



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF NURSING

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August 31, 2011

Dr. Margaret Chan
Director-General of WHO
Avenue Appia 20
Geneve 27
1211 Geneve
Switzerland

Dear Dr. Chan:

The American Academy of Nursing is expressing our strong concern that there has not been an individual named to fill the position of Chief Nurse Scientist at the WHO Headquarters following the retirement of Dr. Jean Yan. Nurses and midwives constitute approximately 75% of the global health workforce playing critical roles in addressing global health needs and in achieving the Millennium Declaration goals.

Strong leadership within the WHO is critical in order to support the invaluable contributions of nurses and midwives across the globe in improving health service delivery and to strengthen health systems so that nurses and midwives can practice within safe environments and to their fullest capacity. Leadership within the WHO at both the Geneva headquarters and in regional and country offices provides essential guidance to local nursing associations and educational institutions.

We respectfully encourage you to finalize the recruitment process for the position of Chief Nursing Scientist at WHO as soon as possible to achieve the health related goals. Please do not hesitate to contact the co-chairs of the Academy's Expert Panel on Global Nursing and Health Marsha Fowler, PhD, RN, FAAN (mfowler@apu.edu) and Lynda Wilson, PhD, RN, FAAN (lyndawilson@uab.edu) or the CEO, Cheryl Sullivan (Cheryl_Sullivan@AANnet.org). We thank you in advance for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Catherine L. Gilliss, DNSc, RN, FAAN
President, American Academy of Nursing

Cc: Dr. N. Daulaire, Executive Board Member
Director, Office of Global Affairs, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services