



Sigma Theta Tau International
Honor Society of Nursing

Tau Rho Chapter
Quinnipiac University
Hamden, CT 06518

Dear Colleague:

As we begin the twenty-first century, nurses are seen in bold new roles. We are poised to change the face of health care as never before. Through advanced education, diversified expertise, and international network and opportunities at every level of the health care profession, we are changing lives, changing futures and improving the quality of life.

At Sigma Theta Tau International, we are a community of nurses that positions the nursing profession and ourselves at the forefront of health care by promoting scholarship, research and leadership. As a member, your involvement can flourish into a dynamic collaboration that is integrated and renewed throughout your lifetime. We challenge you to be a better nurse and support your career with an array of tools, programs and people that are unequaled anywhere in the health care industry.

Recognizing that honor society membership was not available to many of today's outstanding nurse leaders and scholars, the society created the **nurse leader** membership category to honor these individuals for their achievements and contributions to nursing. I am writing to introduce you to Sigma Theta Tau International, the Honor Society of Nursing, and to invite you to apply for membership in the **Quinnipiac University Tau Rho Chapter**.

In addition to the personal satisfaction you will receive as a member of the world's only nursing honor society – dedicated to improving the health of the world's people – you will enjoy many other benefits:

- Complimentary one-year subscriptions to *Reflections on Nursing Leadership* (a \$23 value) and *Journal of Nursing Scholarship* (a \$39 value)
- Complimentary subscription to the *Registry of Nursing Research*
- Networking opportunities with nurse scholars from around the world via the Online Member Community
- Continuing education credits through activities and programs of our chapter and international events, as well as Online Case Studies for Nursing
- Priority when applying for research grants and scholarships offered by local chapters and headquarters

On behalf of **Quinnipiac University, Tau Rho Chapter**, I invite you to consider applying for membership in Sigma Theta Tau International.

Please see the enclosed information regarding eligibility requirements, and application instructions as a **nurse leader**. Your membership application may be completed via mail or on-line.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth McGann".

Elizabeth McGann
Vice President, Tau Rho Chapter
elizabeth.mcgann@quinnipiac.edu



Nurse Leaders

An honor to join. A benefit to belong.

Each year hundreds of nurses who have successful, established nursing careers are inducted into Sigma Theta Tau International, one of the largest and most prestigious nursing organizations in the world! **You Belong Here!**

The Society's Vision and Mission

VISION:

The vision of the **Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International** is to create a global community of nurses who lead in using knowledge, scholarship, service and learning to improve the health of the world's people.

MISSION:

The mission of the Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International is to support the learning, knowledge and professional development of nurses committed to making a difference in health worldwide.

Overview

- Sigma Theta Tau International is dedicated to improving the health of people worldwide by increasing the scientific base of nursing practice.
- Members are nursing scholars committed to the pursuit of excellence in clinical practice, education, research and leadership.
- We believe that broadening the base of nursing knowledge through knowledge development, dissemination and use offers great promise for promoting a healthier populace.
- We are committed to furthering nursing research in health care delivery and public policy.
- We sustain and support nursing's development and provide vision for the future of nursing and health care through our network of worldwide community of nurse scholars.
- We make available our diverse resources to all people and institutions interested in the scientific knowledge base of the nursing profession.

History

Sigma Theta Tau was founded in 1922 by six nursing students at Indiana University. Modern nursing was barely 20 years old when Mary Tolle, Edith Moore, Marie Hippensteel, Dorothy Garrigus, Elizabeth Russell and Elizabeth McWilliams met to found a Society to advance the status of nursing as a profession. They recognized the value of scholarship and the importance of excellence in practice. With the full idealism of women forging pathways of change in the 1920s, they wanted to build a framework to encourage future leaders to effectively improve health care. (See "[Society Heritage](#)")

In 1936, Sigma Theta Tau was the first organization in the U.S. to fund nursing research. Since then the Society has underwritten more than 250 small or "seed" grants, which often begin a whole body of research. These peer-reviewed grants are often the first recognition of potent concepts that eventually lead to major, wide-scale research projects and innovation in the nursing profession.

Organization

In 1922, six students from the Indiana University Training School for Nurses in Indianapolis, Indiana founded the honor society of nursing. The founders chose the society's name from the meaning of the Greek words Storge, Tharsos, and Time: "love," "courage" and "honor." As women ahead of their time, the founders' vision for the society helped bring recognition to nursing as a science. The society became incorporated in 1985 as Sigma Theta Tau International, Inc., to support and connect the global community of nursing scholars who enhance health care worldwide. The society is a not-for-profit organization with a 501(c)(3) status.

Membership

Member Demographics

More than 360,000 nurse scholars have been inducted into Sigma Theta Tau. With 125,000 active members, it is the second largest nursing organization in the world. Members are active in more than 90 countries and territories, and the 431 chapters are located on 515 college and university campuses in the U.S. and countries including Australia, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, Hong Kong, Korea, Mexico, The Netherlands, Pakistan, South Africa, Swaziland, Taiwan and Tanzania.

Membership is by invitation to baccalaureate and graduate nursing students, who demonstrate excellence in scholarship, and to nurse leaders exhibiting exceptional achievements in nursing. Sixty-one percent of active members hold master's and/or doctoral degrees. Forty-eight percent are clinicians, 21 percent are administrators or supervisors and 20 percent are educators or researchers.

Initiatives

EDUCATION & RESEARCH

Sigma Theta Tau was one of the first organizations to fund nursing research in the United States, awarding a \$600 grant to Alice Crist Malone in 1936. With its chapters and grant partners (corporations, associations and foundations) the society contributes more than \$650,000 annually to nursing research through grants, scholarships and monetary awards. More than 250 research-oriented educational programs are sponsored or co-sponsored annually by Sigma Theta Tau International in the U.S. and internationally. Literature Indexes, free research tool that expedites search of nursing and multidisciplinary research, and practice literature by providing an innovative means to perform precision searches of key concepts and variables related to clinical practice with links to MEDLINE® abstracts.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT/LEADERSHIP

The International Leadership Institute (ILI) focuses on the development and advancement of nurses as exceptional health care leaders. The ILI helps nurses across the globe develop leadership abilities to improve the health and welfare of people in their communities. Programs such as the Arista global think tank conferences enhance leadership skills by creating and sharing knowledge. *CareerMap: Managing Your Career with a Purpose*, and *Chiron: The Mentor-Fellow Forum* are among the programs fostering career advancement, leadership development and community service. Recognition programs such as honorary membership and the prestigious Archon Awards reward professional competence and integrity in health care.

Nurse Leader Membership

Nurse Leader Candidates must:

- Legally recognized to practice nursing in his/her country
- Minimum of a baccalaureate degree or the equivalent in any field
- Demonstrated achievement in nursing

How to Join as a Nurse Leader

- All membership candidates must be inducted into the honor society through one of the organization's 431 chapters. Candidates may select the chapter they wish to join. Application can be done on-line at www.nursingsociety.org/membership. Click on "Apply Now" and "Nurse Leader." Please select Tau Rho, # 447. You may also apply via mail.
- Once an application is received at headquarters, it is forwarded to the appropriate chapter leader for review.

- **Questions?**

Contact Elizabeth McGann, Vice-President, Quinnipiac University Tau Rho Chapter,
at 203-582-8472 or Elizabeth.mcgann@quinnipiac.edu or

Contact Member Services at 888.634.7575 (U.S./Canada) or +1.317.634.8171 memserv@stti.iupui.edu

Examples of Achievement in Nursing:

- Creativity/Innovation in clinical practice
- Leadership qualities contributing to improved health care
- Teaching
- Administration
- Curriculum development
- Improvement of the status of nursing organizations
- Innovative student-focused learning approaches
- Research development utilization
- Entrepreneurial skills
- Staff development
- Mentoring of colleagues
- Innovative professional recognition of programs

List of Sample Achievements from Previous Candidate Forms:

- Writing articles for *Nursing Spectrum*
- Recognized for outstanding care of treating patients in Saudi Arabia
- Write monthly health columns for local newspaper
- Began precepting newer nurses
- Team leader of a critical care ambulance
- Care of indigent, homeless, migrant workers
- Developed nursing health education services for rural education
- Increased nursing services with Medicaid grants
- Team researcher in Distance Learning Project
- Reviewer of "The Journal of Nursing Education"
- Forensic nurse who forged collaboration between police, rape crisis interviewers and medical teams
- Expert witness in area of forensic medical evaluations
- Senior leadership as a nurse in the Navy for 33 years
- Received military medal for excellence
- Spoke at a convention of a national organization
- Advocates for the profession in state government
- Received award from national organization
- Nominated as Nurse of the Year by _____ organization
- Served on various task forces, staff retention teams, and councils
- Developed cancer screening programs to meet the needs of the
• under insured and those in rural communities
- Serve on the board of directors of nursing or other organization
- Worked on developing policy, procedures to improve patient care

Member Benefits

Career Activities

Career Map* - Manage your career with purpose! Let the honor society assist you every step of your nursing career...whether you are thinking of nursing as a career, are an RN looking for new directions, or working toward a fulfilling retirement.

Career Advisors* - honor society staff members who are nurses - just like you - who will answer your confidential career questions via phone or e-mail.

Chapter Activities - Experience first hand the Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International through your local chapter!

- Community service projects - Give back to your community through various service projects such as blood pressure screening at a local mall or a local Alzheimer's Walk.
- Continuing education - Chapters offer programming that may include continuing education units on topics ranging from research to clinical practice, or leadership development.
- Networking - Interact with nurses at the local level who are mentors from whom you can learn, peers you can support and young nurses you can guide.
- Research grants - participate in the identification and funding of important research through service on a committee or initiate the studies yourself and apply for a research grant.
- Publications - chapter publications provide a forum for information and commentary.

Educational Activities

Online Case Studies for Nursing - one to two continuing education credits per course (special member rates).

Meetings and Conferences - top-quality offerings at the chapter, regional and international levels (reduced member fees).

Nursing Knowledge International - premiere Web site for all your nursing knowledge needs - with special member discounts on all honor society products.

International Activities - you may reach beyond your local community to interact with colleagues and benefit from research conferences, biennial conventions, "think tanks" and other nursing and health care-related activities.

Marketplace - click here for discounts on products available to you as a member of the honor society.

Networking Activities - Opportunities to interact with nurse leaders from around the world: one-on-one, at honor society meetings, conventions and research congresses.

Biennial Convention – 40th Biennial Convention - Indianapolis, Indiana, October 2009

Annual Collaborative Research Conference – 14th Annual CT Collaborative Research Conference, Hartford, CT, April 3, 2009

Chiron Mentoring Program - an invaluable resource for mentoring and individualized leadership development.

Omada Board Mentoring Program - prepares nurses to serve on national and international boards of directors

Online Member Community - Directory of Nurse Leaders* - a list of all active honor society members searchable by name or state (password-protected)

Opportunities

Volunteer Connect - Governance, leadership and volunteer opportunities abound at the international, regional and chapter levels, including elective and appointive positions.

Awards and Recognition - The society recognizes individuals and organizations annually and biennially for excellence in clinical practice, research, professional standards, education, creativity and leadership.

Opportunities to be published - There are many opportunities to submit your work for publication - the Journal of Nursing Scholarship, book manuscripts and online case studies for nursing.

Support the mission through well-managed endowment funds that will secure the future of nursing. Contributions may be made via: cash gifts, pledges, honoraria, royalties, securities, life insurance or planned gifts.

Publications:

Journal of Nursing Scholarship* - foremost peer-reviewed nursing research journal with clinical applications (quarterly: US \$39 value).

Reflections on Nursing Leadership* - award-winning ONLINE newsmagazine featuring inspiring stories on nurses at the forefront of change (quarterly: US \$23 value).

Worldviews in Evidence-Based Nursing - member discount for peer-reviewed evidence-based nursing journal and information resource written especially for clinicians, educators, researchers, nurse leaders and policymakers.

Create the Future* - an electronic newsletter for active members featuring a message from the honor society's president, nursing news and ways for members to make the most of their membership.

Always a Nurse* - an electronic newsletter for retired and soon-to-be-retired members featuring retired-member profiles, honor society news and information about living in and preparing for retirement.

Books - member discount on books published by Sigma Theta Tau International.

Research Tools

Virginia Henderson International Nursing Library* - immediate access to nursing research from more than 28,000 nursing research studies and conference abstracts from around the world.

My Info Search - weekly e-bulletin featuring newly published nursing books and articles via Online Book Review* and Literature Review for Nursing (special member rate).

Directory of Nurse Experts* - names and contact information for distinguished nurse lecturers, writers and health care experts.

Research Grants - funding is available to both novice and experienced nurse researchers. Members receive priority when applying for research funds through the Small Grants Program and co-sponsored Grants Program.

Research Presentation Opportunities - An up-to-date list of organizations that provide an opportunity to present research.

"Member Only" discounts also available on advertisements placed in the honor society's publications.

*Free to active members.