Sigma Theta Tau International
Honor Society of Nursing®

UNITED NATIONS ACTIVITY REPORT

The 20th session of the [2017 Summer Youth Assembly at the United Nations](#) presented both an opportunity and a challenge to stimulate and ensure youth engagement and participation in achieving an inclusive and sustainable future where no one is left behind.

Guided by the overarching principle of the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), "leaving no one behind," the conference explored issues and solutions for sustainable development in the social, economic, and environmental dimensions. While youth are among those subjected to exclusion and marginalization, they have the potential to accelerate and achieve sustainable development in their communities and beyond. With their unique sets of skills and perspectives in today's ever-evolving world, they remain at the frontlines of innovation and change.

The event was 9-12 August 2017 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, NY, United States.

Report submitted by Marnie Colborne, STTI United Nations Youth Representative

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math [(STEM) as a Key to Achieving the SDGs](#)
Presenters:
David Pennock, Assistant Managing Director of Microsoft Research, @pennockd, @MSFTResearch;
Jana Lavene, Business Development, Area120 at Google; Stefan Oberman, Chief of Staff at AeroFarms, @AeroFarms; Robin Roberts, Global Digital Project Director, Novartis

The purpose of the event was to explore exceptional initiatives or projects by notable organizations that showcase how technology can play a significant role in shaping an inclusive and sustainable society for everyone.

Innovation is essential moving forward, especially in areas of agriculture, business, and health care. How can we make a bigger impact, with larger scale, and make a larger impact with more in society? There is a need to invest more in technology to make a more positive impact in patient lives. For example, we can use technology (such as drones) to make health care more accessible to underdeveloped nations.

What are nurses and our chapter members doing out there in terms of innovation and technology? What room is there for us to advance the nursing profession in terms of investment in technology to improve nursing research, education, and the lives of our patients? I think, in general, expanding our knowledge and working across disciplines goes beyond working with physical therapists, occupational therapists, and physicians; for example, Microsoft and Novartis teamed up to create a program called Assess MS to help personalize treatment for patients with multiple sclerosis. See here: https://news.microsoft.com/features/from-gaming-system-to-medical-breakthrough-how-microsoft-and-novartis-created-assess-ms/.

If we inspire more nurses to broaden their minds and become intersectional (i.e., working in business and technology), I think our profession can have a better awareness of identifying pitfalls that can affect nurses on a broader scheme (i.e., social business models, market economies, and resource distribution).