

**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year**

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**Introduction Newsletter.**

The European Region celebrated its first six years of operation at the 44<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention in Indianapolis from 28 October -1st November 2017. All six European Chapters were represented. We reflected on six years of intensive work in a range of task forces and committee work and recognised our achievements. We grasped the opportunity to meet face to face and plan the next stage of our development in taking forward the Regional goals through active discussion. Sigma is celebrating this year 95 years of stewardship in the nursing academical profession.

In [the program](#) and [website](#) you find more pictures. Also [Pictures of European tribute at the end of this newsletter](#)

**Dear European Members**

This will be my last communication in the role of European Regional co-ordinator after serving in this role for nearly four years. At Convention I hosted the European Regional meeting and provided a presentation on the State of the Region. The region continues to grow and develop and over the last four years have sustained activities such as the annual International Nurses day celebration, the Virtual PhD scholarly event, the biennial regional conferences and supported members from low and middle income countries to attend STTI events in Europe. In addition I established a task force on mentoring chaired by Dr Janet Scammell and the research committee chaired by Dr Harshida Patel have completed a research project on migrants' experiences of healthcare across Europe. It has been an honour and privilege to serve you all and I wish my successor Marie-Louise Luiking all the best for the future. May I take this opportunity to wish you all happy holidays over the festive period.

Regards,  
Joy



## Call to Action

Each biennium, Sigma installs a new president at the international level. At the 44<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention, we proudly installed Beth Tigges, PhD, RN, PNP, BC, and introduced her as the 32nd president of Sigma.



Each president presents a call to action to help guide members and chapters as we strive to fulfill our mission. Sigma's vision is to be the global organization of choice for nursing. To do so, President Tigges asks us to connect with fellow nurses and partners and work together to share our message, opportunities, and accomplishments. We should strive to make maximum use of cutting-edge technologies to digitally transform as an organization and advance the work of Sigma. To fulfill the Sigma mission, we should be intentionally collaborative. We are asked by President Tigges to expand our collaborative work with other nurses and partners outside of nursing, so we can more successfully fulfill our mission. To be the organization of choice for nursing and advance world health, Sigma should be a catalyst for action. Catalyze means to bring about, initiate, produce fundamental change, or transform. Our final call is to use our skills as practical, innovative, and visionary nurse leaders to transform global nursing.

## Changing CEO

This Biennial Convention we had to wave goodbye to Pat Thompson CEO of Sigma for the last 10 years and Past President. We know that she will still be involved with Sigma as the society moves forward.

We also welcome our new CEO Dr Elizabeth Madigan (Independence Foundation Professor of Nursing Education at Case Western Reserve University.)



Two members from each Chapter met at the House of Delegates for two days at the end of the Convention to elect the new Board and committee members and undertake the business of the society. Marie-Louise Luiking was elected as the new European Regional co-ordinator and promises greater engagement of the membership in all of its committees and activities. Professor Elizabeth Rosser (Phi Mu Chapter) and Dr Thóra Hafsteinsdottir remain on the STTI board of directors. There was a very clear message centrally and especially from the European Region that all members are encouraged to take a more active role in the work of the Society.

The European Regional group felt energised and re-invigorated to take

forward Beth's 'call to action'. The Chapters were encouraged specifically raise their profile within the Circle, the on-line communications facility to allow all members to engage in dialogue and discussion about major issues globally affecting Nursing.

There were a number of presentations at Convention by members of the European Region: Influencing through action in the European Region and Beyond. The research taskforce had a poster presentation; The dividends of collaboration: An STTI European research taskforce experience. A number of established Chapters approached the members of the European Region to express interest in collaboration.

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### European Research Taskforce

The members of this taskforce would like to share with the readers their progress so far. Collaboration within a team is very important for progression and results. Therefore, we thought that an abstract presentation at the Biennial Convention was apt from our group:

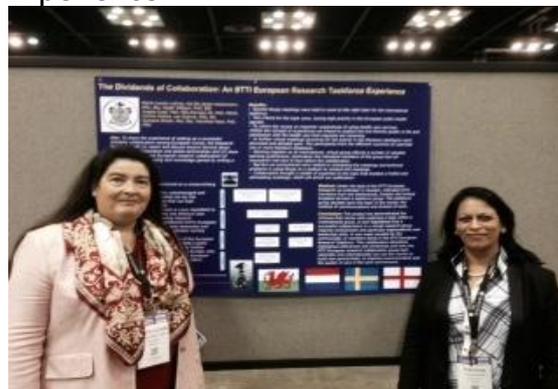


Edinburgh Napier  
UNIVERSITY

**Migrants Access and Encounters of Healthcare in a Host Country**

Dr Angela Kydd  
Associate Professor  
School of Health and Social Care  
[a.kydd@napier.ac.uk](mailto:a.kydd@napier.ac.uk)

The Dividends of Collaboration: An STTI European Research Taskforce Experience.



Through our process of research collaboration we have had many ideas and more data analysis from our topic of Migrant Healthcare experiences that we thought it was possible to share this with our colleagues attend in the Eureka Conference in Edinburgh in November: Migrants Access & Encounters of Healthcare in a host country. Our research endeavours have led us to writing a manuscript for the Nursing Scholarship journal which is now under review: Migrants' healthcare experience: a meta-ethnography review of the literature. We have 2 further abstracts for the STTIEC2018, Cambridge and 1 for the sigma Research Conference to be held in Melbourne, Australia in 2018. We are presently discussing our second and further collaboration at the moment with the Group.

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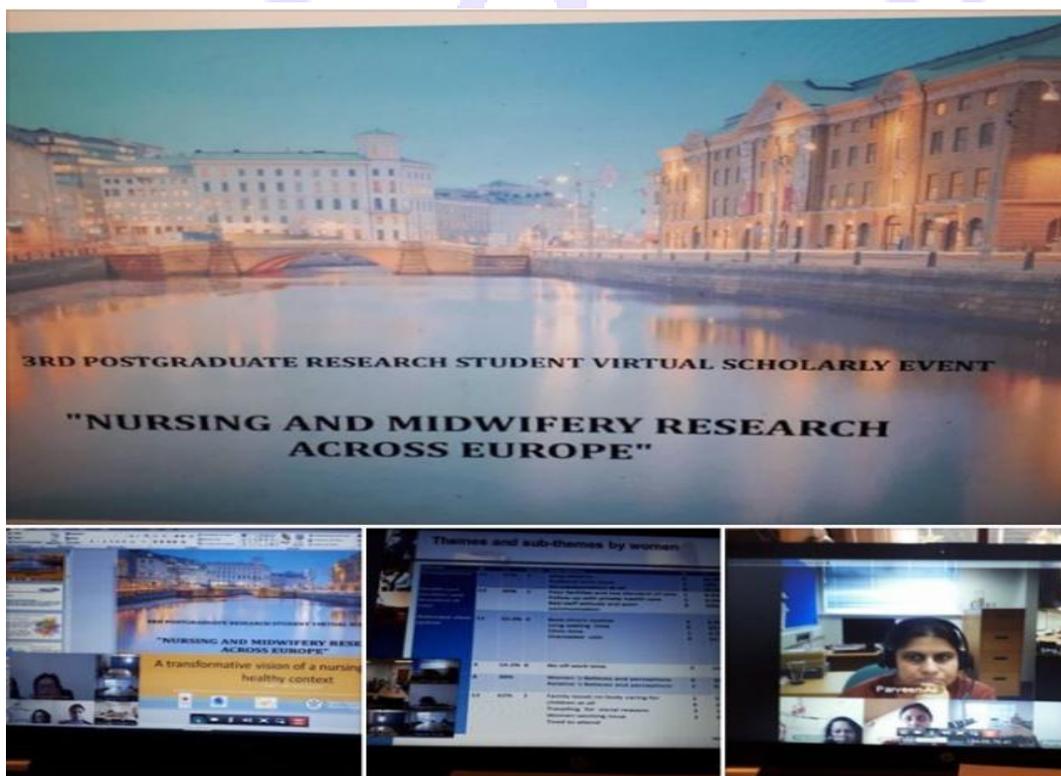
## Membership Involvement Taskforce

The members were involved in organising the 3rd STTI postgraduate student virtual scholarly event which was hosted by Tau Omega Chapter at Gothenburg University, Sweden on November 15, 2017. Aimed particularly at PhD students, the STTI 'Postgraduate Student Virtual Scholarly event,' connects PhD students from across Europe. This year's event was organized by Birgit Heckemann (PhD student, Maastricht University) and A/prof. Harshida Patel (Senior lecturer, Gothenburg University), both members of Tau Omega chapter. The meeting, which took place on November 15, 2017 was again a truly European event joined by presenters from Wales, England, Portugal and Sweden. This year chairs of topics were invited to give the event an extra level. We would like to acknowledge Parveen Ali and Marie-Louise Luiking for their time.

More information about the event can be found via this link.

<https://www.researchgate.net/project/Sigma-Theta-Tau-STTI-Postgraduate-Student-Virtual-Scholarly-Event-Nursing-and-Midwifery-Research-Across-Europe>

We are looking forward to the 4th STTI postgraduate Student virtual scholarly event in 2018!



### Rho Chi at -Large (NL)

This has been an exciting Biennial Convention for our chapter this time. A lot of hard work went into the preparations, so that we could enjoy the excellent presentations given by our fellow chapter members and members of STTI.

Our work started two years back at the end of the Biennial Convention in Las Vegas. We have a strategies plan which helps us through the biennium to organized events, sponsoring, keep in touch with want our members need. It was a great pleasure this time to receive our third consecutive Chapter Key Award. We also received Cathy Catrambone's 4 Presidential Calls to action award for recognizing chapter excellence and Health. Several Dutch members attended the convention with a number of other Dutch guests attending for the first time. Irina Anygel and Marie-Louise Luiking attended as the delegates for our chapter at the House of Delegates. We all enjoyed attending the reception given by Pat Thompson in respect of her retirement and we wish her well. At the Founders diner on the Monday evening Rho Chi was honored with the

were the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter outside of America to do so. Bianca Buijck and Anneke Guyt had a poster presentation: Lean-in-Stroke care: Reducing waste to increase efficiency. Marie-Louise Luiking gave a poster presentation on European Research collaboration. Chel Coenen from Nijmegen attended the convention. Eline de Kok & Thóra Hafsteinsdottir gave a presentation about: Developing global leaders, perspective of mentees. Timely as Sigma has just launched their new global mentoring & coaching initiative this summer. All these presentations can be found in the Virginia Henderson Global Nursing e- Repository.



Ethel Palmer Clarke Founders Award for chapter excellence. It was a double surprise to learn that evening that we



### Chapter Phi Xi (Portugal)

As a representative and delegate for the Phi Xi chapter it was an honor to participate at the Biennial Convention.

Our representation of the Phi Xi chapter included the President and Vice president (Lurdes Lomba and João Apostolo)

and also, a member of the chapter presenting an oral paper. Jorge's presentation promoting pediatric health had the title:

The effectiveness of home visiting programs for preventing child maltreatment. João and I already had had the chance to

participate before in previous Biennials, but for me it was the first time that I had the honor to be a delegate and to participate in the voting for important global decisions comprised in the Sigma bylaws. It was also important to be present at the European region coordinating



program for the next biennium. I was elected as President only a few months before and this was a prime opportunity to get to know our European

colleagues face to face, although our chapter had already started working with these colleagues and others in the global organization of Sigma Theta Tau.



At the opening ceremony it was exciting to represent our country and to carry the Portuguese flag, wearing a Portuguese outfit with all its heritage.

The biennial presented the opportunity to meet Cathy Catrambone personally. It was also a great opportunity to meet members from other regions and learn about their research work put forward in their posters and oral presentations which were on offer.

### Tau Omega (Sweden)

Here are a few words about the experiences of the Biennial from Tau Omega chapter attendee.

From Tau Omega chapter, Vice president Harshida Patel attended the biennial convention. She was honored to bear the Swedish flag during the opening ceremony. It was her second-time attendance at the Biennial convention, but first time experience of voting as a house of delegate. It was also an exciting experience to visit the STTI head quarter in Indianapolis and personal meet with all the leaders. This brought also an excellent opportunity to meet the colleagues from Europe and networking opportunities around the globe. Harshida had an oral presentation about her ongoing research, 'What do we know about Peripartum cardiomyopathy?'. Personally, I think this conference was very well organized and very successful. I fully enjoyed the one-week event with so many interesting seminars and discussions on various research and educational topics



### Phi Mu Chapter (England)

Six Chapter members attended the Biennium and all enjoyed networking with nursing colleagues from across the globe. There were some excellent plenary and concurrent sessions and we valued presenting our own work and receiving feedback:

Elizabeth Rosser Evaluating Action Learning for Strategic Clinical Leadership Among Consultant Nurses

<http://www.nursinglibrary.org/vhl/handle/10755/622859>

Elizabeth Rosser et al Global Perspectives on Leadership: Mentors' Experiences

<http://www.nursinglibrary.org/vhl/handle/10755/623043>

Liz Westcott Coaching Impact Circle: A Framework for Organisational Development <http://www.nursinglibrary.org/vhl/handle/10755/623291>

Janet Scammell et al: "Hanging On in There": A Qualitative Longitudinal Study Exploring Caring Values in Undergraduate Nurse Students

<http://www.nursinglibrary.org/vhl/handle/10755/622852>



We particularly enjoyed the new President's call to action and found it upbeat and inspiring. We participated in the European region meeting as well as the social event where it was great

*Janet Scammell Phi Mu Chapter president  
with England Flag*

to get to know people that we have previously only communicated with by email. Janet also participated in developing the regional presentation 'Influencing Through Action in the European Region and Beyond' although not in person as it clashed with her own presentation! The former European Taskforce on mentoring group also met to decide our way forward and agreed to focus upon developing a paper for publication together.

A particular highlight for Phi Mu was the presentation of a Distinguished Lifetime Achievement Award to a member of our all-England chapter, Dame Yvonne Moores, a recognition only achieved by five individuals previously in the almost 100-year history of Sigma. Previously Chief Nursing Officer for Wales, then Scotland, and subsequently England, Dame Yvonne was an adviser to the UK Prime Minister and to the Secretary of State for Health on policy. Her personal mission was to strive to improve the quality of clinical services and for this she was highly respected in her role. Subsequently she has taken the lead in leading some inspirational philanthropic work including a link between Poole Hospital in Southern England and hospitals in South Sudan and Uganda.



Elizabeth Rosser with Dame Yvonne Moore

### Upsilon Xi at Large (Welsh)

Professor Joy Merrell and Dr Angie Kydd attended Convention as the Upsilon Xi at Large Chapter delegates. Angie processed with the Welsh flag at the opening ceremony which is always an honour and we were encouraged to see so many new chapters being chartered. Joy presented with Marie Louise Luiking a presentation on behalf of the European Region titled 'Influencing through action in the European Region and beyond' which was very well received. The highlight of Convention is having the opportunity to meet and network with so many nurses from around the world. Joy had organised a social gathering for all European delegates and it was nice to spend time meeting face to face with colleagues across Europe who we mainly connect with virtually. Upsilon Xi at Large Chapter had hosted the International Nurses Day celebration in May 2017 and it was encouraging for this to be commended by President Beth Tigges as an example of effective collaboration, which is one of the main themes of her call to action. We were a little taken back by the new brand of Sigma as this was revealed for the first time at Convention, but we are adapting to it. Angie and I had productive meeting with Jessica Wendorff and Sabrina Collins-Christie about Chapter Health and gathered some useful tips for our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations next year. Angie and I also managed a trolley bus tour round Indianapolis in spite of the rain and the cold and we returned home exhausted but rejuvenated and motivated to share what we have learnt from Convention with our members.

### Chi Delta (Armenia)

I am Gayane Armenakyan, representative of Chi Delta Chapter of Armenia. This was my first-time attendance and I was very proud to be a part of the 44th Biennial Convention, and bear Armenian flag during the opening ceremony. I was inspired by the presentations of keynote speakers and nurses from different countries. The seminars were very productive. It creates a wonderful opportunity to encourage the nurses to develop new ways to improve their practice, leadership skills and patient care. I had the good chance to interact with STTI leaders and nurse colleagues from all over the world, personally which gave me opportunities to learn about their professional ethics, and attitudes for the nursing profession.

The STTI 32<sup>nd</sup> President Beth Tigges Presidential Call to Action: Connect, Collaborate, Catalyze will connect Armenian nurses for collaborative work with other nurses and partners to fulfil the Sigma mission.





## Calendar

Expressions of Interest for holding the 5th European Regional Conference. Closing date is March 1st, 2018.  
European Nurse Recognition Award. Closing date for nominations March 1st, 2018.  
4th European Regional Conference 4-6 June 2018.

STTI 29th International Nursing Research Congress in 2018, 19 th-23rd of July, Melbourne, Australia.

## GLOBAL NURSING EXCELLENCE Showcase of regional excellence awards.

<http://www.sigmanursing.org/advance-elevate/awards/xcellence/2015-2017-showcase-of-regional-excellence-recipient>

## Contacts

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**44TH BIENNIAL  
CONVENTION**

28 October - 1 November 2017  
Indianapolis, Indiana, USA



Pictures of European tribute

We Are Sigma

## Biennial Convention, 2017. Opening ceremony.



**44TH BIENNIAL  
CONVENTION**

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Indianapolis, Indiana, USA



**We Are Sigma**

## Poster Sessions



**44TH BIENNIAL  
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**We Are Sigma**

## Ethel Palmer Clarke Founders Award First chapter outside of the USA.



44TH BIENNIAL  
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We Are Sigma

## House of Delegates



**44TH BIENNIAL  
CONVENTION**

28 October - 1 November 2017  
Indianapolis, Indiana, USA



**We Are Sigma**

## New Sigma Board, Regional Coordinators & Committee members.



**44<sup>TH</sup> BIENNIAL  
CONVENTION**

**28 October - 1 November 2017**  
Indianapolis, Indiana, USA



next meeting STTIC2018



## **Sigma Theta Tau International 4th Biennial European Conference**

### **Leading Nursing in Times of Change: Education, Research and Practice**

4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> June 2018  
Cambridge, UK



The Phi Mu Chapter and Anglia Ruskin University look forward to welcoming you to Cambridge for the 4<sup>th</sup> Biennial European Conference in June 2018

Early Bird Registration Deadline – 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018

Conference website: [www.anglia.ac.uk/STTIEC2018](http://www.anglia.ac.uk/STTIEC2018)

Email: [STTIEC2018@anglia.ac.uk](mailto:STTIEC2018@anglia.ac.uk)

Facebook group: [www.facebook.com/groups/STTIEC2018/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/STTIEC2018/)

Twitter hashtag: #STTIEC2018