

Facilitating eHealth for all through Connecting Nurses and the Women Observatory for eHealth

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1. Panel Organization

Members of this panel will include:

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2. Panel Description

Nurses are at the forefront of health care delivery and are key to health improvements across populations worldwide. They play vital role in the treatment of communicable diseases and in maintaining optimal quality of life for those living with long-term conditions. A number of factors such as an ageing population, a shrinking nursing workforce, inequity and variable access to health services naturally point towards technology-focused solutions. However the uptake of eHealth tools and techniques by nurses and their integration with nursing practice remain patchy, not least because of nurses simply ‘not knowing’ that good solutions exist. The purpose of this panel is to describe initiatives that seek to identify and showcase good practice in the use of eHealth in nursing.

Keywords. eHealth, technology, nursing

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2.1. Description

Innovative digital tools and services are fast expanding, and the Connecting Nurses (www.connecting-nurses.com) programme is a worldwide patient-centric programme for nurses supported by Sanofi Patient Centricity Unit and developed in collaboration with international nursing organisations such as the International Council of Nurses (ICN). ICN is a federation of over 130 national nurses organisations which indirectly represents the interests of over 16 million nurses worldwide. The ICN eHealth Programme has as its strategic aim to transform nursing and improve health through the visionary application of information and communication technologies. The ICN eHealth Programme takes as one of its workstreams Connecting Nurses.

Connecting Nurses intends to provide a forum for nurses from around the world to share their ideas, advice and innovations, and contribute to patient empowerment. The aim is simply to bring nurses together. Connecting Nurses provides an online forum for nurses from around the world to share ideas, advice and innovations, both among themselves and with other health care professionals (HCP), patients, caregivers, and the general public.

As an integrated part of Connecting Nurses, Care Challenge (<http://www.care-challenge.com>) has been created to celebrate the important role the nursing community plays in healthcare provision around the world, while addressing the challenges which arise within modern healthcare systems. Nurses are able to submit, on an ongoing basis, a summary of their initiative i.e. the problem, the solution and the anticipated results, either under a general nursing category or under more specific chronic disease like diabetes, cardiovascular, or renal care. The programme is focused on identifying nursing innovations related to: Education (resources promoting patient self-management or raising community awareness of a disease); Practice (nursing services, procedures, techniques or tools promoting patient self-management of disease or new ways to support families and caregivers); and, Research (studies of outcomes of innovative approaches to nursing, patient care, and patient education). Submissions are showcased via the Care Challenge platform for users to discover, “like”, or share through social media. Best projects are supported for example through the production of high-quality video showcasing the nurse and how her/his project benefits to patients.

To improve the focus on eHealth, mHealth and Telemedicine initiatives, the Millennium2025 Foundation "Women Observatory for eHealth" (WeObservatory) (<http://www.millennia2015.org/WeObservatory>) has partnered with Connecting Nurses since 2013. The overall objective of the WeObservatory is to serve as an Innovation Resource Center to promote women’s empowerment through the access and use of advanced technologies for health, combined with innovative integrated collaborative leadership programs within the Global Framework of the UN SDGs 3 and 5 (<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>). eHealth nursing projects address women’s health needs, scaling up programmes to full realization and a vision of the future by 2025. By end of 2015, the WeObservatory had provided support to 13 innovative nursing projects in Africa, America, Asia and Europe. The projects (http://www.millennia2015.org/WeObs_Selected_Projects) cover Mental Health (Canada and Congo DR), HIV (Canada), ePrevention (Peru), Wound Care (France), Diabetes and young children and FootCare (Spain, Kosovo), Maternal

Health (Spain, Nigeria, Philippines), Older people and Telehealth (Philippines), Telemedicine (USA) and Emergencies during disasters (Philippines). Multilingualism, highlighted as a crucial need for women, is addressed with UniversalNurse Speaker (<http://www.u-nurses.com/>), a new translation tool that facilitates multilingual healthcare communication across language boundaries between nurses and patients. UniversalNurse Speaker is tailored to support nurses in communicating with patients, and vice versa, in multiple languages. This empowers nurses to deliver care to patients in diverse multicultural settings. UniversalNurse Speaker is powered by UniversalDoctor translation technology used by hospitals and patients worldwide (<http://www.universaldocor.com/>). Nurses also benefit from a selection of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) to improve their education on digital tools and services, in English, French and Spanish. In 2015, 340 Moocs were available at the Intelligence MOOCs Commons for Women and eHealth (WeMOOCS : <http://www.millennia2015.org/moocs>).

Connecting Nurses and the WeObservatory will continue showcasing eHealth nursing projects all over the world to ensure that eHealth for all becomes a reality and benefits the populations that need it most.