimization. Likewise, further attempts to make presentations at American and international conferences that would host potential members in the audience and organizational membership would be effective ways to reach many prospective members at once, and I will remain engaged in efforts to do so. Additionally, I intend to pursue opportunities for academic publication to highlight the successes of APACPH member institutions in forging partnerships that have lasting impact for public and global health. I appreciate the executive board's support in these endeavors and remain committed to expanding the reach of our organization in the U.S. and beyond.