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# **Penn Nursing Collaborates with Partners In Health to Support Global Nursing**



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## Making A Connection

Weeks before the world understood that COVID-19 was a pandemic, Penn Nursing, a WHO Collaborating Center for Nursing and Midwifery Leadership, had connected with nursing leadership at Partners In Health (PIH) to invite them to consider how we might contribute to the impactful work for which PIH is known and celebrated. Many excellent ideas were considered and then the world changed.... PIH needed to shift significant focus to the COVID-19 response, globally and locally. Months later the conversation continued, and a project was identified.

## The Project

Launched in 2017, Partners In Health's Global Nurse Executive Fellowship (GNEF), formerly the Nightingale Fellowship, is a twelve-month program that facilitates the development of culturally humble and confident nursing and midwifery senior and executive leaders who address current and emerging global health challenges by transforming health systems and, ultimately, improving population health.

The fellowship has four core components: 1) three week-long intensive learning sessions; 2) ten-month self-directed online learning program; 3) individualized executive coaching and mentorship; and 4) implementation of a capstone leadership project. The program's curriculum is rooted in current pedagogical approaches and is divided into three broad categories that deal with "leading self," "leading others" and "leading systems." Leading self focuses on the fellows establishing a better understanding of themselves as leaders, leading others focuses on acquiring skills and knowledge to better lead and manage others and leading systems focuses on leading at an organizational and systems level.

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## Collaborating through Penn Global Nursing Fellowship

To collaborate with Partner In Health's Global Nurse Executive Fellowship (GNEF), we utilized our Penn Global Nursing Fellowship (PGNF) program. This had been designed several years earlier, in response to the desire of our graduates (alumni) to engage in meaningful global health work. The PGNF program would provide financial and Penn faculty mentoring support that allowed Penn Global Nursing Fellows to commit a significant amount of time (usually a minimum of three months) to a worthwhile global effort. The mechanics of the PGNF program involve matching of host-organization-specified needs with skills that our alumni Fellows, along with a Penn Nursing Faculty mentor, can provide.

Through the wonders of the virtual environment, we have been obliged to operate in, in early 2021, Partners In Health (PIH) became a host organization for not one, but two Penn Renfield Foundation Global Nursing Fellows\* (not to be confused with PIH's Global Nurse Executive Fellows, GNEF). Once PIH had specified their needs, Penn Nursing built a team made up of Faculty Mentor, Hanne S. Harbison, MHSPH, MSN, WHNP-BC, the Director of our Women's Health Gender Related Nurse Practitioner Track;; Alumna Fellow, Barbara Doyle, RN, MSN, PMP, who had previously served as a healthcare Peace Corps Volunteer in Gabon; and Alumna Fellow, Luca Koritsanszky, RN, MPH who had worked for more than five years with Lifebox Foundation, a non-profit for safety of global surgery.

The Penn Nursing Team was incorporated into PIH's core Global Nursing Executive Fellowship team, working with ten global fellows from six different countries – five in Africa plus Haiti. The Penn Team was initially called upon to provide support developing a mid-term evaluation survey using accepted monitoring and evaluation (M&E) best practices, feedback on curriculum content, as well as teaching assistance and one-on-one support with fellows.

## The Expansion

At the end of March, 2021, given the skills the Penn Renfield Foundation Global Nursing Fellows and their mentor had demonstrated over the prior weeks, in the areas of curriculum review, monitoring and evaluation, and mentoring, the PIH GNEF co-lead, Melissa T Ojemeni, RN, PhD, asked the Penn Team to also lend support to a pressing need of their Zanmi Lasante (ZL) team at the Hôpital Universitaire de Mirebalais (HUM) in Haiti. The ZL team requested this assistance for a critical care curriculum that will be conducted for nurses across Haiti. The Penn Nursing Team has been tremendously agile in moving across projects. They are enthusiastic and gratified to be able to collaborate with Partners in Health to support the enhancement of global nursing. The Fellowship period will continue through October 2021.

\*Fellowships available through the Penn Global Nursing Fellowship program have been made possible through the Beatrice Renfield Foundation and individual funders.