



MAY 2023

RESEARCH PULSE

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WELCOME TO RESEARCH PULSE

Hello everyone.

Welcome back to Research Pulse.

For this issue, we take the opportunity to highlight Curtin Singapore's research external engagements. These include a roundtable on rare and undiagnosed diseases, development of women in leadership in Vietnam, a panel discussion for International Women's Month, and participation in an open forum at the Charles Telfair Centre on the promotion of gender inclusive society. We are also delighted to have a PhD candidate to share her experiences with her PhD journey.

Once again, thank you for continuing to stay connected with Research Pulse.

Best Wishes,
Dr Adrian Tan
Research Director
Curtin Singapore

CONNECTING NURSES GLOBALLY: A Roundtable on Rare and Undiagnosed Diseases

Contributed by Dr. Carolyn Koh

A Roundtable in Rare and Undiagnosed Diseases (RUD) was held at the Curtin Singapore campus on 9 and 10 March 2023. This event was a collaboration involving the Rare Care Centre, Perth Children's Hospital, Western Australia, Curtin Singapore, and SingHealth Duke-NUS Genomic Medicine Centre. The focus was the critical role of nurses in caring for persons living with a rare or undiagnosed disease (PLWRUD). The event was opened by the Acting Australian High Commissioner to Singapore, Ms. Angela Robinson.

The purpose of the event is to build capacity through leadership, knowledge and skills via connections and collaborations among nurses working with PLWRUD across the globe. The Roundtable was successful in achieving the foundations of a global nursing network (GNN) and education program. The guiding principles for the GNN are:

- Equitable access and care
- Cultural safety and responsiveness
- Partnering with patients and families

A total of 33 nurses from 25 countries across the world representing both low- and high-income countries attended the event. Global leaders in RUD gave keynote presentations and facilitated the Roundtable workshops. These included Prof Gareth Baynam, Medical Director of the Rare Care Centre in Perth, Western Australia; Dr Saumya Shekhar Jamuar, Clinical Director of SingHealth Duke-NUS Institute of Precision Medicine and Clinical Geneticist at KK Women and Children's Hospital, Singapore; Dr Rachel Yang, Head of International Affairs, Chinese Alliance of Rare Diseases (CHARD); Dr Durhane Wong-Rieger, Chair of RDI, CEO and President of Canadian Organization of Rare Disorders (CORD); Michelle Conway, founder of a CRD Consulting and the previous CEO of Rare Disease Nurse Network UK; Prof Tracey Moroney, Head of Nursing School, Curtin University; A. Prof Birute Tumiene, Vilnius University, Lithuania, just to name a few.

CONNECTING NURSES GLOBALLY: A Roundtable on Rare and Undiagnosed Diseases

Contributed by Dr. Carolyn Koh

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The round table has provided the catalyst for raising awareness and educating nurses in RUD globally. It is hoped that the momentum will continue beyond this event and that the following can be achieved in the next twelve months:

- Transition of the Roundtable leadership organising committee to become the initial implementation committee
- Development of the Network strategy
- Secure a resource to drive the Network development and implementation
- Develop a business case for sustainability
- Establish a network entity with a clear governance structure
- Publish information about the Network (press statement, opinion piece, journal article)
- Leverage existing global relationships to legitimise the Network e.g. World Health Organization, Australian High Commission in Singapore
- Develop a plenary session to be included in nursing, rare disease and other relevant conferences

The event was sponsored by Perron Institute for Neurological and Translational Science, Takeda, Illumina, Sanofi and the Angela Wright Bennet Foundation.



The information for this article is taken from the Roundtable Event Summary prepared by Sue Baker, Programme Director, Rare Care Centre/Rare & Undiagnosed Diseases, Perth Children's Hospital, Western Australia.

DEVELOPING LEADERSHIP CAPABILITY FOR WOMEN LEADERS IN THE REGION - The Women in Leadership Journey 5 in Vietnam

Contributed by Dr. Tlen Nguyen

The Australia Awards Short Course “Women in Leadership Journey 5” (WILJ5) has recently been announced by the Vietnam – Australia Centre (VAC) for 2023, the year that marks the 50th anniversary of the diplomatic ties between Vietnam and Australia. The goal of the course is to equip Vietnamese women leaders with insights into leadership, gender equality and social inclusion, as well as other national and international issues, and to equip them with the necessary tools to become transformational leaders who can tackle national, regional, and global challenges in gender equality and inclusion.

The WILJ5 program is delivered by Curtin University, in partnership with the Centre for Gender Studies and Women's Leadership (GeLEAD) at the Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics (HCMA). The program comprises five steps, starting with the opening ceremony and a two-day workshop run by Curtin University in Hanoi on 25 and 26 March 2023. This was followed by a five-day intensive training program run by GeLEAD in Nha Trang from 3-7 April 2023. The program also includes elective activities in Hanoi from 1-3 June 2023, a training program in Australia (Perth, Canberra, and Sydney) from 17 July – 12 August 2023, and a symposium and graduation in Hanoi from 12-14 December 2023.



The WILJ5 program was officially launched in Hanoi, Vietnam, on 25th March 2023. Ms Cherie Russell, Development Counsellor from the Australian Embassy, presented a welcome address during the opening ceremony. In place of Professor Harlene Hayne, Vice Chancellor of Curtin University, Professor Vanessa Chang, Pro Vice-Chancellor of Curtin University's Faculty of Business and Law, addressed the cohort. She was joined by Professor Linley Lord, Pro Vice-Chancellor and President of Curtin Singapore, and Dr Samantha Owen, Director of Gender Equity and Inclusion and Academic Co-Lead of Curtin's Gender Research Network.

DEVELOPING LEADERSHIP CAPABILITY FOR WOMEN LEADERS IN THE REGION - The Women in Leadership Journey 5 in Vietnam

Contributed by Dr. Tien Nguyen

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Curtin University's project team includes gender-focused experts and researchers. Curtin Singapore is a significant contributor to the WILJ5 program, with Professor Linley Lord, the Pro Vice-Chancellor and President of Curtin Singapore, being a key expert trainer, and Dr Tien Nguyen, Curtin Singapore's Co-lead in the Gender Research Network, serving as the program's co-lead.

In step one, Professor Linley Lord and Dr Tien Nguyen were part of Curtin's expert trainers who worked with participants to identify opportunities, biases, and barriers to women in leadership, develop their leadership visions, and recognise the compatibility in gender issues across nations. Professor Lord gave a keynote address on the topic of women in leadership from a transnational perspective. Drawing on the extensive research conducted with her colleagues, Professor Lord shed light on global issues around the gender pay gap, and the under-representation of women on corporate boards, in leadership, and in STEM fields. Professor Lord provided insightful information about women's leadership frameworks and initiatives in Australia and at Curtin University, including the Academic Leadership program, which has the potential to be relevant and applicable to the Vietnamese context.



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In step two, Dr Tien Nguyen joined the GELEAD team in the five-day intensive training program in Nha Trang from 3-7 April. Dr Nguyen assisted the GELEAD team in building rapport with the participants, facilitating discussion, and organising field trips to strengthen participants' understanding of the issues faced by local ethnic minorities and women-led businesses.

Curtin Singapore will continue to contribute to the next steps of the WILJ5 program in Hanoi and Australia. We hope that our contribution will open up new doors for future collaboration and engagement with regional and Vietnamese government institutions and stakeholders.

Disclaimer: ChatGPT was used for proof-reading.

CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S MONTH 2023 -

Panel discussion: Gender equality - Is technology helping?

Contributed by Dr. Tien Nguyen

To celebrate International Women's day 2023, on March 29th, Curtin Singapore hosted a panel discussion titled "Gender Equality - Is technology helping", embracing UN Women's IWD 2023's theme of DigitALL: Innovation and Technology for Gender Equality. The event was a joint effort of Curtin Singapore, Curtin University Gender Research Network, and the student-led Curtin Singapore Business Club. The discussion included four distinguished panellists: Dr Rosemary Overell from NUS, Department of Communications and New Media, Ms Anna Green, Head of Amazon Web Services - Small and Medium Business, Asia Pacific and Japan, Ms Simran Toor, CEO of Singapore Her Empowerment, and Dr Samantha Owen, Curtin University's Director of Gender Equity and Inclusion. Professor Linley Lord, Pro Vice-Chancellor and President of Curtin Singapore, moderated the discussion and Dr Tien Nguyen, Curtin Singapore Co-Lead in the Gender Research Network, moderated the Q&A session.



The discussion revolved around the positive and negative impacts of technology on gender equality. The panellists started by highlighting the significant contribution of technology to gender equality. Firstly, technology has allowed more people, especially women, to be educated more effectively. Anyone can use technology for personal growth and development. Secondly, technology has provided women more access to economic opportunities. An example is with the wide use of remote work since Covid 19, more women have joined the workforce. Next, digital media has facilitated more open discussion on gender issues and has helped to raise awareness and change mindset. Finally, social media has allowed

women to unite to fight against gender issues and show support and empathy to each other. Examples are the #metoo movement, or the NZ's Instagram account: Beneath the glass ceiling.

CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S MONTH 2023 -

Panel discussion: Gender equality - Is technology helping?

Contributed by Dr. Tien Nguyen

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However, the panellists agreed that technology also places negative impacts on women and hinders gender equality. Recent research shows that 59% of women experiencing online abuse said that it affected their physical and mental well being, and destroyed their confidence and relationships. Social media and digital platforms are said to intensify forms of violence against women and produce new ways of inflicting that harm. Cyber abuse, sexual harassment and violence are prevalent in the digital world.

Ms Simran Toor, CEO of Singapore Her Empowerment, through her research, found that 60% of women between 15 and 35 in a survey have personally experienced online harm, and 57% of the respondents didn't know where to turn to if they experienced online harm. Moreover, young girls have retreated from online activities as a coping mechanism, which is not ideal as it takes away their opportunities and experiences. The panellists also emphasised that there is still little evidence and data on the short and long term psychological and physical impacts of online harm and the term "online harm" is often too general for women, especially young girls to identify the harm and seek help.

The panellists concluded that there is a lack of material understanding about the regulatory landscape for the online environment. As legislation and regulations around this area are still in the early days, it is strongly recommended that governments should continue to build legal frameworks to, firstly give women more access to digital and technology by working around infrastructure and affordability, and secondly, create a safer onlineplace for women and young girls. At the same time, the focus should also be on educating people, especially women, on how to protect and keep themselves safe in the online environment.

Disclaimer: ChatGPT was used for proof-reading.

PROMOTING GENDER INCLUSIVE WORKPLACES FOR A FAIRER SOCIETY:

International Open Forum held at Charles Telfair Centre

Official Press Release from the Charles Telfair Centre

April 8, 2023 – The Charles Telfair Centre, in partnership with Curtin University, Australia, University of Technology, Mauritius, and The Australian High Commission in Mauritius, hosted an international open forum on "Promoting Gender Inclusive Workplaces for a Fairer Society" on Wednesday, April 5, 2023 on the Charles Telfair Campus. Over 100 guests attended the event, which showcased the latest research on gender inclusivity in the workplace in Mauritius and provided a platform for engaging discussions on the pressing issues of gender discrimination and bias.



The forum featured two workshops, a panel discussion, keynote addresses, and video presentations from esteemed speakers such as Prof. Linley Lord (Pro Vice Chancellor, Curtin Singapore & Gender and Leadership expert), Elizabeth Shaw (Partner Diversity and Inclusion, PwC Australia), H.E. Keara Shaw (Chargée d’Affaire, Australian High Commission), and Winda Chevalier (co-Founder, Board of Good).

Contributing authors to the workshop on gender-inclusive workplaces in Mauritius included Jamiil Jeetoo, Numrata Moty, Leenshya Gunoo, and Subhashni Ramrekha. Their research provided valuable insights into topics such as sexual harassment, negotiation outcome and gender stereotypes, gender bias in academia and Gendered pathways to leadership. H.E. Keara Shaw also shared the incredible gender transformation underwent in the Australian Foreign Affair department and Winda Chevalier presented the Board of Good Initiative which has already placed more than 30 women on boards in Mauritius.

A key message throughout the event was the need to shift the focus from "fixing women" to addressing the structural and cultural barriers that hinder their progress in the workplace. Prof. Lord poignantly stated, "Much of the advice requires women to take individual action; or is designed to fix women rather than the systems, but unless we focus on the systems, increasing women’s confidence or ambition is unlikely to result in change."

Elizabeth Shaw echoed this sentiment, highlighting the importance of sponsorship for women's career advancement: "There's a saying that women are over mentored and under-sponsored. We need people in senior positions to open doors and to back women into senior roles. Building inclusive leadership capability of senior leaders and managers is therefore absolutely critical."

PROMOTING GENDER INCLUSIVE WORKPLACES FOR A FAIRER SOCIETY:

International Open Forum held at Charles Telfair Centre

Official Press Release from the Charles Telfair Centre

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Prof. Lord emphasized the importance of critically examining how merit is defined and who is defining it, while highlighting the challenges women face in advancing their careers, such as the "broken rung" that delays their first step into management. Shaw stressed the need for organizations to collect data, measure progress, and hold leaders accountable for promoting gender equality.

The panel discussion, moderated by Dr. Zubeida Rossenkhan, allowed guests to explore the Mauritian corporate landscape with trailblazers like Accenture and MCB sharing their gender transformative journeys. Joining Prof Lord on the panel was Mike Sophie (Head of Human Resources, MCB Group), Shalini Jugessur (Managing Director, Accenture Technology) and A/Prof Ramola Ramtohul (Associate Professor in Sociology and Gender Studies).

The key takeaways from the discussion included:

- The persistent gender glass ceiling remains a significant barrier for women in Mauritius' corporate environment. Some companies like Accenture Mauritius and MCB have already initiated such a transformation with clearly established objectives.
- Shift the focus from "fixing" women to transforming the systemic and structural barriers that hinder their progress.
- Prioritize the development of top leadership, ensuring accountability for driving gender equality through specific targets.
- Equip middle management with the knowledge and resources necessary to identify and address gender biases in the workplace.
- Address deeply rooted gender norms that disproportionately burden women with unpaid care responsibilities and implement supportive policies such as flexible work arrangements and inclusive parental leave for both genders.
- Promote and celebrate the achievements of female role models to inspire future generations.

The international open forum successfully brought together experts and professionals from various backgrounds to address the pressing issue of gender inclusivity in the workplace. By highlighting the need for systemic change, this event marks a critical step in the journey towards achieving a fairer society.

For more information about the event, please contact Dr. Myriam Blin, myriam.blin@telfair.ac.mu.

FROM MILESTONE TO MILESTONE: A Visit to Bentley campus in my HDR Journey

Contributed by Joelle Yap

Hello everyone,

I am Joelle Yap. I am a teaching staff member at Curtin Singapore for the Nursing programs, and a PhD candidate with the School of Nursing. Having recently completed the presentation of my research proposal, I am delighted to be able to share the experiences I am having during the initial stages of my PhD journey.

In the past, stones with inscriptions were used by the Romans to mark a point from the center of their empire. These milestones defined the routes of their expanding empire as something gained when each stone was set down. The PhD program at Curtin University consists of three milestones and each is a point where a PhD candidate is formally monitored.

An important step towards my milestone one (M1) journey is the M1 presentation. Although the program I am embarking on is in remote format from Singapore where I am based, I took the opportunity to travel to the Bentley campus in Perth to deliver my presentation in person. It was also timely for me to attend several workshops and a thesis writing boot camp as well as to meet people whom I had been in touch with online.

I am thankful for the 10 days I spent in Perth as it was an awesome experience to be immersed in the learning environment on the Bentley campus. I had gotten used to the confines of virtual learning from Singapore and although I enjoyed the comforts of remote learning, getting a feel of campus life in person was refreshing and enlightening.. Most of the activities and workshops I enrolled for were held in the newly opened LT Robertson Library.

In my first week, I participated in the thesis writing boot camp. It consisted of three days of intense writing in a room with other HDR students. We were spurred on by the facilitator and each other towards reaching our goals - we had the fun of wearing paper crowns we made when we accomplished a certain word count. Each day consisted of four focused writing sessions with breaks scheduled for us to rest and connect with each other through games and activities. We were from different disciplines and at different milestones in our HDR journey. The supportive environment allowed us to share about our research, our struggles and our experiences. We learnt how to stay focused and how to overcome the dreaded writer's block. Many of us came out of the camp exhausted but with a sense of accomplishment.

FROM MILESTONE TO MILESTONE: A Visit to Bentley campus in my HDR Journey

Contributed by Joelle Yap

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The M1 presentation was a review of my research proposal on resilience in registered nurses who responded in natural disasters. This was the first of many steps towards achieving my candidacy. I have chosen a road less travelled by using narrative inquiry as my methodology for my research. Many months of preparation and with the guidance from my 3 supervisors, Associate Professor Janie Brown, Dr Pam Nichols and Dr Adrian Tan, enabled me to be adequately prepared to explain the detailed plans and the rationale for my choice of approach for my topic. Although it had been at least three years since I had to make a formal presentation to a live audience and I was nervous at first, I soon felt at ease to share about my interest and passion to find out the pieces of my research puzzle as it stemmed from my personal experiences in the disaster field. I also hoped to gather feedback from my reviewers and staff and students in the school of nursing. I was humbled and grateful for the support I received from all who came for the presentation which included an online audience. Through my presentation I received inputs to finetune my research strategy and I was also introduced to more issues for consideration.

Just like the milestones laid by the Romans which helped many travellers find their way, my journey to Perth has helped me to see a clearer perspective for my PhD journey. It has brought me moments of learning, writing, discovering new perspectives, memorable times spent with my supervisors from Perth and rediscovering what student life is like again as I move towards my very first milestone and beyond.



From left to right: Associate Professor Janie Brown,
Joelle and Dr Pam Nichols

SPOTLIGHT

How do you determine if a publisher or journal is predatory?
TEQSA - Predatory Publishing: A to Z Elements is a useful resource to guide researchers.

Predatory publishing: A to Z elements

There is no single checklist for determining if a publisher or journal is predatory. However, reputable publishers and journals share some common qualities and features.



Australian Government
Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency

teqsa.gov.au

Affiliation

Reputable journals are established by academic and research institutions or organisations.

Be vigilant

Use a tool such as [Think, Check, Submit](#), to determine if a journal or publisher is legitimate or predatory.

Copyright

User and author rights and copyright information are clearly stated on the website of reputable publishers or journals.

Directory

The [Directory of Open Access Journals](#) is a good reference list for legitimate open access journals.

Editors/ editorial boards

Editors or Editorial Boards of reputable journals consist of recognised experts in the publication's subject field.

Fees

Information on publication fees for reputable journals is easy to find and understand.

Genuine

An approach from a reputable publisher will correctly identify your research area.

Hijacked journals

Hijacked journals are predatory journals which are created to look like reputable journals. [Access a list of hijacked journals.](#)

ISSN

Every journal has its own unique and regular ISSN. Hijacked journals typically use the ISSN of a legitimate journal.

Journal ranking and impact factor

Predatory journals may advertise a fake or inflated impact factor. Journal impact factors can be checked in the [Journal Citation Reports \(JCR\) Database](#).

Known

Reputable journals are well-known. Ask your peers if they have heard of the journal you are submitting to.

Landscape

Check if the academic publishing landscape is clearly defined (e.g. the publishing and access options and the editing and publishing services).

Mistakes

Beware of red flags such as incorrect or clumsy use of scientific terms and language, formatting errors and more.

Non professional

Predatory publishers will often contact you using non-professional email addresses (i.e. not linked to an institution or publication).

Open access

Open access publishers should have a clear Open Access policy and be a member of the [Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association \(OASPA\)](#).

Peer review

Predatory journals typically have poor or non-existent peer review processes.

Quality

Predatory journals tend to publish most, or all, the submissions they receive, regardless of quality.

Requirements

Reputable journals provide clear requirements regarding the submission of papers.

Scope

The scope of reputable journals is well defined and clearly stated on the journal's website.

Track record

Reputable publishers and journals have a good track record on quality publishing and have been working to a regular publishing schedule.

Unwanted solicitation

Predatory journals often send call-for-paper emails or other forms of solicitation to researchers individually.

Verifiability

Contact information of reputable publishers and authors are clearly provided on their website.

Workflows

Publishing options and workflows or stages, including the peer review process, are clearly indicated for legitimate journals.

Retraction policy

Reputable journals have clear retraction policies while predatory journals do not.

You

Legitimate publishers and journal editors want to help you! They are approachable and will answer publishing-related enquiries and clarifications.

Zero tolerance for plagiarism

Reputable publishers promote zero tolerance for plagiarism and have put steps in place to prevent plagiarism during the publishing process.

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The document must be attributed as: Predatory Publishing (July 2022).

TEQSA

Source: Adapted from [Predatory Publishing A-Z Elements](#) (Monash Health Library)

TEQSA. 2022. Predatory Publishing. Australian Government.

<https://www.teqsa.gov.au/sites/default/files/2022-11/predatory-publishing-a-z-elements.pdf>

UPCOMING EVENTS 2023

These are some of the events planned for the year. Full details of the events will be made known through official communications nearer the time.

When

Event

August
2023
(tentative)

Global Campuses Brown Bag Seminar by
Dr Ashley Tong

29
September
2023

Curtin Singapore Research Symposium

October
2023
(tentative)

Global Campuses Brown Bag Seminar by
Joelle Yap

7
November
2023

SDG Symposium 2023