



Michael Relf



Valerie K. Sabol

## Bidirectional Global Partnerships

Almost half of the Accelerated Bachelor's of Science in Nursing (ABSBN) students at Duke participate in a global clinical experience through the school's Office of Global and Community Health Initiatives (OGACHI). That remarkable statistic reflects the School's commitment to global partnerships and preparing nurses with a global understanding.

"I don't know of any school of nursing that has the number of students that we do who engage in these global experiences on an annual basis," said OGACHI Associate Dean **Michael Relf, PhD, RN, ANEF, FAAN**. In addition to student exchanges, Duke ABSN students also work in either clinics abroad or in the local Durham community. OGACHI also facilitates global faculty exchanges through its visiting scholars program and collaborative research projects. Relf insists that all projects that OGACHI undertakes meet one key criteria: that each partnership be bidirectional and mutually beneficial.

"Those four little words are important. In partnership, organizations come to the table with different capacities and different needs and we optimize each other's synergies and needs," Relf said. "Both groups get something out of it."

Particularly with cross-cultural partnerships, where there can be a tendency to stereotype, it's important that exchanges be truly reciprocal, Relf said. "If not, we're the classic 'ugly American' and we're either taking advantage of people, or we're being paternalistic, thinking we know what is best." Cross-cultural exchanges help students understand that there are different ways of achieving outcomes with different resources, Relf said. And the immersion on both ends of the exchange highlights for students how critical understanding cultural differences is to giving the best patient-centered care.

DUSON currently has agreements with 10 health organizations and foreign universities in countries such as Honduras, Tanzania and the Philippines, with the longest running partnership being Barbados, where DUSON has had agreements with the Barbados Ministry of Health and Barbados Community College (BCC) for more than a decade.

In addition to a yearly student exchange with Barbados, there is faculty collaboration and joint research. In spring of 2020, DUSON will host a faculty member from BCC who is developing a post-graduate diploma course to address a shortage of critical care nurses in that country. **Valerie K. Sabol, PhD, ACNP, GNP, CNE, ANEF, FAANP, FAAN** and chair for the Division of Healthcare in Adult Populations, will mentor that scholar.

DUSON's global partnerships run the continuum from the decade-long partnership with Barbados to two newly created agreements with the University Of KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) School of Nursing and Public Health and the University of Cape Town in South Africa. Under one agreement, Duke Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) students will have the opportunity to collaborate with KZN students and an interprofessional team that includes trauma surgeons and nurses. In return, the KZN students will work with DNP Program Director **Katherine C. Pereira, DNP'12, MSN'02, RN, FNP-BC, ADM-BC, FAAN, FAANP**, CNRA Faculty, and **Susan G. Silva, PhD**, associate professor, to study evidence-based care and quality improvement using data management and analysis. Relf noted that the DNP CRNA program is possibly the only one in the country that provides DNP students the opportunity to do global scholarly projects.

With the new University of Cape Town collaboration, Assistant Professor **Marta**