**Last chance**

**CALL FOR ABSTRACTS CLOSES 31 OCTOBER**

The ‘Call for Abstracts’ for the 2nd Commonwealth Nurses Conference: Nurses and midwives - agents of change, to be held at the Royal College of Physicians, Regent’s Park, London, UK 8-9 March 2014 closes 31 October 2013. For more information or to submit an abstract go to the CNF website: [http://www.commonwealthnurses.org/conference2014](http://www.commonwealthnurses.org/conference2014).

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**2013 CNF COMMONWEALTH FELLOWS COMMENCE THEIR FELLOWSHIP**

Mrs Alice Mvuu Mashizha and Mr Chido Irvine Katsambe, the CNF Commonwealth Fellows for 2013, have commenced their Fellowship and will be spending three months in London developing their leadership skills and updating their knowledge in relation to midwifery and paediatric care. Alice and Chido are based in Chitungwiza Central Hospital in Zimbabwe. The CNF is delighted to have the opportunity to sponsor two more Fellows and know that Alice and Chido will be wonderful ambassadors for nursing and midwifery and for their country.

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**CHOGM 2013**

The 2013 Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting (CHOGM) is to be held in Colombo Sri Lanka from 10-17 November 2013. CHOGM is held every two years to enable leaders of Commonwealth countries to come together to discuss global and Commonwealth issues, and to decide on collective policies and initiatives. The biennial meetings serve as the principal policy and decision-making forum to guide the strategic direction of the association.

The theme for CHOGM 2013 is: **Growth with Equity; Inclusive Development**. The CHOGM logo symbolises the blue water lily, the national flower of Sri Lanka. The multi-coloured petals represent the diversity, liveliness and unity among different Commonwealth countries within a global perspective. The globe is surrounded by the multi-coloured petals (representing member countries) to symbolise the individual countries being united to offer protection to one another from world challenges. The globe embodied within the logo was inspired by the original Commonwealth logo.

More information about CHOGM can be obtained from: [http://www.chogm2013.lk/](http://www.chogm2013.lk/).

In conjunction with CHOGM, the Commonwealth Foundation hosts the Commonwealth Peoples’ Forum (CPF). The CPF is being held in Hikkaduwa, Sri Lanka, from 10 to 14 November 2013.

The focus for the 2013 CPF will be on the post-2015 development agenda with workshops on food security, climate change, diversity, women’s economic empowerment, reconciliation and creative expression, and building employment opportunities. The CPF is the single biggest opportunity for civil society to engage with Commonwealth leaders on global development issues.

Further information can be found at: [http://www.cpf2013.org/](http://www.cpf2013.org/)
The African Regulatory Collaborative is a partnership between the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); Emory University’s Lillian Carter Center for Global Health and Social Responsibility; the East, Central and Southern Africa Health Community (ECSA-HC), the Commonwealth Secretariat, and the Commonwealth Nurses Federation.

The ARC initiative creates an innovative south-to-south partnership within the east, central and southern Africa region to engage and build on the capacity of Africa’s health professional regulatory leadership for nursing and midwifery in order to improve health professional standards and practice in the region using local solutions and peer-based learning.

The ARC conceptual framework is adapted from the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) model for breakthrough organisational change. The Institute for Healthcare Improvement Breakthrough Series© model is a short-term (6 to 15 month) learning system in which organisations learn from each other, as well as from recognised experts, about an area needing improvement. The structure of the IHI model is a series of alternating Learning Sessions and Action Periods.

The ARC model consolidates nursing and midwifery leadership in countries by forming a Quad of the Chief Nursing Officer, the Nursing Registrar, the President of the National Nursing Association, and a representative from nursing academia. The Quad works together to develop funding proposals and, if successful, to implement the project.

The first ARC Summative Congress was held in Nairobi Kenya in February 2011. Five countries were awarded small grants in ARC Year 1 to work on regulatory improvements in their country. Seychelles and Mauritius made changes to their nursing and midwifery Act while Lesotho and Swaziland developed national CPD frameworks for nurses and midwives and Malawi enhanced the implementation of their existing national CPD framework.

The second ARC Summative Congress was held in Johannesburg South Africa in June 2012. In ARC Year 2, six countries were awarded small grants. Botswana and Tanzania developed national CPD frameworks; Uganda commenced work on scopes of practice for nurses and midwives; Kenya commenced deregulation of their nursing and midwifery regulatory Council functions; Swaziland implemented the CPD framework they developed in Year 1; and Zimbabwe enhanced the implementation of their national CPD framework.

The third ARC Summative Congress was held in Nairobi Kenya in July 2013. The success of the ARC initiative attracted further funding for Year 3 enabling ten countries to be awarded small grants. The awarding of the grants is a competitive process. The successful countries will be announced in September.

The Nurses Association of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas (NACB) has launched online CPD for their members. For a small organisation, this is a wonderful initiative and a great example for other national nursing organisations in the region. President of NACB, Kateca Graham, gave credit to the hard work of Donnel Rolle (Chairperson) of the Education and Research Committee of the NACB. The NACB intend to develop a new e-CNE every six weeks using local expertise.