

## **Academic Leaders Form New Global Alliance on Nursing Education to Focus on Improving Patient Care Worldwide**

WASHINGTON, D.C., January 18, 2006 – Four of the world’s leading nursing education organizations have established a new alliance to improve patient care through nursing education and ensure a robust global supply of highly educated nurses. Formed in December 2005, the Global Alliance on Nursing Education (GANE) includes representatives from Australia & New Zealand, Canada, the United Kingdom, and the United States who are committed to enhancing the educational preparation of registered nurses (RNs), expanding opportunities for nursing education, and addressing student enrollment concerns, including the growing shortage of nurse faculty. GANE members include the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), the Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing (CASN), the Council of Deans and Heads of United Kingdom University Faculties of Nursing and Health Professions (CoD), and the Council of Deans of Nursing and Midwifery (Australia & New Zealand) (CDNM (ANZ)).

“AACN is pleased to join with our colleagues from around the world to focus on nursing education’s future and address shared nursing workforce concerns,” said AACN President Dr. Jean Bartels. “By working together, academic leaders can build nursing’s science base, ensure efficient knowledge transfers, and enhance the educational preparation of all nurses with the goal of providing better patient care.”

Professor Dame Jill Macleod Clark, Chair of the Council of Deans and Heads of United Kingdom University Faculties of Nursing and Health Professions (CoD), invited members of the four founding organizations to an inaugural meeting in London in December 2005 to plan the creation of an alliance to address universal nursing education concerns. GANE representatives identified many common issues and areas of mutual interest and collaboration. They also discussed opportunities to share nursing knowledge and best practices, and ways in which this new alliance could complement the work of other international organizations focused primarily on nursing practice rather than nursing education.

Dame Jill said “We saw a unique opportunity to harness the intellectual capital and expertise of these well established nursing education organizations and to influence professional policy and care delivery agendas at the inaugural planning meeting of GANE.”

As a result of the initial planning meeting, participants developed a common set of assumptions for the new alliance which included (1) that the increasing complexity of the health care system requires an improved skill base for RNs; and (2) that RNs should be prepared at the baccalaureate-level. Agreement was reached that GANE membership should be limited to organizations that represent chief academic officers of nursing programs. Group members are particularly concerned about having an adequate future supply of nursing faculty and see the need to focus efforts on increasing the number of nurses prepared with master’s and doctoral degrees. Participants also identified opportunities to collectively strengthen academic nursing

requirements, enhance the education level of the current nursing workforce, and reduce health care disparities.

Professor John Daly Chair of the Council of Deans of Nursing & Midwifery (Australia & New Zealand) said “GANE will allow unprecedented opportunities for international collaboration to enhance the global growth and development of sustainable, quality professional nursing and midwifery. CDNM (ANZ) is excited about these new possibilities, and the potential for improvement in health care for all led by nurses and midwives.”

"CASN is very pleased to be a founding member of the newly formed Global Alliance on Nursing Education,” said Dr. Ellen Rukholm, President of the Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing. “During our initial planning meeting, we quickly identified that we face similar challenges in our respective countries, not the least of which is the growing shortage of appropriately prepared nursing faculty. We also share, however, many of the same values and goals, such as a common commitment to university nursing education. GANE will provide us with the opportunity to share strategies and successes, to collaborate on specific issues, and to move the nursing education agenda forward in the interest of healthier citizens. We are enthusiastic about the potential we see in this collaboration with our international colleagues."

GANE is currently planning next steps and identifying opportunities for future meetings. As the organizational charter and framework are refined, GANE will seek representation from other nations seeking to join this alliance.

*The **American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN)** is the national voice for university and four-year college education programs in nursing. Representing more than 585 member schools of nursing at public and private institutions nationwide, AACN's educational, research, governmental advocacy, data collection, publications, and other programs work to establish quality standards for bachelor's- and graduate-degree nursing education, assist deans and directors to implement those standards, influence the nursing profession to improve health care, and promote public support of baccalaureate and graduate nursing education, research, and practice. [www.aacn.nche.edu](http://www.aacn.nche.edu)*

*The **Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing (CASN)** is the national voice for nursing education and nursing research and represents nursing programs in Canada. The objectives of CASN are to lead nursing education and nursing scholarship in the interest of healthier Canadians. CASN speaks for Canadian nursing education and scholarship; establishes and promotes national standards of excellence for nursing education; promotes the advancement of nursing knowledge; facilitates the integration of theory, research and practice; contributes to public policy; and provides a national forum for issues in nursing education and research. <http://www.casn.ca>*

*The **Council of Deans and Heads of United Kingdom University Faculties and Health Professions** has 85 member universities throughout the United Kingdom. It is the principal source in higher education of collective views on all matters relating to education and research for Nurses & Health Professions. It aims to respond dynamically to the changes in the professions, and wider developments in health services and higher education. The Council works to maintain and enhance the quality of Nursing and Health Professions education, and acts as a forum for the exchange of information and good practice. It seeks to promote and represent nursing, midwifery and health visiting education and research through*

collaboration with government departments, professional and statutory bodies, higher education funding councils, Universities UK, research councils, and other organisations. <http://www.councilofdeans.org.uk>

*The **Council of Deans of Nursing and Midwifery (Australia & New Zealand)** (CDNM(ANZ)), formerly known as the Australian Council of Deans of Nursing (ACDN), is the peak organisation that represents the Deans and Heads of the Schools of Nursing in universities that offer undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in nursing and midwifery throughout Australia and New Zealand. Its aims are to ensure the maintenance of quality standards of university education for nurses and midwives, to be the voice of tertiary education for nurses and midwives, to lead and represent those who provide tertiary education to nurses and midwives and to promote the public image of nursing and midwifery.*

<http://www.cdnm.edu.au>

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