



Aric M. Shimek, BSN, RN, CCRN, CPN, is a second-career pediatric nurse and a proud member of our Psi Lambda Chapter. Called to the profession after the 2010 Haitian Earthquake, Mr. Shimek blends business and nursing acumen to promote global health equity and advance the nursing voice in today's healthcare challenges. His passion for health equity both at home and abroad has led Aric to serve in several leadership roles, and he is excited to use these experiences to help grow Sigma's presence at the United Nations.

Prior to becoming a nurse, Mr. Shimek specialized in business operations for an international commercial real estate firm and lived in London, England for several years. This opportunity to gain business insight and international exposure proved invaluable as he continues to create new programming and messaging for a wide variety of topics and audiences, both in and out of healthcare.

As a nurse, Mr. Shimek has worked in the cardiac critical care and emergency departments of the Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago. In 2018, he undertook a new opportunity to serve as a Program Manager in the hospital's nascent telehealth department. In this role, he leads a USDA grant-funded project to improve access to quality pediatric care through telemedicine technologies in 25 critical access hospitals throughout the state of Illinois.

In addition, Mr. Shimek also represents nurses on a larger scale across the Lurie Children's organization. He serves as a founding member of the International Patient Services Advisory Council with the goal of increasing nursing representation and participation in the care of international patients and their families. In May 2018, he was selected to represent the institution as part of a delegation visit to the Henan Children's Hospital in Zhengzhou, China, where he presented a talk on patient safety and quality to over 200 local and international nursing leaders.

Outside of work, Mr. Shimek enjoys staying active with several volunteer leadership positions. He has worked to promote the health of children as a Public Health Emergency Preparedness Intern with the Chicago Department of Public Health, a volunteer with the LGBT programs of Lurie Children's, and as Community Building Lead for the Chicago chapter of the international NGO Partners In Health (PIH). Mr. Shimek has also volunteered firsthand in Port-au-Prince, Haiti with International Medical Relief and Project Medishare. Lastly, he had the privilege to serve as the only nurse representative on the steering committee for the 2017 Social Medicine Consortium's international conference, and he continues today to be involved with their efforts to reduce inequity in healthcare around the world. For all of this work, Mr. Shimek was honored with recognition as his hospital's 2017 Nurse Humanitarian of the Year.

Since joining Sigma, Mr. Shimek has fostered mentoring opportunities for chapter members, implemented a new public health film series with associated volunteer opportunities, and developed a new working relationship with his alma mater's United Nations chapter. In 2017, Mr. Shimek attended Sigma's Emerging Global Leader Institute in Washington D.C. and has continued to partner with his local chapter to increase awareness of Sigma's global advocacy efforts. In addition, Mr. Shimek is often called upon to represent the university and the profession through speaking engagements, radio interviews, and city-wide print campaigns with a special focus on encouraging more men to consider nursing.

Mr. Shimek is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin–Madison, where he received a Bachelor of Arts in international relations. He later returned to continue his education with Resurrection University, where he graduated cum laude with his Bachelor of Science in nursing. Mr. Shimek plans to continue his education by pursuing a doctoral degree in public health nursing beginning in Fall 2019. He lives in Chicago, Illinois with his partner.